

### April showers bring May flowers!

Over the weeks we have been putting our efforts into growing our online community to create a place where we can share the things we're doing in our gardens, things we've seen on our daily walks and also look back at some of the things we achieved before it all changed. And we wish to share these with you, along with some other fun bits and bobs to keep us all smiling along the way.

The RHS will be sending out a newsletter on a regular basis so please do enlist with them. (Especially if you already aren't or do not have access to social media).

<https://confirmsubscription.com/h/d/3B2A40EB10594988>

You can also forward this newsletter onto your fellow volunteers, friends and colleagues so that they can also receive this special newsletter to share their amazing stories and hear what everyone is up to (contact details at the bottom of this newsletter).

*Picture Right: Town Hall Square Keighley, courtesy of Steve Thorpe, Keighley (April 2020)*

### Hello!

We here at Yorkshire in Bloom, like everyone, have had to cope with the many changes that have unfolded over the last few months, and as such responded to government advice. Suspending this year's competition has been unprecedented in our 40+ year history..... But these are unprecedented times.

However, our 'In Bloom' community is everything to us so we couldn't stay quiet for long!

While we can't all get together physically, we would love to continue celebrating all the brilliant stuff going on in our county. Whether you are a community gardening group, hospice, business, village, 'It's your Neighbourhood' group, or just a keen home gardener, we would all still love to hear from you. If you have pictures, videos, articles that we could share with fellow Yorkshire in Bloomers, we would love to hear from you.

*Brendan*  
Chairman YiB





## Low Moor Community Kids' Allotment

Article courtesy of Angela Johnson

Since Low Moor Community Kids' Allotment started in 2004, we have always worked to the same format. The group of 12 children, members for that year, come down each Saturday, between March and October, for a 2-hour session to "garden" their allotment.



Corona has brought a lot of worry, pain and sadness, but we have seen two positive outcomes. At the end of the season, (we have completed 6 sessions to date) we shall have a schedule of work set out in detail. Parents have acquired new skills and knowledge as they work with their kids. The Allotment can now function, even if our volunteer organisers are not present. For years we have talked about getting a website for the Kids' Allotment organised and now we have one. It is full of photos and plans of each session and it records the moments of excitement, concentration, pleasure and achievement.

*"I like seeing things grow and taking things home so we can eat them."*

*"As a parent I've learned so many new skills and it's got us excited about starting to grow our own fruit and veg at home, which we love."*

*"I like watching all the plants grow and I like spending time outside learning new things about plants."*

*"Allotment club is the highlight of our week. It's exciting to see what's changed and how nature continues regardless of lockdowns. Despite not being able to do this together we still enjoy sharing our photos, joys and experiences afterwards."*

### Preventing pandemics in plants

Pandemics don't just affect people. A devastating plant disease called Xylella has taken hold in parts of Europe and we all need to do our bit to prevent it reaching the UK. Tough new regulations on the import of garden favourites such as olives, lavender and rosemary have recently come into force for these plants. Sadly there are now a number of serious plant health threats that are spreading rapidly across many countries. We need to do everything possible to keep them out of the UK. **What can We Do?**

- ❖ Don't bring back plants and plant products from abroad
- ❖ Buy plants sourced and grown in the UK from reputable nurseries
- ❖ Be aware of the symptoms caused by Xylella

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/articles/preventing-pandemics-in-plants>

- ❖ If you see unusual symptoms report your suspicions

*Picture Right; Spring Blossom Pateley Bridge  
Courtesy of Kirsty Shepherd Pateley in Bloom*

