



Judges Notes for Summer 2018

Category: - Small Village

Bewerley

Gold

Overall Impression

Bewerley in Bloom is a new entry to the competition. We met a very enthusiastic team who had the heart and soul of the village in everything they planned. It was clear how much work and effort had been undertaken, there is a clear passion for the village, its history and the way it works within the naturally beautiful setting of Nidderdale.

This entry has brought the community together, the team meets regularly and they listen to what their community would like to see. The planting fits in well with the natural environment, very soft and natural rather than 'blousy and bright'. The local traders have also become involved in supporting this entry.

We were shown Linda's wildlife garden which was lovely and full of butterflies and bees, Carl's, the stonemason, work was visible in the village and the new village sign - albeit not yet in place is excellent. The grounds of the Chapel were peaceful and natural - a lovely place to reflect and a credit to the Hermit (Sister) who lives there.

Every property had well-tended gardens and all had taken up the request from the group to plant something white to commemorate the end of the First World War and/or purple and green for the suffragettes.

Stone troughs were planted sympathetically to the natural environment and soil from Fishpond Wood for the planters shows sustainable use of natural products. Leaving the wildflowers in the walls again blends with the environment and adds to the beauty of this lovely village. Well done for all the hard work and thank you for your hospitality. We had a lovely day with you.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider using more perennial planting in the walls where you have found spaces.
- The wooden planters are good and again you may consider placing further sustainable plants into them to save on replacing plants on a seasonal basis.
- Your portfolio is excellent and as discussed may be turned into a booklet which can be produced for purchase, this will help raise funds for Bewerley in Bloom.
- Increase planting to attract insects Linda's wildlife garden was lovely and full of such plants.
- Consider some interpretation signs - possibly on the entry to the village - though we realise this may not fit in with your plans, therefore this is only a suggestion.
- Your timeline was excellent it would have been interesting to see evidence of forward planning.

Esholt

Gold

Overall Impression

On a very warm summer afternoon we had a delightful visit to Esholt passing the lovely village stone donated by a local stonemason very ably shown around by a Dave and Andrew on behalf of the newly amalgamated groups which are now known as 'Friends of Esholt - Village in Bloom'. The group is very active and has great support from the residents who have lovely hanging baskets and planters outside their homes, help with watering and form working parties to clear the Churchyard graves. This is a haven for wildlife with bird, bat and owl boxes and an abundance of wildlife and children have helped to plant lots of bulbs there.

Howards challenging garden was a delight to visit and many others are planted along the roadside to add spring colour.

All furniture including the post box, notice board, playground and the village water pump and well are beautifully maintained and painted annually by the group- all litter bins are very splendid and painted in black and gold - many enhanced by annuals and perennials in beds and stone troughs throughout the village and a new Garden of Contemplation with a seat which has rose bushes and evergreen shrubs around it - all donated by Homebase and tranquilly set by a woodland area. Ian at the Post office provides water for the recently planted vegetable & herb garden and use of the greenhouse/propagation area for sale of the plants which raised £230 for funds. Good recycling initiatives with using a water butt and locally source wood chippings from the woodland. The main fundraiser their annual calendar sponsored by Fred Greenwood and Son Cattle Transporters raised £1000 this year and many other well supported events at the Village Hall such as barbecues, bands and Christmas events .

There are very well used allotments and also a new village allotment which is in the process of being developed, shed for equipment and raised beds and a future greenhouse - helped by a grant of £350 from the local council. Esholt has a wonderful In Bloom group which with help from volunteers: local businesses and the local council make it a delightful; floral village for residents and visitors - a lovely entry and you all deserve congratulating - very well done.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- There was good information in the board showcasing YIB certificates and fundraising events but consider doing a more comprehensive portfolio to send to the judges before judging to show all year-round activities such as the window advent calendar, teas, dances etc which would strengthen your entry.
- We did go over the allocated time given for your entry, it may help to use transport to tour the village for future judging, to keep within the time allocation.
- Although we had an opportunist meet with Ian at the Post Office It would be good to meet with some of the other volunteers who look after the different areas.
- There are great wildlife habitats in Esholt, and you mentioned some interesting background history- consider getting some information/interpretation boards with the types of wildlife you have and heritage boards.

Ledston

Silver

Overall Impression

Ledston is a small community whose In Bloom group are encouraging residents to get involved and really enhance the village. The White Horse pub in the centre of the village is leading the way with a lovely colourful display using bedding plants, perennials and edibles too. There is great potential and the small team of In Bloom volunteers are very keen and have plenty of ideas of ways to involve the whole community, including the school.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Ledston In Bloom have started to reorganise and this should be the focus of the groups activities initially. Encouraging more people to become involved, developing links with the school and other existing groups in the village will help in forming a plan for the future.
- Investigate potential ways to use the old telephone box for the benefit of the community, as a book exchange (mini library) or for a defibrillator?
- A walk/trail around the village might be a good project for the In Bloom group to organise, helping to raise awareness of the possibilities for different types of group activities alongside the more obvious ones, such as the floral displays.
- Give serious consideration to how the barrels along the high street are planted. Carefully consider your plant choices and how much impact they provide, as well as how, and by who, they are going to be maintained in future.
- Consider forming a friends of Ledston in Bloom for those who are willing to provide financial help if they cannot help in other ways

Lund

Gold

Overall Impression

Lund is a small village in the East Riding of Yorkshire. The current team have only been together for the last couple of years but what they have achieved in that time is great. The village is exceptionally clean and tidy, it is clear to see from the roadside the pride and care residents take in looking after their gardens and house frontages. The village hall is impressive and a great asset to the village. The four new wooden planters are of a high quality and well planted. Bumble Bee park is a great asset and whilst is only just being restored we feel will make an important part of your entry and start in creating the wildlife corridor which we mentioned.

We feel with a little further sustainable planting this village could once again move towards being a national entry. Well done to the team for all their hard work and commitment, this is truly a community endeavor.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It is clear to see you have been extremely busy planting in many areas. To save time and cost; consider using more sustainable plants such as cransbills, aquilgia, astrantias all insect loving plants that will return year on year.
- The planting at the side of the church is lovely; consider using similar plants around the village in the areas where you currently have annuals.

- The entrances to the village are good and we discussed that long term you may consider sustainable planting.
- Consider contacting The Conservation Volunteers www.tvc.org.uk who may help with advice and volunteering opportunities to restore the pond area linking the Bumble Bee park creating a really great asset to your group and entry.
- Also for consideration the judges mentioned upon was the possibility of an open garden event, and continue the good work to encourage community engagement and cohesion through various events.

Mill Bank

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

It was lovely to visit Mill Bank again to view it in the Summer. We were sorry to have missed Peter but it was lovely to meet Gemma again and many other enthusiastic volunteers. We were very interested to hear of the book launch, being organised for the Saturday following our visit, for the book by Hazel Whiteley detailing the history of Mill Bank. We were also pleased to meet residents who were so proud of the village history and that it had been saved from demolition.

The area outside Cafe Mill Bank had developed well since the Spring with a more uniform and eye catching display. Village gardens were appropriately planted to make an impact in a small space. The bed where the gas pipe is situated is still waiting for demolition and redevelopment but it would still be worth removing the self-set seedlings and generally tidying the area.

At Mill Bank School the children were very enthusiastic about their vegetable beds and showing us the newly emerging froglets in their pond. We were also pleased to join in the french tea party and see the newly installed climbing frame and repairs to the slide.

The Mill Bank garden (graveyard) was a beautiful tranquil space with some very interesting planting and features. Communication is good and the In Bloom group have strong links support from the Mill Bank Group. It is heartening to see the In Bloom Group developing and the great pride being taken in this village.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The use of native perennials could be developed along the riverside walk to provide a more natural environment rather than using annuals.
- Consider the possibility of developing a wildflower meadow within the recreation ground to encourage bees and pollinating insects.
- Bank View, the row of houses opposite the school next to the Co-op building had many empty troughs and containers outside. Could these residents be persuaded to become involved in the in bloom efforts.
- Develop the planting in the memorial garden working with the children to include more sensory plants.
- The serpentine hedge on the old cottage site is a fantastic feature. Could consider the use of more dramatic and colourful planting to enhance this to increase impact at the entrance to the village.

Team Green Moor

Gold & Category Winners

Overall Impression

This is an outstanding entry especially as it is its first year in the main competition. We were given a very warm welcome to this lovely little village up on the moors, on a beautiful summer day.

The group is extremely well organised and has worked very hard to achieve great results by enhancing all that was good, and making, Green Moor an exceptional place in which to live. All planting was lovely with a good variety of sustainable and annual plants. It was all of a high standard which was an achievement in these difficult conditions. There were many good gardens and floral displays illustrating the involvement of the whole village.

The children's play area was a good example of partnership working and appreciated by the users. There was colourful planting, sheep, butterflies and information boards.

There was pride in the heritage of the area with some lovely displays featuring agriculture as well as the natural landscape, the quarry, the story stones, the pump house and the old red phone box used as a library. Throughout there were good information boards. There are some very interesting geological features which are well documented. All aspects of the environment were carefully considered and it was good to see an area in the woods for children to play in. Funding was well managed with some interesting projects, including the sale of bird boxes and local produce on a regular basis. There is good support in the form of sponsorship, donations and grants. It seems as if the whole community is involved and very supportive.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- As this is such a good entry there isn't a lot more to do. However it is important to work hard to maintain this very high standard and to implement all of your future plans
- Communication is always key to a successful project so this must continue.
- Funding is essential as it provides the means to continue and in some instances can raise the profile of the group.

Welwick in Bloom

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

Welwick in Bloom are a small but hardworking team who have worked tirelessly to enhance their village both in the work they do and encouraging others to do their own gardens.

The judges were very impressed with the level of cleanliness throughout the village.

The judges were impressed by the quality and variety of planting in the Kelk bed and the height of the plants in the neighbour's garden gave it a great backdrop.

The judges were particularly impressed with Janet's planting of the boundary marker.

The planting around the war memorial brings colour to the centre of the village.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- We felt a more careful and better selection of perennial plants, and thought as to where they are planted would not only help reduce maintenance and watering but also could provide year round colour and interest.
- Mill Hill bed: the judges suggested the use of more hardy planting in this bed including more Montbretia and adding some ornamental grasses.
- Mill Lane sign: the judges were impressed with the idea, but felt that if the grass was cut short at the end of the year wild flower plug plants could be planted under the sign to enhance what is already there. Wild flower plug plants are available from Mires Beck Nursery
- In general if our weather continues to be so erratic a serious look needs to be taken as to where best to have your bedding plants, both for the most impact and the ease of maintenance.
- During judging you mentioned you were struggling to introduce yellow rattle into the church bank. Again you could try plug plants rather than seed.

Grassington

Silver Gilt & Category Winners

Overall Impression

A wonderfully engaged community that inspires all to actively join in, the gardens competition within the community is evidence of how successful they are..

The support from local business in the area to the growing bloom group is fantastic and again illustrates the importance of the bloom group to Grassington.

We hope that the approach to the school pays off and you are able to renew the relationship.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- In respect of the assessment, the difficult area has been allocation marks in the environmental section especially the natural environment. Given your location we feel that supporting information could be provided without involving the group in more work. Could we for instance have visited the Parks centre?
- The large tree that has been felled near the sorting office may qualify as an ancient tree, check with the woodland trust ancient tree hunt if listed this would add to the history of the area.
- The post at the centre of the square has potential to be your who factor this may be achieved by reducing planting elsewhere or using perennial plants in some tubs to balance the workload.
- We are happy to talk with you if you feel more clarity would be helpful.

Kirkby Malzeard

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

The weather was ideal for the judges visiting Kirkby Malzeard with its long linear main street village entry. An enthusiastic group met the judges and escorted them around to see the different areas of the village. This is an entry that prides itself in having differing styles and independence of its planting volunteers. Some very good front gardens that led to the well kept and maintained Pinfold. Now an allotment rented from the parish council and maintained to a high standard. The admirable Chris, who has over 50 years service looking after the church ground, keeps the grass and edging to a good standard that should be congratulated. The playing field and grounds were all kept to a good standard of maintenance, and the village was litter free. Many posters were on display advertising our visit and could be seen all around the route.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Look at working in partnership with the garage owners in placing a large planter over the tired flowerbed creating an enhanced kerb appeal. It would have been wonderful to have seen the school and the evidence of the groups work with them.
- The entry would benefit greatly with more demonstration or evidence of protection and wildlife habitats. Showing / placing bird boxes, bat boxes etc around the natural areas of the village will greatly increase the score and any further work you do with increasing the biodiversity of the village

- Attention to hard surfaces and weeding along the judging route will assist the groups entry.
- The commended and well looked after display by a resident on the bank with the cut out ledge and three planters, would look excellent with a larger display facility and create a Wow factor on the high street.
- Consider having more interpretation around the village displaying the vast heritage apparent. The well and Village Cross would be good places to start
- Fund raising or sponsorship could be increased to facilitate any new projects.
- Consider having street furniture on a yearly maintenance programme.
- Consider visiting other Yorkshire in Bloom entries to see how they tackle a main street with floral horticultural impacts. This may also show how to include 'Art in the Landscape' and how they display interpretation and signage.
- Look at working in partnership with the garage owners in placing a large planter over the tired flowerbed creating an enhanced kerb appeal.

Category: - Large Village

Barwick in Elmet

Gold

Overall Impression

An excellent presentation given at the start of judging. Fund raising throughout the year with garden party, coffee mornings, calendar sales and open gardens give the group a very stable financial base. A total of around 100 different gardens have been opened since this commenced some 17 years ago and a book has been published on the history of Barwick in Bloom. On the communication side they have a web-site, notices in the Parish Magazine and are developing the social media aspect. They support a number of other charities and In Bloom groups. New street furniture has been purchased by the group. The refurbished and planted rhubarb cart is eye-catching and reflects the heritage of the village. The siting of the herb garden at the doctors surgery is very appropriate and anyone may use the herbs. Private gardens viewed were all excellent. The hornbeams planted by the group on Long Lane are a real eye-catcher. The novel work by Frank at The Boyle adds another dimension and the wild life are certainly well catered for!! Beds throughout the village are well maintained with a good mix of summer colour with sustainable planting and all beds and baskets are sponsored. The Beck area with Hootie is an excellent open space. The idea of sloping the beds towards the road to give a better view of these is commended. The village is totally graffiti and litter free. Community involvement is excellent.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The judges look forward to the development of the community orchard and hopefully the re-establishing of the gardening club at the school and look forward to the new initiatives of the group

Bramham

Gold

Overall Impression

The work with Bramham Primary School is exceptional with £15k raised and the outdoor learning area plus pond dipping and raised beds provide a super facility and the gardening club with bloom members will develop this further. The before and after pictures of this area show how remarkable this two year project was and the work with the conservation volunteers will further develop the pond area. The Bug Hotel and water recycling add to the environmental aspect. There were also excellent hanging baskets sponsored by the school. The new rockery on Lyndon Road is another very good project and adds greater scope than only bedding. The work with Clifford Beavers and the Wellie planting competition plus the primary school project show good involvement with the school children. All beds and baskets in the village are sponsored and the community get involved with the watering on a voluntary basis. Good private gardens seen and All Saints Church had good planters all of which were sponsored. There was another good rockery project at the Senior Citizens area and the horse shoe sculpture illustrated the link to Bramham Horse Trials. The judging was well advertised throughout the village. Good sustainable planting alongside the beck and the herb garden at the Medical Centre. The supply of surplus produce at the allotments to St George's Crypt is a nice touch and there

was good soft fruit at the allotments. Good communication with regular postings on We are Bramham web-site and in the parish magazine.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The judges look forward to seeing the development of the communal recycling area and Autumn bulb planting.
- Interpretation boards and survey of the wooded area will increase the portfolio and the proposed research into the village heritage will also augment this.

Brighter Boroughbridge and District

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

Brighter Boroughbridge is to be commended for its on-going commitment and enthusiasm to making this lovely town so attractive. It was extremely clean, colourful and tidy. The planters and hanging baskets around the town, although supplied and maintained by Harrogate Borough Council, were excellent and provided a quintessential English village aesthetic. Your links with local businesses, groups, schools and allotmenters is impressive as is your expanding band of Facebook followers.

The on-going developments at Chatsworth Grove garden, the Memorial garden and Stump Cross roundabout are very good and provide an attractive welcome for all residents and visitors. Your involvement of Jennyruth workshops is excellent and enhances your entry.

The work at the school is excellent and was clearly being enjoyed by the pupils.

There was an excellent range and standard of growing at the communal orchard and allotment site. This could be used to showcase to local towns and villages.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Maintenance could be improved in the public areas, deadheading would be a simple way to enhance the overall look of some of these areas.
- The Chatsworth Grove garden would benefit from sensory plants, highly scented plants would improve this area greatly.
- The Allotment should look into keeping Bees on the site if this is possible, they would work well in the orchard area and be a welcome addition to an inspiring place. Looking into pruning the established fruit trees here in the Winter months to improve shape and ensure fruit stays at a good picking height for all.
- Its a shame to learn that the local high school now have limited involvement due to the end of the lifeskills course that included many horticultural aspects for those students deemed less academic, it would be nice to see some kind of involvement here resume if possible.

Great and Little Peston

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

Great Peston in Bloom is a hard working and dedicated group that demonstrated a passion for the natural environment and showed a keenness to nurture that interest amongst the local school children.

They are fortunate in having access to two areas of parish land, the Wild Flower Meadow and the Water Meadow. The wild flower meadow has become a focal point for village activities and where children have been sowing wild flower seeds and planting trees. The team has been instrumental in creating a pathway leading from the village hall and car park to the meadow.

The planted areas are well maintained and there was no evidence of litter or graffiti. A series of well signposted pathway link Great and Little Peston, to the RSPB St Aidan's Nature Park and beyond to the River Aire. Interpretation boards provide useful information relating to the local heritage. Of particular interest are the sculptural features located in the village, e.g. the human sun dial in the Jubilee garden, the four winds sculpture in the Bowers Row Chapel garden, where a mining memorial is also located providing reference to the village's industrial history.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Bird and bat boxes could possibly be incorporated into the woodland walk from the Village Hall car park.
- It was evident that the memorial seating in the wild flower meadow made the process of annual mowing more difficult and perhaps a programme of tree planting could be introduced with a memorial record held in the Village Hall.
- The Street furniture in the Bowers Row Chapel Garden is in a dilapidated state and should either be replaced or removed.
- Concern was shown by the team of volunteers regarding the cast concrete planters and how their appearance could be improved. Possibly painting or the addition of planting around the base of them could be considered.

Harthill with Woodall

Gold

Overall Impression

It was impressive to see the number of highlights across this entry, the numerous groups and local businesses involved and contributing to this well put together entry.

The street scene across the entry was exceptionally clean and street furniture and signage in good condition.

High lights such as the primary school garden, a credit to the staff and pupils along with their involvement in the wider village, such as helping with birdbox making, assisting with sowing the wildflower meadow, and joining in on village traditions such as the well dressing celebrations, which bring the whole village together.

Horticultural highlights on route include the war memorial gardens, the WI border, Doctors Lane road junction, and the well dressing, boundary planters, borders, and bus turning area, leisure centre gardens and numerous, baskets & planters across the village. The well cultivated allotment sites, particularly the starter plots at Glebe Farm Close, and the interesting national collection of Euphorbia's was well worth a look, and the numerous well maintained and colourful, front gardens on route.

The facilities at the reservoir are a great addition to the entry, providing leisure pursuits, as well as fabulous natural habitat, and the new interpretation boards enhance the visitor experience.

Community involvement is evident across the route, from the school to the fabulous 'Work bench' scheme, the local pubs and businesses, events throughout the year, communicated via various methods, (facebook, newsletter, local press) that bring this close knit community together; annual carnival, horticultural/village show, open gardens to name a few. This whole community are making 'Harthill with Woodall' a place to be proud of, overall an excellent entry.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- A little tweak or two on the route, may help with allocated timings.
- Perhaps consider increasing the walk from the war memorial to the well dressing/Doctors Lane corner, to take in some of the well maintained residential gardens, and architecture of the older properties on the main street.
- The wall at the rear of the well area, perhaps consider plants that will thrive in drier conditions, perennial geraniums, alchemilla, maybe adding aubrieta/ground cover phloxes for spring colour.
- To reduce the amount of extra watering around the war memorial site, perhaps consider swapping the numerous pots for a few larger planters to add seasonal colour, these maybe easier to sustain in drier conditions, maybe the Work Bench team could create them??
- One or two of the barrel planters would benefit from a re-stain.

Hutton Cranswick in Bloom

Gold

Overall Impression

This large village in East Yorkshire set out to impress the judges, and they certainly succeeded. Although the group have been established for over two decades, the enthusiasm and commitment from the volunteers and residents met on the day of judging was still as strong as ever. The village boasts a well nurtured six and a half acre village green with an established pond and a war memorial; many sites located around the village of themed seasonal floral displays in troughs, containers, hanging baskets and intermixed with perennial plantings in a number of prominently located beds. The community 'Centenary Wood' provided a pleasant shaded walk on a warm day, and it was good to see a number of bird boxes, habitat formations, signs and seats at strategic points on the woodland trail. The village showed a range of vintage tractors accompanied with either planted milk churns, containers or a bed display of summer bedding. Most memorable was the station platforms with the planter shaped as a train, the sedum bed and the perennial plantings in the linear beds. The 'Yarn Bomb' of the station was a treat and well done for working in partnership with the rail company. It was clear that the wider community wholeheartedly support the In Bloom campaign; the participation levels are very high as are the standards of presentation. A very well done to all.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The village has developed its entry over a period of years and strives to maintain high standards for the community. The dry summer experienced in 2018 was exceptional and could possibly be a precursor of future summers. It would seem to be an appropriate time to consolidate the vast range of floral displays and consider a fewer number but larger giving greater impact. Using a wider selection of perennials, seasonal plants and especially drought resistant species would reduce maintenance but give greater all year round appeal.
- The volunteers recognised the need to clear the pond of the extensive weed growth, as did the judges visiting in 2016. To help preserve the variety of wildlife living in the pond (excluding Crawford the Crane) this work is becoming more immediate and should be a project for the coming Autumn/Winter period.
- The work carried out to highlight the past history of the village, displayed in the old telephone box was innovative and will no doubt give great interest to the villagers. To progress this further additional interpretation is needed and there is potential for the involvement of the local primary school children, possibly painting seasonal interpretations of village historic moments also to be displayed in the kiosk. Maybe the windmill could be featured as a lost industry to the village.

Ripponden

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

This was a well-coordinated group of enthusiastic volunteers led by Councillor Carter and the Environmental Committee covering several parishes in the area.

We met up with several current and former hard working volunteers, all rightly very proud of their achievements in enhancing their community.

Well maintained bowling green of the Ripponden Park Bowling Club with the attractive surrounding shrub areas.

Colourful displays at the Fleece Inn and the Old Bridge Inn within the Conservation area. The Churchyard with the delightful small garden created by the Cubs. The adjacent nursery school with their veg containers which the children were very proud of, together with the creative environmental garden created by Ripponden Beavers.

The containers and choice of plants in them adjacent in the area of the Electricity substation were very striking, and the spring bulb displays on the adjacent verges must have been impressive.

There can't be a more impressive wild flower area than that on the Rochdale road, it was very colourful with its Gunnera focal point!

The white themed floral containers throughout were well planted and maintained.

The lovely hanging baskets and containers around the Bus Lay By make a real feature of this area.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to work with the schools to create 'Grow Veg' facilities and homes for bugs, birds and small mammals to educate children and provide enjoyment of being outdoors.
- Encourage you to renovate seating and bins throughout the village.
- Consider some additional appropriate planting of shrubs and perennials in the memorial Garden.

Pateley Bridge

Gold & Category Winners

Overall Impression

What is there to say about Pateley Bridge other than what a fabulous town! We were made to feel really welcome by everyone we met. Keith took the lead, keeping us all really well informed and kept the tour to time. Father Mike was a treat, his humour infectious and his commitment to his parish and the town inspiring. However, we would also say that everyone we met was inspiring and committed to Pateley Bridge. Whilst Keith took the lead it was clear to see the community effort involved to bring about such a good entry.

We could see how much hard work has been undertaken to make the town look so inviting. The standard of the floral displays on the high street were excellent. Keith was keen to advise that the campaign started by trying to build the High Street by using Yorkshire in Bloom as the vehicle to enhance the town. It is clear to see that this has succeeded.

The wildflower meadow was lovely and is developing. It was good to see that the team had taken on board the suggestion of creating a wildlife meadow from last year's judges. We liked the display of planters from the local businesses placed at the side of the wildflower meadow, for our benefit, which highlighted how the business community was involved with this initiative - we understand that the planters were to be removed and placed outside the businesses after our judging tour.

It was lovely to have the local cub group walk the route with us and tell us what they were involved with their favourite task was going into the river to obtain water for the wildlife meadow. Mrs. Firth's garden was lovely and full of bees and insects.

The Air Raid Shelter, created for the 1940's weekend was inventive and the use of old ice cream tubs for planting on the roof of the shelter was a good example of recycling. Every area we saw was planted with care, including the small cottages off the high street.

We finished the tour at Our Lady Immaculate Roman Catholic Church which has seen the town's 'star project' take place. The amount of work involved in clearing and reclaiming this peaceful area has to be commended. The 14 stations of the cross in mosaic and the grotto with the Virgin Mary are lovely. The use of wood bark for the pathways, the clearing of the shrubs and the placing of benches making this now a quiet reflective area where people can sit in peace and reflection and gaze at the views across the Nidderdale Valley. Views which have, up to now, not been able to be seen due to the overgrown area for a very long time.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- In the new church garden consider planting spring bulbs such as iris and tete-a-tete, also lavender and other plants attractive to pollinating insects, particularly in the bottom section adjacent to the hedgehog house.
- Consider introducing more perennial planting to save work in having to replace annuals in places such as the road leading to the car park at Southlands under the Cherry trees.

Allerton Bywater

Gold

Overall Impression

Allerton in Bloom are a hardworking and dedicated team who have worked tirelessly through very difficult conditions to water and look after their planting.

The allotment site is one of the best well managed sites the judges have seen.

The quality of planting and maintenance throughout the village is of a good standard.

The judges were very impressed with the level of cleanliness throughout the village.

Your tribute to the 100th anniversary of the end of the first world war impressed the judges both in the design construction and well thought out planting. Finally we must mention

Gertrude your latest member, what an amazing way to use an old telephone box and long may it continue to get your message out and attract new members.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- We felt careful and a better selection of perennial plants and where they are planted would really help reduce maintenance and watering but also could provide year round colour and interest.
- If practical it would be nice to see either an interpretation board at the pit head or if not maybe just a simple plaque set into the paving.
- Tickle cock bridge is an area that still needs significant work and is one of those areas that it is so important that the right plant choice is made.
- Although the Church is beautifully maintained we felt that in the long term moving away from the use of as much bedding and replacing it with thoughtful perennial planting would help reduce maintenance and the need for so much watering but at the same time providing the same level of colour and interest.
- In general if our weather continues to be so erratic a serious look needs to be taken were best to have your bedding plants both for the most impact and the ease of maintenance.
- Consider using one of your youth groups to make bird boxes and have them put up.
- Consider taking part in the RSPB BIG Bird watch and having it in the park alongside the river.

Beeston

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

Youngsters from Beeston Primary school started our visit by giving us a presentation on their ideas for a design of beds at their school which will be implemented in the autumn.

Though there had been several problems in the Millennium Garden the group had acquired new plants from other locations and with donations from various organisations the area was looking attractive. The history board was very informative. Beeston Road with the 26

planters, all recycled from other sources or locations, and planted with a variety of herbs, fuchsias and other attractive perennials. The sponsored 'coffin', seat and repositioned urn adorned the frontage of Sunnyview House.

The centenary of women's suffrage was celebrated by lots of knitted emblems fastened to the trees of the cemetery. The Miners memorial had been tastefully enhanced, and the grounds of St Marys Church had been planted with colourful bedding by volunteers. Numerous bird and bat boxes along with a bug hotel were to be seen in the cemetery. The colourful seasonal bedding displays and permanent plantings in the grounds of Evans Property Company were exceptional. The 24 barrier baskets at the Old Lane/Dewsbury road junction coupled with the planters along Dewsbury Road created a striking colourful feature. The number of sponsors and supporters is impressive, which includes the Council, as is the 1300 hours of volunteer hours.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- We would encourage you to continue your scheme of enhancing abandoned graves in the cemetery with plantings or other suitable materials. Hopefully when there is a more 'normal' season this will enable the establishment of your proposed wild flower areas.

Bramhope

Gold

Overall Impression

A warm welcome awaited the judges on a lovely summer day at the attractively planted Village Cross. The new landlord and his son at the Fox and Hounds have embraced the in Bloom concept with a wonderful display in the mangers and hanging baskets at the front. Throughout Bramhope very careful thought is given to choice of plants and shrubs to ensure they are in the right location and environment. This is especially evident in the newly planted bed on the Parade, the installation of the trees and plants in the five small but effective beds at the cemetery and in the six themed beds. The use of bay trees to give just the right height to many beds and planters proves very effective.

The children at Bramhope Primary School were proud to show us their wildlife garden, outdoor classroom and were looking forward to the results of their potato growing competition.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- In the difficult shady narrow walled border consider planting variegated shrubs and plants such as Euonymus and hostas for summer rather than wild flowers
- Consider creating a bed of shrubs and plants to enhance the lovely stone bus stop in the Tredgold area.
- Continue to explore and develop the local heritage at the Knoll and Bramhope Well and Pump
- Continue to engage with the Parish Council to crown lift the trees near the Puritan Chapel.
- Continue to engage with the local community to encourage other groups and businesses to come on board.
- Consider engaging with the DOE to possibly tidy the entrance to Britannia Hotel i.e. clean out the wall bottoms and trim back epicormics growth on the tree bases.

Calverley

Gold

Overall Impression

The judges were pleased to meet this enthusiastic team again on a beautiful sunny day in sharp contrast to the cold, very wet conditions of our Spring tour.

The Memorial Gardens at Brookfield are maturing nicely although the harvest seeds have not germinated side to the dry conditions, the trees are healthy.

The interactive gardens at the Old Vicarage nursery were both thriving and stimulating for the children. It was lovely to meet the 3 school girls who had won the Summer Poster Competition and present them with their prizes at Calverley Parkside School.

St Wilfred's churchyard is a haven for wildlife and the sheep were enjoying the grass in the fence of area of the churchyard. Residents in the sheltered housing complex at Brookleigh have pulled out all the stops to produce a diversity of beautiful, bright and healthy planting of both perennials and bedding.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider replacing tubs with perennial planting on sites, such as the grass verge between the path and the wall at the Gatescroft Allotments. In future a tour of the allotments might be included in the judging route.
- Consider using the wonderful posters in the Summer competition for publicity in Calverley
- The planting of Cineraria under the hedge at Towngate might be better replaced with a mulch of bark and the area under the Maple tree would benefit from some crown lifting with consultation with forestry officer.
- Continue to attract new members to bring fresh ideas to planting schemes to incorporate height, variety and to include trailing plants to Tubs and Planters and at the stone trough at Calverley gate.
- The WI Garden in Victoria Park might benefit from new enthusiasm or new ownership for its maintenance.
- Consider increasing the frequency of working sessions.
- Consider planting a focal point such as a Cordyline in the centre of the beds by the memorial in Victoria Park.

Cottingley

Silver

Overall Impression

It was interesting to meet with the enthusiastic volunteers of Cottingley in Bloom and hear about their many efforts to enhance their community. Leeds Parks and Countryside staff and local councillors support and encourage the group.

The attractive Community centre garden is much improved with its raised beds and good selection of shrubs and perennial plants.

The extensive wild flower areas along the main road leading into the estate had suffered from the drought but it was obvious that the planned effect would have been stunning.

The walls around the shops which had suffered from graffiti had been painted in a stylish colour enhancing the area.

There were several planters, some substantial, planted with attractive seasonal bedding and shrubs.

The community orchard is developing well and the group is propagating and grafting more specimens to increase the size of the orchard.

The herb garden is looking well and many specimens are flourishing to good effect, as is the Memorial garden with its unique design of seats.

Thank you for our interesting visit to your community and of course for lunch.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Though new information boards have been installed, we didn't see any mention of current and forthcoming events for the Bloom Group (judge' visit etc.)
- Some further consideration be given to the choice and selection of perennials and shrubs in appropriate locations.
- Continue with your efforts to engage and involve Cottingley Primary Academy with the benefits for the children and the community.
- Some private enclosed gardens on the route were in need of tidying.

Halton

Silver

Overall Impression

Halton in Bloom group have had their challenges and it is good to see that there considerable support within its small team of volunteers. Some of its main challenges are that of vandalism (plants stolen) and litter. We were pleased that many of the planters that had their plants taken, were replaced, rather than left bare. Another challenge has been the limited commercial support given by many of the businesses within Halton. However having now gained substantial support from the 'Frying Machine' (Fish & Chip Shop), hopefully other businesses will follow suit. It was interesting to hear that after raised awareness of the campaign via 'Facebook' that many locals had taken it upon themselves to water a number of displays. The new planting adjacent to the Library is very nice and clearly an improvement to the area.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Standardise the planting theme for many of the floral containers. Remove commercial plant labels after planting.
- The baskets that hang (although not part of the Bloom Entry) outside the Elect building were excellent. It would be good to see examples of this standard elsewhere, for example outside the Library Building. If watering is an issue (which often is) then an automatic watering system could be installed.
- It would have been good to have a route map showing features linked back to the judging criteria so that the entry maximised the available marks.
- More involvement from the local schools. Contribute in the planting of a display, planters to their entrance.
- Primrose Valley has been improved by a new entrance. Sadly the judges were not shown this area. Greater emphasis should be made of this area in order to promote the natural environment.
- Clearer Information offered regarding the local identity i.e. information board.
- We would encourage greater promotion of the In-Bloom campaign around the area i.e. posters/leaflet drop.

Holbeck

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

The community involvement is excellent witness the Holbeck Club run purely by volunteers and there are good heritage boards adjacent to this. The involving of Ingram Road School in the history/heritage of the area by taking them on the Matthew Murray Trail and giving out free literature on this is to be commended. All new housing is eco-friendly with solar panels and water butts and the Greenhouse multi-storey block is carbon neutral.. All areas were clean and tidy and there was good sustainable planting in the newly developed areas. Communication is good with a quarterly news letter distributed. The heritage of the area has a high profile with the Matthew Murray Trail and other interpretation boards. There are excellent mature trees throughout the open areas of Holbeck. The idea of finger posts to encourage people to walk into the city centre and the planting to add colour wherever possible are to be commended. Very good conifer specimens around the bowling green. The St Luke's Church of England School has already acquired RHS Gardening Award Level 4 and the pupils who took the judges around their flower and vegetable areas were both enthusiastic and knowledgeable and are to be commended and the bird hide by the feeders will add to their wild life knowledge. It was also interesting to note they had been grafting fruit trees. The new Holbeck feature on the moor is well designed and very striking.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It will be interesting to see the development of the fruit tree planting.
- The proposed Highline walkway utilising the elevated disused railway line would be an outstanding addition to the portfolio.
- Have the interpretation boards mentioned at Spring judging been added on the Matthew Murray Trail?
- Though the sustainable planting around many areas of the new housing are good they are in need of some maintenance - weeding and pruning.

Kippax

Gold & Category Winners

Overall Impression

The Kippax in Bloom group had worked hard to ensure that the planting throughout the community was well watered and this had put great pressure on the group of local volunteers' during the period of the current drought. Their work was show cased throughout the village for all to see. Floral displays and perennial planting throughout the village coupled with historic features and art. The group had involved numerous organisations with its entry and was supported by the Parish and Leeds city councils. Local businesses had come together to support a great entry.

The group is now playing a greater role in influencing green space management throughout the community and always looking to contribute towards future developments within the community.

The involvement of the schools and churches has paid off resulting in a separate entry for Kippax North Primary school. The community should be proud of the work which has been achieved

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The group should consider setting up a junior in Bloom group building on the work undertaken at Kippax North Primary school .Possible with the future allocation of the maintenance of a floral area within the community. This may help to involve parents and potential new members of the group
- Consider greater involvement of the other schools in a future poster designs for next year as these were effective during the period of judging to raise the profile of the groups work.
- The group should continue to refresh a small number of the planted areas in order to retain standards in a similar manner as planned for Butt Hill Gardens.
- The group should increase its involvement in the SSSI site at Town Close Hills (Billy Woods) as this will help to safe guard the site for future generations and protect its unique flora and wild life habitats.

Rawdon

Silver

Overall Impression

The judges were welcomed by the enthusiastic members together with parents, teachers and children at the wonderful HIVE Garden at St Peter's school which has been a focus of planning, funding and activity since 2013. The children are encouraged to provide, develop and explore the various habitats in which wildlife will thrive and careful consideration has been given to planting so that plants are in the right place for them to grow. The 99 white rose bushes beautifully enhance the new Memorial Stone and WW1 Commemorative benches at Littlemoor Commemorative Garden, a joint project with RiB and the Parish Council. Visitors to Rawdon are welcomed by a beautiful bright and colourful bed around the marker stone and the group have certainly worked hard providing handmade planters where appropriate, to enhance the shopping areas, the memorial ground and gardens and residential courts.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider developing local interest in the Memorial Stone near the Victory Gardens Allotments, gathering a working group of local residents to clear and cut back the hedges of the ginnel and explore community use of the large grassed area
- Consider planting a shrub and perennial at the welcome entrance to Micklefield Court
- Carefully maintenance of the Twisted Hazel is needed in the tubs in front of Crowtrees Court
- Consider restoring the old milestone at Crowtrees Court with the approved white paint
- Encourage local interest and in conjunction with the Methodist Circuit, develop a planting scheme for the old Methodist churchyard to benefit both the local community and natural wildlife e.g create a peace garden
- Encourage St Peter's School to enter in the Harrogate Flower Show Young Peoples Award in YiB.
- Encourage new members and business participation and increase publicity of the achievements of Rawdon in Bloom.
- Consider trimming off the epicormics growth at the base of the trees on the green at Littlemoor, by the war memorial.

Scarborough Old Town

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

The Old Town of Scarborough has many interesting landmarks and is steeped in history. The In Bloom group are very proud of the area and rightly so. The stunning herbaceous border, flower tubs with seasonal planting and lawns at the Garden of Remembrance at St Mary's Church are looked after by Sandra and the Friends group. The pamphlets about St Mary's Church are very interesting and informative.

We saw charming, well maintained residential gardens above the Rope Walk, Janet's nautical themed garden, Liz's cleverly planned split-level garden; these are some of the gardens entered into the Muck and Magic gardens competition. We paused at the viewing platform at Burr Bank, where there is seating, flower tubs and an information board with a print by artist Carl Herman of the South Bay at Night. The poppies on the bank had finished and the spring bulbs must look spectacular. The Sandside area with its working harbour and beach was very clean as was the whole area, considering the footfall in the area. In Valley Road, the spring planting had given way to the themed flower beds designed by local school children. The regular litter picks are very effective.

A strong community spirit is very evident and Janet Jefferson liaises with the council and the groups and generally gets things done!

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The residents who are involved with the greening of the communal areas of the Speight Lane flats would benefit from encouragement and advice
- A few posters for In Bloom were seen but perhaps more could be displayed, especially along the route, and the Muck and Magic competition could be publicised more widely.
- Although the press had been informed about judging and were present on the day, it may be worthwhile to involve social media to let residents know what is happening and how they could be involved.

Starbeck

Gold

Overall Impression

Starbeck summer scarecrows were in evidence in number throughout the town. It is clear that Starbeck has benefited from long term involvement in the Bloom Campaign with many high-quality projects to be seen around the town and impressive community involvement with significant sponsorship to many projects.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The train station as an entry point to the town should be considered for additional planting and information boards about the town
- Some of the street furniture is in need of attention
- The Garden areas around the old peoples accommodation near the back in the area near the swimming pool could do with some attention

Swillington

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

It was lovely to be welcomed by the In-Bloom team again and tour round to see all the areas well maintained and litter free and overall cleanliness was very good. Good recycling of local resources using chippings from the recent cut trees on the beds. The extended memorial borders are an added attraction by the gate. The shrubs throughout were good quality and shape giving the beds structure and interest especially in the big bed. All containers and bedding gave colour and were of good quality and the team are to be praised in maintaining them in light of the recent prolonged dry weather this year which has proved particularly testing for the areas of seasonal bedding and any recent planting. The allotments were a hidden gem, with well-kept plots. It is evident that there is a lot of pride in your community and the whole team and their sponsors deserve to be congratulated to making such a positive contribution to Swillington and its residents.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Maybe reconsider the routes for spring and summer judging, selecting only the best at each time of year, thus being able to showcase optimal features for both judging's.
- Although the planting schemes were good - The Miners Welfare Club plantings gave an eye-catching floral display of vibrant colour, consider recreating this for more impact throughout.
- Consider a programme of painting/staining to refresh the wooden planters
- Continue with your replanting programme and plans to extend the telegraph pole bed
- Follow up with the Indian Lounge to remove the dead trees.
- Swillington has lots of heritage as a former coal mining village until the closure of Primrose Hill pit, some heritage information/boards to document this would strengthen your entry.
- We were impressed with the enthusiasm of the school team and their future plans especially involvement using horticultural projects as part of the national curriculum we suggest that you contact the schools officer at www.yorkshireinbloom.co.uk for availability of further resources and guidance.

Woodlesford

Gold

Overall Impression

Woodlesford Urban Community was looking its best and it was so good to see the summer planting having seen the beautiful spring displays. It certainly did not disappoint with very good and varied features. Well done to everyone in caring for them all in such dry and difficult conditions. Everywhere was clean and tidy, with no litter graffiti etc

It was lovely to be welcomed to Woodlesford in Bloom again. Having visited the school we were then provided with lunch by the team, in the lovely setting of school garden area. The group works very hard and is well supported by many members of the community and groups within it. It was good to meet so many of the team all of whom have responsibility and pride in what they do.

The school was an absolute joy and the small children at Jolly Giraffes who sung such a special song for us were a delight.

The individual areas within Woodlesford reflect the commitment to improving and maintaining their own identity, with Langdale being exceptional. There were many very good residential gardens. Woodlesford in Bloom work together with, and support all of these and many other groups. The Canal Basin at Woodlesford Lock and the work with the Canal and River Trust is impressive, in creating such an attractive area for visitors and for wildlife.

There are good information boards about the heritage and all the work that has been done for the environment. All aspects of communication were very well covered.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- This is a very good entry and it is pleasing to hear that there are so many plans to move forward and make even more improvements.
- Carry on with your ethos of greening grey areas, such as the bed on Kitchener Street, as this underpins the community working together.
- The area at The Green was most attractive with a good wild flower area, and it was interesting to hear of future plans.
- The Midland Pub had a wonderful floral display and clearly illustrated the benefit to businesses and we hope this sets a good example for others to follow.
- The history of the Needless Inn is very interesting and should be highlighted especially when there are plans for the future of the site.

Category: - Small Town

Malton in Bloom

Gold & Category Winners

Overall Impression

The entry is concentrated on the centre of Malton so whilst opportunities have been taken when possible to use perennial plants the displays are largely seasonal. This is only the second year of entering YiB, but they have managed to engage a wide range of groups, individuals and commercial enterprises to improve Malton and support bloom. The seasonal planting now exceeds 4000 plants (25% increase) the quality of which was impressive. Contributing to the entry Malton Flower Club had created an English garden in the old town hall, which had been created to a very high standard. One of the other supporting group The Tidy group collect up to 400 bags of litter per year. Practical support in the form of creating gardens has been given by Bee keepers association, WI, Anti-Fracking group, St Michael's Church and commercial businesses. The level of involvement can be measured by the bloom group providing 30 hanging baskets, and the other 220 being provided privately.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Whilst the route was generally litter free, there is a problem with cigarette ends, and it was clear that the pavements had not been swept for some time, this may have been worse than usual as heavy rain would have a cleaning effect.
- A point to note is the post and litter bin outside OTA are in a poor condition.
- It may have been beneficial to include the grounds of the Talbot hotel in the route as the perennial planting was good, the veg plots below the wall looked to be of a high standard. Most importantly in respect of the environmental element the grass land to the river appeared to be managed for wildlife.
- Congratulations, and thank you for all the work that has been put in so far, continue to only increase commitments if resources are available to maintain any new developments.

Elloughton cum Brough

Gold & Category Winners

Overall Impression

Since the Spring visit the group have installed a water pump feature with planted stone trough which makes an attractive feature in the village green in Elloughton. The Cenotaph has been cleaned and the old wooden containers replaced with marble effect containers. The choice of red salvia in these picked up the red colour of the roses at the front to provide a very effective and appropriate floral display.

The group have excellent community links both in terms of hands on support and fundraising/sponsorship. Several residents and businesses look after some of the many beds and planters throughout the area. The deep planters work well and include perennial, bulb and annual plantings. Local schoolchildren have been involved in painting sunflowers on a bench at the Loxley Way entrance. The themed bus shelters have been repainted including one with a Roman theme and one painted by the WI with a Suffragette theme. Mindful of current dry and hot weather conditions, the group have used mulch to reduce the need for watering and in places have been pragmatic about the use of summer bedding. A new venture has been an Open Gardens day in Elloughton. As a result of its great popularity and success in raising funds, the intention is to hold it in Brough next year. Elloughton cum Brough is indeed fortunate to have such a hard working group committed to improving the town environment.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Beds at Brough cross roads are due for a 'makeover' in 2021. In the meantime, it may be possible to rationalise the planting somewhat. The use of a fewer number of perennial species/cultivars (perhaps including grasses) would improve the slightly 'scrappy' appearance of this area.
- With reference to the above and across the rest of the town, after the hot dry summer it would be appropriate to review plantings to identify those which have not coped well with the conditions and perhaps consider alternatives.
- It would be good to see more water recycling across the town with perhaps the introduction of water butts where appropriate.
- Good work is being done in certain areas to encourage wildlife into the area and perhaps this could be spread to other areas, if perhaps on a smaller scale.
- It is suggested that the planters under the road signs might be replaced with low troughs to make them easier to maintain and prevent damage to the plants.
- It was great to see the school becoming involved and perhaps they could be given some support and advice to encourage them to garden more in their grounds. The RHS Campaign for School Gardening is a great resource in this respect.

Horsforth

Gold

Overall Impression

In starkly different weather conditions to our spring visit, exceptionally dry conditions presented different challenges to the In-bloomers. The joint effort of the In-bloom volunteers, The City Council, Parish Council and Civic Society has met these and the judges were impressed with the general high level of maintenance and cleanliness. Stand-outs were the superb herbaceous beds in Hall Park, which is a credit to Sue of the City Council and the volunteers who help. Here we learned that some species had actually benefitted from the drought and warmth! The frontage to Bartlett's looked stunning as usual, the Methodist Church planting was in excellent condition, and Pollination Corner worked up in conjunction with St. Margaret's School was both innovative and pleasing on the eye. The Japanese Garden is well worth a visit and brings a touch of the Orient to north Leeds.

The fruit and vegetables grown at Parkside allotments were prolific and it was rewarding to see produce being donated to the Junks Food Cafe to be used for dinner the next day.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The judges were pleased to hear about the hopeful reformation of the Hall Park friends group. This would be real boost to the effort has the current In Bloom entry does cover a large area in its own right.
- If possible consider concentrating efforts on removing weeds/detritus from the Fink Hill/Town St/Hall Rd junction. This would complement the horticultural achievement in this core area.
- Consider planting shade-tolerant plants along the path/avenue by Morrisons. Perhaps Hostas, White anemone and/or try snowdrop bulbs for spring colour.
- Consider entering Hall Park and St Margaret's School in next year's YIB campaign

Otley

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

The judges were welcomed by several members of Otley in Bloom on a lovely summer day and were very grateful for their wonderful hospitality. They were escorted on a well-planned and detailed route around the town and were impressed to see the many shops, pubs and small businesses supporting the In-Bloom initiative with the high quality hanging baskets and planters. Particular stand-outs were the planters outside The Bowling Green public house, the Red Pepper restaurant, the sustainable planting at the Hospital and Mrs Gasgoine's cottage garden. The superb herbaceous beds at Adlington House were designed by a resident and provided a restful area for residents waiting for a taxi. Wharfemeadows Park hosts interesting planting displays with interpretation boards and was well-maintained considering the challenging recent weather conditions. The standard of street cleansing for somewhere so busy was excellent.

It was interesting to see the group had explored the history of the Otley Phlox and shared it in the Community

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider repairing or replacing the wooden benches in Wharfemeadows Park
- If possible consider removing self-sets and weeds from any planted and shrubberies in Wharfemeadows Park.
- Consider approaching local large businesses to see if they could provide Employer Supported Volunteering.
- Continue with the ongoing projects including The Lido outdoor swimming project, which will hopefully be a big attraction, and the Peace Garden at All Saints Primary School
- Encourage BT to paint the two K6 telephone boxes in the Market Square which are still in use
- Consider recruiting local residents to volunteer to tend and water key flower beds and planters

Todmorden

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

It was rather special to visit Todmorden on this occasion as 'Tod In Bloom' were taking part in a Bloom TV series. The team are to be congratulated for all the extra effort which participating in this series entailed. It was a real delight to visit Castle Hill School, the youngsters enjoyed showing us around the vegetable allotment, all very knowledgeable and enthusiastic members of the Garden Club. The mini sensory garden was rather special as was the plastic bottle greenhouse. Thank you for the tasting session!

Todmorden Station was a highlight. The Friends of Todmorden Station, along with representatives of the Royal British Legion had created a WW1 sculpture adorned with red bedding, a photographic display in the ticket office of the 'PALS' who lost their lives, coupled and a host of red hanging baskets on platform one. The red poppy theme was evident on many lampposts in the town. A chance encounter by a representative of the British Legion with a Dutch bulb grower resulted in 45000 bulbs being donated to Todmorden, what a sight that must have been in the spring. 150000 seeds had also been donated to the group. There were some large beds planted with vegetables in various areas of the town, including platform 2, courtesy of Incredible Edible.

The Memorial garden was attractive and well maintained with plans to enhance it further. Other notable features included Bransche Square/ Rotary Bed/ Butterfly garden with its excellent sculptured bug hotels/ many barrier baskets, hanging baskets and numerous floral containers.

The creation of the unusual stumpery/ fernery in Patmos Garden will add an interesting feature to this lovely well designed garden and commemorate a former local specialist nurseryman, Abraham Stansfield.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It would have been interesting to have met with representatives of Incredible Edible to learn more of their contribution and plans for their involvement in the town.
- Some railings and street furniture is in need of painting and cleaning.
- We would encourage you to find ways to celebrate other famous 'sons' of the town.
- Consider planting some feature shrubs in some beds to add interest in all seasons.
- You asked for suggestions to enhance the purple Alzheimer's bed, you might consider Lavender, Aster, Heucheras, and Aubretia planted in bolder groups than ones or twos.

Category: - Large Town

Knareborough in Bloom

Gold

Overall Impression

On a beautiful summer's day Knareborough showed why this is such a much loved town for residents and visitors alike.

The judges were given a varied and comprehensive tour of the town which included visits to the impressive railway station, the Orb community enterprise and the historical sites of The Chapel of Our lady of The Crag and St Robert's Cave.

The 'Town Windows' art project is unique and brings interest to walls in and around the town.

The tubs, troughs & hanging baskets throughout the town were of high quality and offered vibrancy & colour and were obviously watered and tended religiously.

A mention also to the two students and staff at King James School who kindly stayed behind after school to show and talk to the judges about the evolving Bee Project.

A memorable and most enjoyable visit to this lovely town !

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider forming an alliance with the 'Friends of Knareborough Station' to collectively enhance the 'In Bloom' campaign.
- Pressure should be brought upon Northern Rail to renovate/ paint the impressive station canopy's to compliment the work carried out on the station by volunteers.
- Consider including 'Mother Shipton's Cave' in future entries as this is clearly a major tourist attraction in the town.
- Consider a couple of troughs/baskets on the railings at Waterside.
- Whilst the planting of medicinal plants / herbs / perennials on the banking at The Chapel Of Our Lady of The Crag is to be commended in its uniqueness and the obvious commitment in cultivation and labelling of the plants it feels as though more relaxed permanent planting may be more fitting given the historical context of the shrine. Is there an alternative location to showcase these medicinal plants ?

Mirfield in Bloom

Gold & Category Winners

Overall Impression

This is the first time, in a very long time, that Mirfield has entered the competition. Ruth has to be highly commended for the work she has undertaken in drawing the community together. Ruth is happy to say that initially she thought the entry was about making Mirfield look better but it soon took on a different role and now it is about the community pulling together. It is great to hear and see how by entering Yorkshire in Bloom the community has drawn closer together for the benefit of the whole of Mirfield.

A lot of thought and care has gone into the choice of plants in the town, even though the barrier baskets couldn't be attached to the barriers on the main road being sited below them seems to have been the best option.

The Mirfield community is diverse and well represented in this initiative, businesses large and small such as the Co-Op, The Old Colonial, The Flowerpot, The Railway Station to name but a few are involved, the Fire Service has been a great help, local initiatives such as

the Community Orchard, Stoneham Housing @Calder House vegetable plot, St. Pauls gardens and Mirfield Library are excellent. The list could go on and we hope we haven't offended anyone by not mentioning them. We would like to say to the whole community 'Well Done and keep up the excellent work' you are making a massive difference to Mirfield.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- We would advise you seek further advice on your route- it was lovely to meet so many committed individuals but the flow was a little confusing at times.
- Continue to increase the plants at the stations. Consider sustainable, drought tolerant plants such as cransbills, penstemons, verbena bonariensis, Euphorbia, Eryngium and ivy. Have a look at the latest RHS Grass Roots where they have a special article on future-proofing projects.
- There was some graffiti in the town but the team are aware of it.
- Considering the size of Mirfield there was very little litter in evidence.
- Some of the highways barriers would benefit from a coat of paint, however we realise that in the current climate the local authority may not be able to do this.

Pontefract in Bloom

Silver

Overall Impression

The overall impression you get from visiting Pontefract and in meeting the various teams and friends groups is one of passion and pride in their town and the aim to improve the town for the benefit of all residents and visitors. It was clear everyone realised this was a long term project. There is a massive wealth of history in the town. The Castle grounds have been planted sympathetically to the period of the castle and the team have to be commended for the research undertaken to understand the medicinal benefits of the plants. The bespoke cladding on the building adds to the medieval setting.

In addition, Glycyrrhiza glabra (Licorice) which was once the town's well known sweets and sold all over the world was also growing in Pontefract.

The friends of Pontefract Park have created two vibrant flower beds which are planted well and have impact when entering the park area. The Friends of Valley Gardens have also been extremely busy in recreating the rose beds and looking after the herbaceous borders - this is a large area and they are working very hard at keeping it in order. There is a great diversity of trees in this park the planting, now opened up, leads the eye around the area.

The pupils of Larkhill School were a joy to meet, their knowledge and creative thinking in the wildlife garden identifies how nature encourages young people and aids with their imagination. It may be worth considering entering them into the Schools category next year. The number of planters and hanging baskets sponsored by businesses, 57, is a credit to the hard work and dedication of Colin. The planters were full and healthy.

We enjoyed meeting the lads from Phoenix and seeing their planters, there was clear pride in the work they had undertaken to help in the town - well done.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider your route - whilst it was impressive the number of businesses who have sponsored baskets it may be worth showing a pictorial guide where there are only a few planters on a road.

- Concentrate your route on key areas such as; The Castle, The Town Hall, St. Giles, Market Cross and the Market. Again other areas could be shown by a guide. It was good to start at the park and finish at the school.
- Consider giving height to your boxes, the plants were good but may have given a greater impact if the soil had been raised slightly. Also consider using more sustainable plants and a feature plant in the planters to draw the eye in. We know you were going to assess the boxes and planters at the end of the summer.
- Finkle Street Church for consideration; don't cut the grass short in times of drought, dead head roses to just above bud. Weed and cultivate borders. Consider a three staged planting approach in the borders low, medium, high staged planting.
- There was nice planting around St Giles church, it would have been interesting to have had a better explanation to why they have chosen a South African planting scheme? Consider more interpretation. We liked the fact they have added a new planting scheme and added height and more structural plants into the design. This was obviously a key meeting area to sit and chat with friends and clearly people enjoy this space.
- Valley Gardens, it is commendable that the Friends group are recreating the Rose Garden, the roses would benefit from deadheading and adding some good manure as well as a mulch.
- We were pleased to see you have created a composting area in the gardens - it is not recommended that you place rose clippings in here as they may harbour disease.
- The two stone troughs were a credit to Joan and George, they may consider for future adding a little more height to them and some soft trailing plants to tumble over the edge. You could also consider more sustainable plants.
- The Larkshill school garden was a joy to be shown around by the very enthusiastic young people. It would only require a little more for it to do well in the competition in its own right. Consider adding a hibernaculum (newt home) to the pond. The pond would benefit from a tidy up, a few more shrubs in the wildlife area and a wildflower area would be good to see.

Halifax

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

Halifax in Bloom entry this year has been driven by the floral features of the wool shops which were of very high quality of baskets and perennial planting. The plants provided floral colour up in to the town centre and had encourages some other shops to participate.

The Piece Hall restoration and new library had brought more foot-fall around this area of the town and the wide paved areas in the centre of the Piece Hall is used to stage a range of events throughout the year to attract visitors to the town.

The architecture of the Library incorporating the church spire is innovative and impressive. The Towns entry was complimented by visits to Albert Park, where the use of colourful bedding was appropriate and impressive, and Manor Heath Park with the walled garden was looking great with its usual colourful planting and it was good to see the Park busy with local residents using the facilities

The visit to Ravenscliffe High school with a wide range of horticultural facilities for children with special needs outline the work which is undertaken within the local community.

The Allotment visit was very interesting and the site demonstrated what can be grown on a well-managed site. The involvement of the allotment site with the local community, especially children was very impressive. The idea of dividing plots into smaller areas was a good one. Events like Apple Day are a lovely idea. We were pleased to hear that allotment members help in the garden at Ravenscliffe school. We were pleased to see provision of disabled planting areas. A very interesting visit.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

The hanging baskets were in good condition and impressively brightened the town

The planting in the Wool shops was varied and the sustainable planting was impressive and obviously well maintained.

The planting in the Westgate Arcade was well maintained and greatly added to the area.

The managing of recycled materials at the Woolshops was efficient and impressive.

The hard landscaping around the site was interesting and varied.

The planting to encourage wildlife beyond the Woolshops car park was good to see and the inclusion of seating areas is a good idea.

- The planned statue, arriving next year will greatly add to the site.
- Halifax in Bloom needs to maximise opportunities brought about by the Business improvement area and look to improve planting and floral features throughout the town.
- Play a greater role in shaping the pedestrian proposals for part of the town centre to ensure that the quality landscape improvements are complimented by planting and floral features.
- Greater involvement in business and including more of the town centre in the future entry would spread the competition to business on the edge of the town centre.
- The future plans for improvements and a new link from the railway station to the town centre will offer future opportunities to raise the standards and landscaping within the area
- We would have liked to see more examples of Private community gardens in the judging tour and meet some of the groups involved in Halifax in Bloom.
- Consider introducing planting into the Piece Hall site, together with further signage, art in the landscape celebrating the site's history.

Keighley

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

Keighley is fortunate to have so many different sources of financial support from the Keighley in Bloom Group in association with other voluntary groups, local shops and businesses including the Airedale Shopping Centre who host charitable fund-raising events, members of the public and the recently established Business Initiative District (BID) which has been established for 2 years helping to supply an increasing number of hanging baskets to the town. The Keighley in Bloom group organise the hanging baskets and barrier planters around the town and approach local businesses for sponsorship to cover the cost of maintenance. Bradford Council have provided and planted a new avenue of Lime trees and stone paving to the top side of Town Hall square and a solar powered litter bin which not only compacts litter but sends a message to the council when the bin requires emptying. Town Hall square was beautifully planted with summer bedding and perennial plants which had been regularly watered and maintained during this abnormally hot season. Unusually the tree pits set into the pavement had also been planted with summer bedding which were growing well and providing extra colour in the pavements.

The nearby newly planted Dementia Friendly Keighley garden was establishing well, enhanced by a bespoke semi-circular seat. It is hoped that volunteers from the group will be able to maintain and use this area. The judges also visited the nearby allotments where prize winning flowers and vegetables are being grown for the local show. Some of the local gardens visited had outstanding displays of hanging baskets and other garden plants.

At St Anne's School The judges met a group of children who had taken part in horticultural activities around the school grounds. Some of the planted containers were a joy to see and the pupils were looking forward to harvesting their own potatoes. The Keighley in Bloom Logo was designed by one of the pupils the judges met at the school.

The newly renovated Cliffe Castle museum, glasshouses and grounds have been faithfully restored to their former glory with painstaking research being carried out of the trees and shrubs originally planted in the park. The new fully automated glasshouse complex was a credit to those who designed and oversaw the project funded by the HLF Lottery fund. The indoor animal area and new children's play area attract more happy visitors.

East Riddlesden Hall host over one hundred weddings a year while the gardens and wild life areas are visited by all walks of life who come to see the wildlife areas and gardens where adult courses are often run explaining the use of herbs and many seasonal children's activities are held throughout the year. What a lovely peaceful place to say it is so close to busy roads and local population centres.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

It was good to see so many groups, and organisations working together to improve the quality of life for the residents and visitors to Keighley. The hanging baskets and planted troughs brought a feeling of wellbeing to the area and the different parks and green spaces in the district provided exercise and enjoyment to those who use them. The initiative to link parks with schools to encourage more outdoor activity is a tremendous idea to help promote fitness and wellbeing to all who use this free facility.

It may be an idea to dress the windows of empty shops in the town to make them more attractive to passers-by and potential new occupants.

- The judges noticed some evidence of weeds, litter and graffiti in certain areas which could have been dealt with prior to judging.
- Some of the buildings and areas on the judging route were far from smart.
- Check the route thoroughly before the next judges visit.
- The judges greatly appreciated the work and effort put into Keighley and surrounding districts by everyone who showed a great deal of pride in the area.
- Do continue with your hard work and encourage others to take pride in the district.

Team Harrogate

Gold & Category Winners

Overall Impression

Team Harrogate demonstrates the importance of good team work which involves diverse groups each with their own interests but pulling together for the benefit of all. The community spirit is evidenced by the results which are shown throughout the entry as the team identifies the actions needed and executes them in a way that secures the continuation of activities.

Good communication is a vital part of the team work along with mutual support.

Harrogate's heritage as a fashionable spa resort is being enhanced and guarded by various activities of the group including preservation of street lamps by the civic society, restoration of the Japanese garden and of the Magnesia well Pump room by the Friends of Valley Gardens whose dedication and fund raising has been put to the test. We look forward to seeing the completed restoration of the gates, railings and new flower beds at King Edward VII entrance.

The quality floral displays and hanging baskets throughout the central areas by council, businesses, Team Harrogate and privately all add to the well maintained welcoming resort atmosphere. There are many businesses who have embraced provision of floral displays with a good mix of annual and sustainable planting.

The competition embraces all age groups with educational establishments playing a strong role as evidenced at Rossett School where the judged were delighted to see the work accomplished and were also serenaded by a music group. The refurbishment of the gardens at Rogers Alms Houses was a delight to witness and established another partnership with St Peter's School.

Throughout Harrogate area there are many projects and community groups doing great conservation work in woodlands, parkland and open spaces, voluntarily fighting the battle to maintain the balance of native flora and fauna for all to enjoy.

The business community in addition to support and floral displays are also actively working on recycling and environmental issues with many moving to zero carbon targets etc.

Harrogate Spring Water and Bettys and Taylors are active in improving packaging and sending no waste to landfill.

Well done team Harrogate and everyone involved in any way.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Some public benches were well maintained but there were a number which needed attention.
- As The Picture Frame on Montpelier Hill is utilised for visitor photos it could benefit from repainting and reflecting the high standard.
- Further water harvesting could be encouraged both in businesses and around the city.
- When planning new planting consider those with impairments by the addition of scent and possibly sound elements.

Morley

Gold

Overall Impression

It's evident that the MinB campaign is well supported by all members of the community, local ward and town councillors, along with the wider business community, Groundwork Leeds and the local primary school's who have been involved with the poster competition to promote MinB across the town

The town centre street scene was clean, free from litter and inviting, with many well maintained colourful planters and baskets. Many of the local business's are additionally enhancing their own shop fronts with colourful floral displays. Interesting art work dotted around, some to note, Beryl Burton/Morley bench in the precinct, the TdY bikes and Terrace Cottage No 9 outside the Post office add interest to the high street.

The recognition of local personalities connected to the town is demonstrated by artwork & sculptures, The 'Beryl Burton' Gardens are well presented with a interesting variety of sustainable planting, are well maintained, and includes interpretation information and a fabulous wall mural depicting the record breaking cyclist; the Ernie Wise sculpture is prominent at the head of the precinct, surrounded by well maintained seasonal bedding. It was lovely to meet the children from Fountain Primary School with their recycling and growing project, all the children were enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the importance of the project, and eager to share it with the town centre visitors.

The British Legion Schools poppy growing project is a good initiative to mark the centenary of the end of WW1, was a great idea to get local schools involved and promote the importance of the event. It was lovely to meet children from East Ardsley Primary who told us all about their poppy planter. The Shop Floral Window display competition was good, and nice to see a good number getting involved.

Scatcherd Park, sitting so close to the town centre is a real asset to the entry. Its well maintained gardens and leisure facilities are a credit to the staff and volunteers involved in maintaining this quality green space. The sculpture commemorating St Mary's Church is a recent addition to recognise the towns heritage, and the mixed borders leading up to the art work, are full or interesting and unusual plant combinations.

Siegen Close sheltered housing complex sits on the very edge of the town, members of this close knit community have created colourful front gardens for all residents to enjoy and visitors to admire, this small community have been staunch supporters of Morley in Bloom for many years. MinB is an enthusiastic group with strong leadership, who are proud of their heritage, supportive of all groups within the town centre area, and are constantly thinking to the future. Well done.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The beds at the front of the town hall had suffered a little from recent building works, but this can be improved for next time.
- A few very small areas of graffiti on the High street, on litter bins/ telecom box.
- A couple of shop fronts could benefit from a freshen up of paintwork, along with a few bollards at Beryl Burton Garden.
- Consider a few tweaks on the route to avoid doubling back, may save a little on allocated timings.

Hull (City Centre)

Gold & Category Winners

Overall Impression

The judge's route around Hull City Centre showed how by embracing the past and investing for the future, really positive outcomes can be achieved. The legacy from 2017's year as City of Culture was evident throughout the tour starting at the Queens Gardens, a city centre open space, well presented, used as a performance area and for relaxing. The Museum Quarter provided some interesting well cared for gardens amongst the narrow cobbled streets and old buildings. City centre living developments were in evidence in a number of areas, the majority well screened at street level. Seasonal floral displays in containers and baskets outside the Minerva Brewery, added colour to a riverside relaxation area. Walking past the Humber Dock Marina with its multitude of anchored Yachts and boats and the Spurn Lightship, a reminder of the city's sea going heritage. Whitefriargate, now a wide paved pedestrian only street with minimal street furniture, gave way to Queen Victoria Square with its innovative water fountains which rise from the pavement floor, a delight for any child of any age. The city centre businesses and local council clearly work hard to show a smart, clean and attractive environment in which to live, work and visit and all should be rightly proud of the achievement.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The economic climate together with the upheavals caused by improvements to street furniture has impacted on the provision of hanging baskets. To compensate for the absence of the coloured displays seen in the past, a limited number of banks of containers at strategic locations planted with mixed seasonal and perennial plantings could be considered.
- The sculptures and statues seen on the tour were many and varied. The provision of additional interpretation and a formal trail is suggested as a further legacy to the achievements attained in 2017 and will complement the existing Fish Trail.
- The use of the recycled granite sets in the construction of the raised planting areas at the Humber Dock Marina was innovative at the time of construction, but some are now deteriorating and detract from the generally well cared for surroundings. Consideration needs to be given to future renovation and redesign.
- There is an opportunity not being realised to have more wildlife in the city centre, especially when considering the wide variety of habitats available. both short and long term. The development of a Hull City Centre Wildlife Action Plan could be an intermediate goal, working in tandem with the city's own Biodiversity Action Plan, and helped by both national and local wildlife organisations.

Whitby

Gold & Category Winners

Overall Impression

The Whitby in Bloom Group has produced a town to be very proud of, the commitment and enthusiasm shown is inspirational and a lesson to other groups to follow. Around every corner was a surprise and a delight from the 'hidden gems' of the tranquil yards to the colourful floral displays and its rich heritage.

Continued sustainability and attention to detail will bring further rewards for the group and the town of Whitby. The judges thank you for an excellent informative and most pleasurable day. The visual impact and wow factor of the floral displays from the gateways into town and throughout the tour were excellent and consistent, complimented by pockets of well-planned sustainable planting with all year round interest. The plants were vibrant and well maintained, especially under the challenging weather conditions.

From the judges arrival and throughout the tour it was noted on several occasions the cleanliness of the town and the overall route, especially with the amount of tourists we encountered on the day. Special mention must therefore go to community, business and environmental services for their hard work and pride in making Whitby a clean environment to live in and visit. Excellent effort. Although steeped in marine heritage the group is encouraging biodiversity by introducing wildlife corridors throughout the town with the Cliff Street project and the steps leading from the Whitby Abbey Car Park down into the centre of town discouraging anti-social behaviour and increasing environmental sustainability and biodiversity through appropriate plant choices. A particular mention goes to the Quaker Burial Project and the idea of creating a community orchard working with the payback team, schools, the community and naturalists. Although still in its infancy it is clear this will have a beneficial impact for the community and heritage of the town. During the tour the judges came across a variety of groups, in particular the housing complexes of Fairway's Court and Marton Close. One could clearly see the pleasure gardening gives to the residents and the health benefits this brings, with the many excellent, vibrant hanging baskets, tubs and also dare I say a little competition between the gardens.

The children of Stakesby School greeted us on arrival and the collaboration between the school and residents is to be highly commended. Recycling was evident in both residential complexes with the use of water containers collecting rainwater for use in their gardens. A big thank you to you all for giving the judges a warm welcome and a pleasurable visit.

Local identity is embedded throughout the town with excellent interpretation. Special mention goes to Pannett Park and the excellent restoration work undertaken since 2005 which has resulted in a Green Flag Status Park. The restoration of the floral clock in 2006 is a spectacular colourful display at the entrance to the park and a glimpse of what is to come. The use of art works well around the more formal areas and was a pleasure to visit and a real treasure of Whitby.

Community involvement is evident throughout the town. The judges were presented with leaflets covering a variety of events and initiatives. Whitby in Bloom has excellent partnerships through the website, Instagram and regional radio with support from Whitby Town Council and Scarborough Borough Council. Funding and sponsorship achieved by the group is commendable and the recorded volunteer hours of over 4,000 is impressive and shows the commitment and enthusiasm the group has to succeed.

Special mention goes to the Dementia Garden undertaken by the community in helping raise awareness, providing a garden of touch, smell and vision, complimented with an interpretation board and leaflet. The community has created a garden sympathetically planted in a location that works well with magnificent views from above and below -

excellent initiative. The bloom group has excellent community participation with all age groups engaging in events and volunteering and is clearly shown throughout the year. The portfolio was well presented and informative as was the power point presentation which clearly showed the four season approach to the Whitby In Bloom entry. It is clear to see the community and businesses are working closely with Whitby in Bloom in creating a clean, colourful, informative place to live and visit while retaining its strong heritage.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- To review the overall number of floral displays within the town and on the periphery of town, concentrating on pockets of planting and reducing some areas as well as more sustainable planting would not detract from the visual impact but would free up valuable time and cost savings to help sustain the existing floral displays to their maximum potential.
- The Quaker Burial Project is an excellent initiative that would benefit greatly by offering more open days to the community and visitors than originally planned; this would possibly encourage more volunteering and funding opportunities helping sustain this piece of heritage in Whitby.
- The groups continued success has highlighted the need for greater volunteer recruitment maintain long term sustainability. Although this is a challenging aspect consider several publicity drives each year to promote the group and engage volunteer participation. I
- It would also be advantageous to create a rolling programme of projects and initiatives in order to enhance the entry to keep it fresh and vibrant.

Category: - Grown Your Community

Hunmanby

Gold & Category Winners

Original Richmond in Bloom

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

As a first time entry into Yorkshire in Bloom, Richmond have demonstrated how a town of this size can pull together to improve and enhance its environment for the benefit to all. The group only forming ten months ago have managed to cement differing community groups together, identify what action is needed and executed this in a way to secure ongoing continuation of its activities.

With the title 'Original Richmond in Bloom' the group have done much work in such a short time, including:- The Old Mill Orchard - renovating the site, to allow public access into newly planted fruit trees and soft fruits, with clearing views over to the river and securing sponsorship and installing new seating. The Gas Holder Garden – an amazing transformation of a neglected site. Volunteer's barrowing gravel and top soil into the garden to create a place to sit and enjoy the tranquillity next to a popular visitor spot by the waterfalls. David, Loo and Denis steering the group into the redevelopment of this open space in an area of important heritage. Well done, this site is now a great asset to the town. Great imaginative design of new bird boxes in the style of old gas lamps help to portray the heritage of the area. Millgate resident's demonstrating community neighbourhood collaboration, by pulling together to enhance the street, by weeding, painting railings, street furniture and adding and caring for floral displays. (Well done Helen).

It was good to see the display and read about the wildflower meadows and the volunteers who work there. Also a pleasure to meet and visit Just the Job and witness first-hand the work they have been doing for the town, from watering the lamppost and hanging baskets to making all new wooden planters at all entrances to the town.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider working more closely with the local authority on planting schemes. Achieving more height to the flower beds in friary Garden and taller planting like the cosmos beds, will give better visual appeal from the road side.
- Consider having a dedicated horticultural member who can steer the group and its partnerships into a unified initiative. This will greatly enhance the group's profile.
- Working with local authority to help refurbish the various waste bins and street furniture within the town. Understandably funding may not be available but with their permission, a voluntary workforce could spruce them up.
- Larger signage within the Community Orchard, Gas holder Garden and Old Racecourse were talked about, together with interpretation boards, would engage the towns residents and visitors alike.
- Consider a more condensed route showing the best projects and don't be afraid to use the vehicle more to move from one area to next.
- As a first entry in Yorkshire in Bloom and starting via the Grow Your Community route, the judges feel that after visiting Richmond and experiencing what there is to offer, the entry should consider the main competition next year. Through meticulous planning and community engagement it is clear the group has all the attributes to making Richmond a potentially very special entry within the campaign.

Ossett in Bloom

Silver Gilt

Overall Impression

Ossett in bloom continue to develop , involve more groups and have substantially increased the impact they are having on improving the environment of Ossett. Whilst only being a recently formed group they have managed to involve all aspects of the community be they young, less able or from they five schools they have engaged.

Mention must be made of the joint working with Highfields school who cater for less able pupils. The school is equipped with a commercial size polytunnel and large garden area planted with a big range of fruit tree`s. The school produced over 500 marigolds for bloom and these are planted in the town centre planters

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The idea to move to single herb planting troughs will I think enable you to achieve more impact with seasonal planting. It may be some of the planters would lend themselves to being planted with perennial plants.
- Excepting the limitation of plants to grow under large trees, will allow you to appreciate the trees.
- You will know if the idea has any value but you might consider a display board naming all those involved in bloom so the public can grasp the scale of the work.
- Starting to develop the shop front basked project should in time have positive results.
- The work at the memorial hall is to be commended.