

# Judges Notes for Summer 2019



## Category C1a: - Small Village

### Ledston in Bloom

**Gold**

#### Overall Impression

As soon as you enter this small village you are immediately struck by the 'postcard' impression set by the immaculately clean footpaths, bowling green-like grass verges and the quality and colour of the diverse planting and floral displays. Particularly eye-catching is the White Horse Pub, which is fitting, as this fine establishment serves as the village hub. There was a fine display of verbena and senecio in front of the wine merchants on Main Street, and an excellent variety of planting at the junction between there and Hall lane. It was good to hear the group have engaged with the local school, and how this partnership has benefitted the group with new equipment and planters.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The group have several projects in the pipeline, including new planting at Dovercote Drive and the development of the turning circle by the school, which is very encouraging.
- The development of 'The Copse' as a wildlife area will add a valuable element to the entry.
- Perhaps consider adding an interpretation board to describe the village's history, and to highlight the famous old hall. At the junction of Hall Lane/Main Street would be ideal should permission be granted by the landowner.

### Lund in Bloom

**Gold & Category Winner**

#### Overall Impression

Lund is a small rural village in East Yorkshire. It is clear that this is a community that takes great pride in its appearance and one that cares for its members eg by taking on the gardening for an elderly lady no longer able to do it herself. Although the village has no school, they make efforts to involve local children.

As the group develop a number of floral sites at key locations in the village, they have opted to use the theme of plants for pollinators. As part of these developments, robust brick planters are being made at the village entrances and within the village a native wildflower patch has been sown.

An issue around dog fouling which was potentially leading to the closure of a permissive footpath was imaginatively and successfully tackled by the creation of a 'Mutts meet up' social group.

A number of events are held through the year which contribute to the group's funds along with some successful small grant applications. They also run an annual 'Fill your Boots' competition for the village. Clear plans ensure that the impetus the group has gained over the last 3 years will continue into the future. Well done to a wonderful community!

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- It was unfortunate that due to an access issue following an electricity outage, that the judges were unable to visit the village pond. The portfolio outlined the work that has been undertaken, and all being well, future judges will be able to see for themselves the progress that has been made.
- Perhaps it might be possible to install (where practical) one or two water butts around the village to help where water is needed?
- Several rose beds can be found in the village which were presented to the village in the 1980s on becoming a national winner of Britain in Bloom. The standard of these is a little bit variable, but the judges are aware of the group's intentions to tackle this and would encourage them in so doing. The signage associated with these was also starting to get a bit tatty.

## **Mill Bank Village in Bloom**

## **Silver**

### **Overall Impression**

The judges are now much fitter having scaled the road through Mill Bank!! There were good private gardens throughout the village with excellent hanging baskets and planters. Involvement with the children was good with posters designed by them throughout the village, the group also work with the school gardening club and a nice touch was that the children who helped were rewarded with an ice cream. The heritage aspect was well covered with 3 history boards located in the village and the Glyn Hughes plaque in the cemetery which is being cared for by the group. The judges had first hand experience of recycling in the village. Fund raising is evident with the raising of £10k for the school climbing frame and the money for the Christmas lights. Communication is good with posters throughout the village and a dedicated website. Many thanks for the refreshments provided en-route - a most enjoyable visit

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The planted areas at the wiggly hedge need attention as do the herb tubs and beds.
- The vegetable planting with the school could be developed further Consider forming a friends of Ledston in Bloom for those who are willing to provide financial help if they cannot help in other ways.

## Welwick and Weeton

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

It was good to visit these attractive villages on such a lovely summer day and we were certainly impressed by the work achieved by the committed group, and it is evident that the whole community is clearly benefiting from all the hard work that is being done. The willingness of residents to open their beautiful gardens for the benefit of others is truly a wonderful thing and we were honoured to see it. We were impressed by the importance the group are giving to involving children and by the varied and interesting ways being found to do this, an example being the potato growing project, thus also being a good way of engaging with older people too. The group is doing valuable work with monthly meetings and projects such as litter picking. We were pleased to hear of the new volunteers gained this year. Using the village notice boards and social media is a good idea. We were also pleased to hear of the valuable support from the Coach and Horses.

We were thrilled to see volunteers doing wonderful things for the village, such as the donation of five lovely planters, and to see that volunteers were extending their planting out of their own gardens to provide scent and colour for those passing by. These efforts are making such a difference to the appearance of the village and having a product swap by the telephone library, and fundraising events together with attempts to establish wildflower planting all add to create a pleasant feel to the village.

The soft planting of poppies along the stream and the addition of the boat really made the most of the stream site, and enhanced a most wonderful setting and display in Weeton.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- We hope you will continue to work on the wildlife planting initiative and introduce further bird and bat boxes. We were impressed by the area of wildlife planting around the outside of the church wall. It might be a good idea to do further research on wildlife planting and maintenance skills, perhaps a job for winter?
- The use of vintage farm machinery at Weeton really provides interest and is very appropriate to the farming heritage of the village. It would be lovely to see Welwick using similar examples of such to provide focal points around the village. The farming heritage is such a big part of the area and it would be lovely to see this celebrated.
- The link to the Gunpowder plot (and after seeing the Plotters Statue) is such a wonderful one for the area and perhaps interpretation boards might be considered to make visitors and residents aware of this important connection.
- Perhaps the floral displays might be even more impressive with a unifying colour scheme throughout the village.
- The planting of fruit trees is a wonderful resource. Perhaps consider further fruit planting for community use, perhaps soft fruit would be an appropriate addition.
- The strips of clover in gardens around the village are an unusual and valuable wildlife resource. It would be nice to see them spread even further.

## Category C1b: - Village

### Birstwith

### Gold

#### Overall Impression

Birstwith is a beautiful village in the heart of Nidderdale. The village is quite widely spread with a small centre. It was impressive to see how In Bloom had reached almost all areas of the village with small planting schemes being located at road ends, bus stops, seats, hedge bottom and in individual gardens and window ledges. These small schemes were appropriately planted with perennials where they were in the ground or with colourful annuals in sponsored half barrels. It was great to see that residents had taken ownership of the schemes with considerable numbers maintaining and planting areas close to their homes and businesses. It was especially lovely to hear one lady express the feeling that she had joined the village when she had moved in.

There were also a number of larger projects that had been carried out by Birstwith in Bloom. The Seating area at Clapham Green was appropriate to the site as did the adjacent bus stop planting area. The Wildflower garden by the play area is a work in progress as the group figures out how to deal with the rabbits and deer who are very enthusiastic about their planting schemes. Sustainability was also being addressed by raising plants from seed and developing a new composting area.

The school garden was a credit to the pupils and their adult helpers and it was lovely to meet so many knowledgeable and enthusiastic young gardeners.

As many villages are experiencing significant house building it was good to see links being made between the In Bloom group and the local developer starting with the planting of the entrance to the Newby development.

The judges would like to thank Maureen and Ruth and the rest of the team, especially Eva for showing us around and the Station Hotel for their hospitality. We look forward to seeing what this energetic and motivated group achieve in the future..

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to seek support and funding from the local developer, this will hopefully help to foster links between new and existing residents.
- Seek to find something that promotes Birstwiths unique identity and local history. The development of the garden next to the reading rooms may give opportunity for this.
- Consider using more hard landscaping next to the wildflower garden on the approach to the play area, possibly exploring a range of textures for stepping stones and paving and raised beds or fencing to protect plants from the rabbits.

### Grassington

### Silver Gilt

#### Overall Impression

The judges were given a very warm welcome by the Grassington in Bloom members and given a comprehensive tour of the village. Grassington has a wealth of stone walls, which are a wonderful natural environment and habitat, and contribute to the varied flora

throughout the village. The planters, with themed colourful planting throughout, gave a real sense of unity and identity.

The In Bloom group has secured excellent support from local business, residents and visitors through sponsorship of the planters and have provided very nicely designed plaques for each sponsor.

The village was enhanced by lots of wooden artwork in unexpected places and carved by a local craftsman.

The group has lots of plans for the future, which can only enhance the village and their entry in the In Bloom campaign.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Consider developing a 5 year plan, to help prioritise all the future projects, including ones involving the schools, D of E participants etc.
- Make more of the Memorial Oak - refresh the plaque, consider using perennial planting beneath the tree and investigate the significance of the sycamore which is shading the oak, involving the National Park team as necessary.
- Try and find ways to increase habitat for all wildlife, for example placing small bundles of twigs/tubes for insects in the walls.
- Consider planting summer bulbs in the triangle bed to follow the spring bulbs, and consider using more perennial planting throughout the village.
- Encourage residents to leave verges uncut to enable more of the wonderful native wildflowers to thrive (in particular, the verge opposite Tony's house).
- In the centre of the village, more could be made of the 'Welcome to Grassington' stone, referencing the local heritage, and encourage the parish council to maintain the benches to a high standard, especially those at Carrs End.
- In future, carefully consider the judging route, referring to the current judging criteria, to make maximum use of the time allocated.

## **Spofforth**

## **Gold & Category Winner**

### **Overall Impression**

This is an excellent entry demonstrating all that should be achieved by an 'In Bloom' group, which is all the more remarkable considering it is a small very dedicated group in a small village. Throughout the tour there was evidence of the long term benefits to the village as a result of inspirational planning and very hard work over the years.

All areas were immaculate, the standard of horticulture couldn't be faulted and the excellent signage throughout gave an excellent insight into the long and interesting heritage of this historic village.

Ginny Greenholes is an outstanding example in all it has to offer for the environment and the community and it is interesting to see how it has matured. The millennium garden is just lovely providing a peaceful tranquil place for everyone. There is always a very good programme of events for the community throughout the year many of which combine the social and fund raising requirements. They have a very good selection of merchandise and homemade produce for sale which makes a valuable contribution to their funds.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- This is such a good entry it is difficult to suggest any recommendations to such a capable, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic team.
- I am sure more help would be appreciated and we are aware that you do all you can to rectify the situation so that these very high standards can be maintained in the future

## Category C1c: - Large Village

### Barwick in Elmet

### Gold and Category Winner

#### Overall Impression

It is always a delight to visit Barwick-In-Elmet and meet the very enthusiastic and industrious volunteers now in their 23rd year, with their leader John Tinker MBE and to receive their comprehensive and informative portfolio. The Power Point presentation prior to judging was excellent - magic!

The two churches add a huge 'wow' factor to the village with their well-maintained grounds and stunning stylish seasonal bedding both in spring and summer. There will be many groups who would be envious of the large amounts of money raised over the years, through sponsorship as well as plant sales, Open Gardens, concerts, calendar sales etc during the year. The Group are always available and willing to give encouragement, advice and donate funds to other charities. Publicity through the Parish Magazine and their own website plus facebook and twitter pages ensures the whole community is kept informed and involved. The history board display at the Post Office was very interesting.

The cricket and bowling clubs play their part with well-maintained grounds and with the allotment bed by the Village Hall providing produce for the community. It was good to visit the Barwick primary school and meet the staff and younger members of the 'Gardening Club'. There were many attractive colourful private gardens along the route and other floral features on pubs, business premises, roadside features and around the famous Maypole.

The award-winning housing area of Peartree gardens maintains a high standard.

The Beck area is well managed with the community orchard and the willow tunnel, insect shelter and the stump carving of an owl named by the children 'Hootie'. Heritage projects include farming features – a floral rhubarb cart and reapers, heritage bed of plough and wildflowers, Hall Tower Hill and the refurbished churchyard to form the Jubilee Garden with its information board. Thank you once again for a very enjoyable visit.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The Millennium bed needs refurbishment perhaps reviewing the species planted to give all year effect.
- Your efforts to create a 'carpet bed' need to include a greater variety of appropriate species to give the desired effect.

### Bramham

### Gold

#### Overall Impression

Changing from a village with a major trunk road running through it, this idyllic historic hamlet can now show off its horticultural charm to all who visit. Local identity has been enhanced by restoring the memorial, village pump and stone troughs and the sculptures in the Community Centre garden and surrounding them with bright planting.

The small team working together has established a wonderful community space in the Folly allotments, with all the hard landscaping and plants being recycled and donated by local residents.

Many beds have been replanted to greatly improve their appearance and year round attraction. The list of sponsors in such a small area speaks volumes from the appreciative community.

The well-established children's gardens at the Primary school have been greatly enhanced by their purpose built outdoor classroom created by the Friends of Bramham School with financial support from many sources.

The church of All Saints has good publicity of its ancient past and modern regulations for those using the graveyard which is managed in association with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Continue with plans to use perennials wherever possible to reduce the cost and volunteer time planting annual bedding plants.
- Continue removing the Japanese knotweed as advised before further work on the Wildlife Conservation area.
- Consider planting plugs of wild flowers such as foxgloves, teasels etc in the small area with the Bug hotel.
- Consider having more Group Meetings to further improve the Membership of the IN BLOOM GROUP and form a three year plan of activities.
- Encourage children in the primary school and preschool to be actively involved with future projects.
- Promote Bramham and the Yorkshire in Bloom campaign by creating a portfolio including the rich history of the village and suggesting the school and pub enter in their own category.

## **Brighter Boroughbridge and District**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Boroughbridge is a very pleasant large village in the Vale of York. We were greeted by a friendly and enthusiastic In Bloom group who have done a lot of hard work to further enhance their village. They have successfully improved a number of key sites, including Stump Cross roundabout, The Rose Garden and Chatsworth Grove. It is clear there is a strong connection with local retailers. The allotment site is a credit to all concerned and is clearly thriving. It was lovely to see the school and the ongoing horticultural keenness that exists there. Overall it is noticeable there is an impressive sense of togetherness within the group and they should be congratulated on what they have achieved in a relatively short space of time.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Consider setting up a local In Bloom 'best kept' competition. This will further stimulate interest in the wider community.
- The group put together a very informative portfolio. As part of the marketing strategy some posters advertising the activities of the group and indeed a mention of Yorkshire in Bloom would be good to further raise community awareness.

## Great and Little Peston

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

There is an attractive show of well-maintained planted areas and features combined with rich, biodiverse woodland and meadows, which makes for two attractive small villages.

The local Historian, Bob, gave the judges a concise history of the area at the delightful Biodiversity Garden, complete with superb elderflower cordial!

Some excellent work has been done to reinvigorate the wildflower meadow. This is already looking great and it has the potential to be a quite superb feature. It was pleasing to hear of the group's success with the Tesco bid which has been awarded to fund this.

Great Preston Corner continues to look impressive, and the new 'sedum sink' is nice addition.

The group have done an excellent job at dressing the old concrete planters, finding an innovative way to work around difficult legislation!

The group continue to maintain the other features of the two villages ' the Jubilee Garden, Whitehouse Lane and Meadow Wood Walk to a high standard.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider using social media to try and promote the group's work and encourage new volunteers.
- If possible, consider painting/treating the timber planters. Subject to funding, it would be worth considering slowly phasing these out in favour of plastic ones.
- SSSI status is well worth bringing to public notice.
- Can interpretation be provided for Hollinhurst Wood?

## Huton Cranswick in Bloom

## Gold

### Overall Impression

As you approach Hutton Cranswick, from whichever entrance, you cannot help be impressed by the overall feeling of pride and care within this village. Over the years the different surroundings have linked together and now forms a cohesive 'In Bloom' entry. The vast array of property, buildings and businesses take an interest in the village environment, further proof of enhancing these picturesque surroundings. It really shows that everyone takes an interest in maintenance and the upkeep everywhere. An unspoilt area with lots of dedicated pride, with influence starting with the very young. This year's colour theme of 'The colours of Yorkshire, From Flag, To Field, To Flowers' - was an inspiring idea. To name but a few of the judges highlights - the new developing fernery, sedum bed at the station, the continued environmental work done by Avice and Sonya, not forgetting the bird boxes by the Scouts, all add to a wonderful experience we had on this visit.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Look at consolidation of the number of planters and displays. Fewer but larger displays create a greater impact and a greater WoW factor.
- When the disruptions have passed, the Railway station group should enter as an IYN in their own right.
- A number of street furniture / notice boards would benefit from some attention.
- Where possible, more interpretation of the various projects will enhance this entry.
- Great to see the 'doggie bags, at the entrance to Centenary woods, how about possibly looking at perhaps a trail and leaflet dispenser highlighting all your great endeavours.

## **Nafferton in Bloom**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Nafferton is a village between the East Yorkshire coast and the Yorkshire Wolds. We were shown around by Jean and Ann and thanks to them for their friendliness and hospitality. All entrances to the village have well maintained, colourful planters. The Jubilee garden and Mere are at the centre of the village, with colourful planters and well kept lawn area. Opposite is the War Memorial next to the churchyard which is an area of wild flowers and grasses. Self watering baskets and planters have been added to the village over time and in particular a vibrant display can be seen at the bus shelter where there is also a Heritage Trail map displayed.

Planting sites have been developed outside the primary school with attractive hanging troughs on the railings and also a bedding area.

The railway station has several planters along the platform and a new rockery area which is not yet complete due to ongoing maintenance work.

A plant sale was held with the Brownies and Scouts and raised £300 in addition to £600 donated by local builders.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Existing volunteers have immense pride in their village but numbers have dwindled over the last couple of years.
- Continue to develop your relationship with the primary school who have a vibrant gardening club as well as the local Brownies and Scouts.
- Contact local businesses for financial support and help.
- Continue with the completion of the railway development.
- Well done to you all, continue with all the hard work.

## **Ripponden**

## **Silver**

### **Overall Impression**

The start of our tour at Mill Fold with the attractive setting for the Bowling Green and open space was well maintained and is well utilised for the Drinks Festival, Sports days and at Christmas. The grounds of St Bartholomew's church were attractive and your description of how you commemorated WW1 Centenary by hoisting an enormous poppy net (14000 poppies) and draping it from the church tower must have been impressive.

It was good to see the 'accommodation' for wildlife with bird and bat boxes and the Beavers bug hotel. The bulb plantings at the Field Of Hope with the Junior and Infant school was appreciated. A lot of hard work and effort had gone into reclaiming the grounds of Ebenezer Graveyard. The refurbishment of the old-style red phone boxes and their future use is very imaginative. On the extensive tour to the boundaries of the area there were several examples where volunteers were taking pride in maintaining communal space at road junctions. The Stones cricket club grounds were well maintained.

The extensive area on Rochdale Road sown and planted with a wide range of annual and perennial wildflowers is a very good example of what can be achieved on a difficult site, now in its second year. The information board was descriptive. The War Memorial and adjacent garden is attractive in this prominent steeply sloping location. The new seat with its innovative design was attractive and appropriate. Jubilee gardens with colourful seasonal bedding and the permanent plantings were well maintained. Bus shelters, pubs, businesses and other properties were adorned with numerous very colourful planters, hanging baskets, troughs and barrier baskets.

It was good to meet a few of the hard-working volunteers.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The judges would have preferred to receive your comprehensive portfolio in advance of their visit. It highlighted several aspects of the criteria which we didn't see on the tour.
- Certain aspects of the criteria on the extensive tour were duplicated and perhaps could just have been highlighted in the portfolio.
- We would encourage you to engage with the school and young people to create a 'Grow Veg' feature and perhaps an environmental project about wildlife etc.

## **Scholes in Bloom**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

Scholes in Bloom is an excellent example of well-established and dedicated team of enthusiastic volunteers with a passion for making things happen in their community. Its strength is in its ability to reach out to the community and stimulate a genuine civic pride amongst local residents. Its 2019 summer entry demonstrates a diverse range of formal and informal planting, which is maintained to a high standard, using an interesting mix of annual and perennial plants to give all year round interest and colour. The team should be commended for the incredible sign up of sponsorship for the horticultural features across the village, culminating in 43 flower beds and 109 hanging baskets which enhance the public areas to maximum effect. The judges were particularly impressed by the attention to detail in each display, which gives the WOW factor to visitors entering the village. The judges would also like to give a special mention to Lola who designed the Scholes Primary School bed at the corner of Morwick Grove, and to Avril and Michael for their dedication to maintaining the War Memorial Garden at the end of Wood Lane/Station Road.

Also the World Peace Garden is a welcome new addition to the village which is a credit to its designers Roger and Glyn. In terms of environmental responsibility it was good to see the reintroduction of the Red Kites being celebrated by the willow sculpture flying over the wild flower garden and it was interesting to see the proposed developments for the Scholes Lodge Farm Field and the start of a the new community orchard. Others to note were the sports ground and well maintained bowling green by Ian and his team; the edible bed at the Bellevue Car Park shows innovation, the well used and productive allotment site, and general quality of residential gardens across the entry show the involvement of the whole village. It was good to see that recycling is taking place with the composting of seasonal bedding and returning plastics to the suppliers for reuse. Finally the judges were entertained by the wonderful Scarecrow creations that were on display on judging day and wanted to congratulate all volunteers for their tireless efforts to raise funds through an extensive seasonal events programme.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The judges will be interested to see how the Scholes Lodge Farm Field developments, this is an incredible resource for the community and the biodiversity opportunities here will only add to this entry.
- The Library Gardens are another scheme that will improve and judges will see the progress in the future.
- It would be helpful if the group were able to strengthen their links with the local authority to try and influence the grass verge cutting before judging day.
- Although the heritage around WW1 was well interpreted, the judges would have like to have understood a little bit more about the broader heritage of the village and how Scholes evolved.

# Shadwell in Bloom

# Silver Gilt

## Overall Impression

Shadwell in Bloom is a small resilient group of dedicated volunteers who are instrumental in making Shadwell a nice place to live. Volunteers are recruited through word of mouth and actively get involved in the Tuesday morning working group where they participate in the maintenance of beautifully designed and colourful flower beds and displays. A special mention must go to Jean for the village hall bed which is an abundance of colour and a great example of sustainable planting for all year round interest.

Additionally Richard must be congratulated for keeping the entrance to the village on Main Street up to a high standard and it must be noted that the herbaceous beds along the front of the churchyard and around the entrance to the church are well stocked with sustainable species appropriate to the location. The Garden of Remembrance to the rear of St. Pauls Church is nicely enhanced by flowering shrubs and seasonal bedding.

The Diamond Jubilee Bed on Main Street provides a very attractive visual feature for visitors passing through village and to families attending Shadwell Primary School. The wildlife bank on Colliers Lane is a good example of providing environmental areas for nature and it was interesting to see that the edge of Dan Quarry provides a rich habitat for all forms of flora and fauna. The village is very clean and free from litter and the regular litter picks are proving to be very effective. It is good to see that compost bins sited at the Holywell Lane allotments show the determination for recycling old bedding plants. Finally, Shadwell in Bloom relies on sponsorship for a large part of its funding with over 15 sponsored beds and 97 hanging baskets distributed throughout the village. It recognises that not everyone can afford to sponsor a flower bed or hanging basket so it has a facility where local residents can show their support by making a small contribution and becoming a Friend of Shadwell in Bloom. The village has a rich social and built heritage and this is well documented in the Shadwell History Trail. In all the Shadwell in Bloom entry shows a strong community spirit that capitalises on social activity.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The judges felt that a map of the route and a small welcome pack in advance would have been helpful to understand some of the local context about the village, and although the judges are conscious of time commitment on the day, it would have been nice if the History Trail leaflet could have been explained.
- It would be good to see more involvement with the pupils from Shadwell Primary School. Maybe engaging them in a future poster competition would create an opportunity for a closer working relationship.
- The judges would have like to have seen more of the active volunteers on judging day, as it is always nice to hear about people's personal experiences and congratulate them on their achievements.
- Some street furniture especially the millennium bench and the bench at the village green would benefit from a repaint/stain.
- The churchyard although very pretty around the entrance, was slightly let down by the presence of herbicide usage on the old grave plots. It would have been nice to see more environmental management of the graveyard.
- It would be helpful to know what the future plans are for on-going activity, again the use of a leaflet in advance of the judging would be useful

## Overall Impression

The overall impression that comes from a visit to Thornton le Dale is how committed the local residents are to looking after their village and their community. Thornton le Dale Hub was set up 12 months ago by residents concerned about a gradual decline in both community spirit and village facilities. This project has been so successful that the North York Moors National Park team have now invited TLD Hub to be a model helping other villages within the park to seek the same success.

Much has been achieved horticulturally and environmentally and the group have many plans for the future but, crucially, their biggest success to date is the level of community participation they have engendered and this will be the key to success of all future projects. There is a buzz about the village and it was nice to witness how much local people, of all ages, seemed to be enjoying making a difference.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to work closely with National Park Rangers on the excellent pond project and, perhaps, investigate ways to control the algae sensitively given the location.
- Perhaps some thought could be given to some interpretation at the sink/dipping pond platform. The attention to detail in this area was excellent and the activities provided for young and old will surely encourage visitors and residents to use the area more frequently.
- Horticulture in general around the village is very good, well maintained and colourful. However, the hebes in the boxes outside the Almshouses were overwhelmed by the summer bedding. Maybe more central height could be considered here. The judges particularly commend Alison's Herb Box and the contribution by local businesses to the overall floral effect.
- The border down by Beck Isle could, perhaps, do with some soil improvement to aid the establishment of plants in this area.
- Overall, the group are meeting all their 'environmental targets', particularly with the compost and recycling area, the water vole project, bird and bat boxes and the inclusion of the bug hotels built by the Rainbows.
- The village hub is making use of modern technology to drive forward this campaign and this is to be commended.
- Perhaps some of the street furniture needs a little attention and a rolling programme of maintenance could be drawn up to help with this.

## Category C2: - Urban Community

### Allerton Bywater

**Gold**

#### Overall Impression

The judges were impressed with the obvious sheer hard work and dedication to the village that they live in, which was carried out by the 'Allerton Bywater in Bloom' community. What a beautiful site, on entering the village is both the Church and the monument, you are spoilt for choice where to look first.

The area known locally as Staithes has seen a transformation, with the refurbished canal area having signage and a pretty area where any discerning canal cruise boat would stop for refreshment. The area now has a new wildlife area with a bug house, fairy houses and stones and golf balls decorated by the local school children and residents.

The newly refurbished Vicars Court is a pleasure to see with its fruit trees and raised beds full of herbs and flowers. With more plans in place for the future of the Court it will, we are sure, be a place in the village where everyone will want to visit.

The allotment site is the most well managed area the judges have visited, and the enthusiasm from Steve and the team was infectious.

The Allerton Bywater Colliery monument is a spectacular site and is maintained to a very high standard with a stunning arrangement of plants in the on-site coal tubs. The level of planting and colour schemes throughout the village was impressive, including Gertrude in her telephone box, the newly planted recycling area with Strawberries growing for everyone to pick enjoy. The planters outside of the old people's bungalows and areas within the village where they are specially tended to and cared for by individuals. They are a credit to you all. A final mention must go to Colin for the hard work carried out in making/creating the new wooden cart/planter. A lovely addition to the village.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider looking at a plan to replace the Roses in the Church Yard over the next few years
- Carry on the excellent work on Vicars Court and Ticklecock Bridge. Consider introducing a few climbing plants along the boundary wall at the former site, such as Virginia Creeper, Lonicera, Clematis and or Boston Ivy, which would provide year round colour. Introducing climbing fruits would bring further benefits.

### Beeston

**Gold**

#### Overall Impression

We really enjoyed our visit to Beeston and seeing the wonderful work the group are doing there. We were glad to see all the well-deserved support they are getting from the people of the district. Clearly their efforts are filling the area with colour and bloom. We were pleased to hear of the many and varied activities carried out by the group and it was lovely to hear that the group are supported by so many sponsors.

We were impressed by the basket and planter schemes and the number of items the group are looking after.

Emphasising the importance to the area of the local football club is a good idea. As is all the other celebration of the group's history. The support given by the White Heart pub is clearly very valuable to the group. We were impressed by the knowledge and enthusiasm of the

school children we met. The barrier planting at the Tommy Wass crossroads really brightens the area and the scheme for changing seasonal planting is a good idea, as is the relationship with Instaplanta.

We were impressed by the allotment we visited and the dedication and skill shown by its owner. We were pleased to hear of the many activities in the park and the wilding of the park. We were impressed by the community orchard which is a valuable resource both for the residents of the area and for wildlife.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The wildlife flower garden in the churchyard is a good idea. Consider leaving areas unmown to benefit wildlife.
- Consider also hedgehog houses and more bird and bat boxes as well as insect houses.
- Consider further investigation of wildlife planting.

## **Bramhope**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

Bramhope has a pleasant blend of urban & rural community and with the prominence and work of the In-Bloom group it has retained its own identity and sense of place, supported with the new welcoming stone sign along with the classic stone troughs throughout. The group are celebrating their 10th anniversary endeavouring to represent Tin by planting grey cineraria along with the colour theme of orange and coral, all containers and bedding gave a blaze of colour and were of good quality with a good balance of sustainable plantings in particular the marvellous Bay's and mulching used. The judges were impressed with the collaboration with local shops and pubs and the wonderful floral displays which deserve merit clearly illustrating the benefit to businesses.

The Primary school children was a highlight enthusiastically showing their different areas of crops, composters, soft fruit and sensory garden, and we were impressed with their knowledge about where and how food is grown.

It was a joy to have a warm welcome and tour round and see all the green spaces well maintained litter and graffiti free, and overall cleanliness, thank you to the Fox and Hounds for hosting a very welcome lunch and refreshments.

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 Bramhope and its residents.- well done

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- It is good that there are so many plans to move forward and make even more improvements. Maybe consider undertaking some more of your own fundraising events to progress with some of the many future projects and give an opportunity to highlight the work done and raise the profile of BIB which would further strengthen your entry.
- Is it possible to find an area to show off your previous achievements? Maybe in a flowerbed to raise the BIB profile.
- The Puritan Chapel was very attractive in a sympathetic way with many good examples of environmental initiatives and will be further enhanced with the new planned shrub border.
- The Old Pump and Well has a rich historic interest and would add further value from an information board telling its story.
- The Cross area has an eye-catching summer floral display and would gain from more permanent planters to existing stone pillars at each triangle point to increase seasonal interest.

- Although the majority of Bramhope were weed free, some areas would benefit from a more regular weeding programme.
- Recommend replacing the Fastigiata conifers that are affected with brown patches in the memorial garden

## Calverley

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

To the credit of the volunteers, Calverley has once again been able to produce an entry for the Yorkshire in Bloom to a very high standard.

The Brookfield Memorial garden was a particular highlight of the visit.

The planters attached to the railings along the busy Carr Road and at other locations in the village were well stocked with a pleasantly colour co-ordinated range of plants which created plenty of impact.

It was good to revisit the library and museum and to see how the introduction of perennial planting had greatly uplifted the area outside.

The visit to the well-maintained allotments was of particular interest and to discover how various groups within the community were using the site, particularly the raised beds and orchard area. It was good to hear of the programme of events organised throughout the year, e.g the competition to create the best decorative border adjacent to the main path. The proposal to create a wild meadow effect along the boundary wall facing the main road is an ambitious project, the result of which will be of special interest to future in Bloom judging. Maybe the use of wild flower plugs could be considered. (Obtainable from charity organisation Mires Beck nursery, Brough) <https://miresbeck.co.uk>

The churchyard continues to be developed as a haven for wildlife and being used as an area of relaxation by the community..

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The bed in Victoria Park with edible planting was of particular interest and shown to be as equally decorative as the more formal bedding elsewhere in the park. Maybe, with the introduction of structural plants in keeping with the edible theme e.g., sweet corn, fennel and lovage could provide additional interest.
- For future judging visits, greater attention could be made to time management. Maybe the visit to Town Wells and the Methodist church garden, both of which remained basically the same as earlier in the year could have been omitted which would have allowed time to include the visit to the Brookleigh sheltered housing gardens which was of interest during the spring visit.
- Whilst it was an interesting initiative to visit the primary school to judge the poster competition, there is, perhaps an opportunity in the future to make inroads to encourage and nurture an interest amongst the children for the actual hands on growing of vegetables.
- Perhaps greater use of bird / bat boxes etc, throughout the village could be considered

## Cottingley

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

It was lovely to visit a group of such committed people working for the good of their community. There is no doubt that the group are making a wonderful difference in the area and it was pleasing to see such a lot of support for their efforts. We are sure that this is a movement which will go on from strength to strength. The Community Centre Garden was a blaze of colour and leaving the gate open is a lovely idea.

The colour of the woodwork really complimented the planting. It was impressive that the plants were raised from plugs.

The Dementia Care garden was a bright, calm space. The colour scheme was very attractive. It was good to hear of awareness of wildlife on site and plans to benefit it. We were impressed by the knowledge and skills of those involved. Wild flower areas are a good resource. We were pleased to hear the use of chemicals is kept to a minimum. We were impressed to hear that the group helps with the gardens of older residents.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider adding grasses in pots for movement and sound, stachys for downy texture and perhaps a phormium
- The community herb bed is a good idea. Perhaps consider larger labels and a larger information board.
- Involvement with the Hollybush centre on an ongoing basis will be very valuable.
- The community orchard is an outstanding resource. Consider leaving areas unmown to benefit wildlife.
- We were impressed by the Christmas Tree bed. Consider enhancing it further with dwarf conifers and perhaps some winter flowering heathers.

## Halton

## Silver

### Overall Impression

As at the Spring judging the plant quality was excellent throughout the beds, baskets and tubs. The bed at the corner of Chapel Street is developing well as is the Diggings family bed. The tower planters in the suffragette colours by Allison were outstanding in scale and size and eye-catching.

It is good to know that all sponsors have renewed their sponsorship and are therefore giving continuity to the In Bloom group. The proposals at Woodland Hill to build log piles plus installation of bird boxes and the insect friendly bed are increasing bio-diversity.

Communications via Face-book and flyers are increasing awareness of the group.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The judges look forward to seeing the development of the sensory garden adjacent to Dial House and the work with Dementia Friendly.
- The rose arch at Dial House will be an attractive feature and the new storage/composting/recycling area to the rear of Dial House will be useful.
- The future development at the Post Office will give another focal point with year round interest at this very busy hub of the community.
- The intention to make the Autumn bulb planting a community effort will again raise awareness of the group and the intention to create the bed in honour of Beryl Burton will add to the history/heritage of the area.

## Kippax

## Gold & Category Winners

### Overall Impression

This urban community, with so many support groups, is so obviously bursting with pride, which abounded everywhere on the judges' tour. There is obvious attention to the minutest detail in every possible place. Last year, taking part in BRITAIN IN BLOOM has strengthened the group's commitment to participating in the In Bloom campaign. Meeting people throughout our visit showed their involvement and genuine commitment and it was a delight to share.

The allotments are outstanding. June Perkins at the Growing Zone Gardens brings together youngsters and older persons with disabilities, visual impairment and certain learning needs to learn how to grow vegetables, flowers and fruit etc. and be out in the fresh air having fun and has to be highly commended for her transformation results.

At Kippax North Primary School full use is made of the extensive grounds with all the pupils enjoying the natural habitats and bird hide, bursting with information on all aspects of wildlife, provided in the grounds by dedicated caretaker, Stuart Owen, with the pupils at the Garden Club, demonstrating their extensive knowledge.

Finding bee orchids growing in what was a coal mining area must be the ultimate restoration of the natural environment and the wildflower meadow at Billy Wood is a joy to behold.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider extending the wildflower planting which is wonderful around the beehive to include all the verges behind the Moorgate leaving a narrow border of mown grass.
- Consider converting some layers of the beehive to bug and bee hotels.
- Encourage the many dog walkers at Billy Wood to clear up after their dogs.
- The judges look forward to seeing the new wildflower and wellbeing garden behind the Community Centre funded by the Co-op and other grants

## Rawdon

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

Rawdon in Bloom have a dedicated and focused team with every member using their individual skills for the benefit of their community.

It is very rare that as judges we visit an entry that is so self-sufficient with up 80% of all plants been grown by the group and nearly all its planters produced by them, this is a credit to you all.

The judges were very impressed by the design, build and use of the Hive project and its continued support and expansion.

Excellent well kept and managed allotments.

Many examples of good well thought out and implemented perennial planting.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

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- The judges suggested that instead of planters at St Peters Church it would be much more in keeping with the church that perennial borders be created alongside the path. This would be much more sustainable both in watering and maintenance and more in line with

your group's environmental values. Continue your great work with the school especially with the plans to create a wildlife area.

- The judges were very impressed with the Hive and suggested it be entered in next year's YIB school competition.
- The judges suggested that the information from the RHS School gardening campaign may be of interest <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/home>.
- The newly placed planters in front of Micklefield bungalows would benefit from Rawdon in Bloom signage, simple printed stickers are a cheap but good option.
- Over lane wildflower area might benefit from some wildflower plugs to make it more perennial and longer lasting. Yorkshire providence plugs from Mires beck are a good option <https://www.miresbeck.co.uk>. (they are also a charity).

## Scarborough Old Town

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

Scarborough Old town is steeped in history and it's heritage lies within the fishing industry, this is reflected through out the area in the form of landmarks and information boards. The old town overlooks the working harbour and extends to the sea front, dominate features are the castle and the parish church of St Mary's which provides a base for a range of community events. The garden of remembrance at the church deserves special mention, maintained to a very high standard by Sandra cultivating a range of plants that thrive by the sea. The bloom group are very active and resourceful generating community interest and cohesion with a range of activities. Their work extends to distributing 1600 leaflets to households on a regular basis to provide detailed information about the Old Town community. Co-operation is clearly demonstrated by the group working with the council and a wide range of other organisations. The densely built area has oasis of planting on Rope Walk, The Quaker garden and the Crescent for example. The carpet beds on valley road designed by young people engage with a wider range of people. Well done to the group for all the work that is carried out.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Support the new Friends of valley gardens to become established.
- The poppies on Burr bank had finished and as open space is limited it may be possible to add some latter flowering species to lengthen the season.
- Some of the communal planters would benefit from attention to both the selected species and maintenance.
- Consideration could be given to looking at the small open spaces to see if alternative maintenance or planting would encourage more wild life to the area.
- Consideration could be given to providing more information about Ann Bronte

## Starbeck

## Gold

### Overall Impression

The Judges were given a very warm welcome by this very good entry on a lovely summer's afternoon. There were many excellent features throughout the tour showing different aspects to that of spring. The planting had a good selection with a good colour scheme in line with World Cycle Race in September. The bowling club was well maintained with good floral displays displaying a good variety of planting.

Everywhere was very clean, tidy and well maintained. Throughout the tour there were many good examples of their contribution to combat environmental issues including the blue hearts, all the re-cycling the 'Switch off Engines' etc.

The area around the old Starbeck Spa was very interesting with good signage showing the heritage of the area.

The allotments were productive well maintained and it was so good to see one plot being used for children with disabilities and to meet some of these children. We hope it will continue to develop and it was good to hear that other allotment holders had helped clear and get it ready to use.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The visit to the school was very good. It was a delight to meet the School Council and see the fabulous display of decorated re-cycled plant pots. We hope the proposed gardening club does happen as it can be so beneficial to the school and the children.
- This group has an amazing network within the community and it is so important to maintain this especially in times of change to ensure the continued success in this very long established group. Well done to you all.

## Swillington

## Silver

### Overall Impression

The judges were again greeted at the beautiful church & grounds of St Mary's on a pleasant summer's day.

The enthusiasm and commitment of the small group of core volunteers was clear to see and it was good to see previous recommendations were carried out such as ensuring the Mine Wheels when entering the village were clear and visible and plant selection in shrub beds had been considered.

Floral displays were good throughout with plenty of sustainable planting evident and local businesses such as the Miners Welfare Club ensuring it's frontage was awash with colourful displays.

A new bench and the recently created bed to the rear of the churchyard are worthwhile additions to this quiet space and the bird survey undertaken is a great way to start understanding ecology in the local environment.

A visit to the allotments was most welcoming and standards within the 10 plots was very good with a variety of local produce evident.

A good entry that made the judges very welcome and one that has scope and desire to make the required steps to become a great entry!

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider systematic replacement of wooden barrels, consider replacing with self-watering containers.
- Be mindful of carrying out correct pruning techniques when using hedge trimmers.

- Consider increasing the variety / colour of tub/planter planting, look to replace some of the box centrepieces with more structural centrepieces.
- When creating new beds such as outside the school try to produce a plan incorporating cost/design/timescale to ensure the correct standards are achievable and sustainable.
- Consider mulching some of the shrub beds to maintain moisture levels and reduce maintenance. Wood chippings could be readily available at no/low cost from tree contractors ?
- Try to establish more fund raising events to raise the profile of the entry and attract additional funding.
- Ensure long term plans are up to date in portfolio.
- Careful consideration should be given to include certain aspects of the bid, the school whilst evidencing it's long term plans & aspirations fell a little short on horticultural standards, hopefully a further 12 months should see an improvement worthy of inclusion in the entry.

## Woodlesford

## Gold

### Overall Impression

A great entry that continues to evolve and strives to add innovative ideas and developments into it's entry. The troughs, baskets & planters around the village are colourful and vibrant and obviously well cared for with local business's taking care of displays outside their premises. It was good to see previous comments were took on board with a temporary interpretation panel being erected at the Hooping Stone and the mosaic artist Mary Goodwin commissioning her hopefully first of many mosaic artworks down by the canal.

Special mention to Pat again whose enthusiasm and dedication in maintaining some of the beds on the Langdale Estate is now rubbing off on other householders such as Shaun who has turned his small courtyard garden into a haven of tranquillity! Thank you to the children & staff at Jolly Giraffe's Nursery who serenaded the judges with a song. The Canal side offers so much with superbly planted & maintained beds, orchards and numerous wildlife habitats, the addition of wood sculptures was great to see and added a further dimension to this well visited site.

The judges thoroughly enjoyed their two visits to Woodlesford and the award presented represents the hard work and commitment shown in making the village a great place to live, work & play!

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue with the planning/enhancements of the shrub bed at the top of the green, consider selective removal of some shrubs to create a more balanced bed. Be mindful when carrying out pruning to practice correct pruning techniques.
- Create a 2-3yr pruning schedule for shrubs around the 'green' .
- Consider planting focal centrepieces to planters on the Langdale Estate to provide height.
- Raising additional funds through group led initiatives - Go fund scheme through a Woodlesford in Bloom Website ?, Plant sales , seasonal events etc.
- Ensure current year planning & timescales are included in schedules.
- A judges portfolio would be a great addition to document achievements, future planning, events, fund raising etc
- Consider creating a mowing strip to designate the wildflower bed on the 'green' thus allowing easier maintenance of the shrub border.
- Enhance publicity opportunities through local media, newsletters.
- Consider including the Millenium Park in future bids, possible ecological merits ?

## Category C3a: - Small Town

### Malton in Bloom

### Gold & Category Winners

#### Overall Impression

It was clear from the start of the visit that the group are working so hard to make Malton a lovely place to live. We saw evidence of their efforts throughout the town. Clearly Malton are lucky to have them. We saw too how much their efforts are appreciated and supported by residents, which was lovely. The number of volunteers involved with the group is very pleasing, and the amount the group has managed to achieve in quite a short time is impressive. We were impressed by the number and quality of the baskets and barrier planting around the town, they really provide a WOW factor. The colour scheme is most striking and the quality of the plants is excellent. We were pleased to see that some businesses were showing support by continuing the colour scheme. The planting at the Derwent Medical Practice really lifts the area and the planting around the Bus Station was original and a credit to those involved. The garden outside Chapter 2 is lovely and we were pleased to see such a wide variety of healthy planting. A lovely place to sit on a summer day!

We were impressed with the gardens at the Church of St. Michael, especially the Rydale Rose. The ladies producing beautiful flower arrangements in the church are clearly very talented.. We think the school are doing a wonderful job in encouraging the next generation of gardeners. We were pleased with the provision for wildlife in the gardens and by the fact that vegetables are used in the staff kitchen. The art work done by the children was a lovely addition. The planting and art in the Anti-Fracking bed was very appropriate and obviously carefully chosen.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- We were delighted to meet the students at Malton School and loved their knowledge and enthusiasm. It is lovely that all children are able to enjoy the beauty of the gardens. Perhaps a future project might be a bee friendly garden with plants that would bring plenty of scent to the site.
- The Sparrow's Nest project for next year is an exciting one and the involvement of the Rotary Club is very valuable. Consider the possibility of creating a dedicated community herb garden which residents can use and enjoy.
- We were pleased to see how much care has been taken to encourage wildlife in the varied planting and to see the creepers which will provide valuable roosting sites. Since this is a very sensory garden, consider continuing that theme with bristly plants, grasses such as Golden Oat Grass for movement and soft, downy planting such as stachys. Perhaps consider an information board to tell others how to attract bees and butterflies. Perhaps the WI could share some of their bee planting ideas with other groups.
- The planting at the station was colourful and appropriate and really brightens the platforms for travellers. Perhaps consider adding miniature ivy to trail down and soften the edge of the containers. Miniature conifers would provide a year round framework to the planting. Consider adding pots of flowering herbs to bring scent and insect life, hopefully butterflies, onto the platforms.
- Perhaps make more of the connection of the town with Charles Dickens

### Elloughton cum Brough

### Silver Gilt

#### Overall Impression

It was lovely to meet such a dedicated group on such a lovely summer day. We were impressed by the amount of work that has been done. Clearly the group are making a big difference to the area and it was lovely to see the support coming from local residents. This was evident with the involvement of the group with the Tour de Yorkshire, and the good idea of raffling off the bicycles for good causes, together with the efforts made by the Day Care Centre at the library, were impressive as was the development of a wildlife area by the We Care vet practice. The addition of the water butts provided by the Council will clearly be a big help to the small group of volunteers. The Open Gardens scheme planned is an excellent idea and we were pleased to hear that the use of chemicals is avoided by the group. We were delighted to visit the school and see the excellent work done there. We were impressed by the enthusiasm and knowledge of the students. (We suggest that next year they enter in their own right in the young people's award).

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The water pump on the green is an interesting feature perhaps an interpretation board about its significance would be a valuable addition. If this is celebrating the Victorian heritage of the district perhaps any planting considered close by might continue the Victorian theme, and incorporate a larger planting bed around the trough to enhance the importance of the feature.
- The woodland walk and wildflower meadow of the Wolds & Riverbank Countryside Society is a lovely resource for local people. It would be interesting to carry out further wildlife surveys, including plant lists and to display facts on information boards, especially by the meadow for families to benefit from.
- The mural in the bus shelter was impressive. Perhaps an interpretation board about the important Roman heritage of the site might be considered. It might be nice to place pots of herbs by the shelter to give people waiting for the bus scent and the enjoyment of butterflies and other insect life.
- It would be good if the amazing Roman heritage of the area could be given more prominence with interpretation boards and perhaps as a future project an area of planting based on Roman design and featuring the types of plants used in Roman gardens.
- Refurbishment of the Town Notice board is required as pointed out on the route.
- The Elloughton crossroads are a great clean environment however greater impact can be created with a greater density of summer planting or brighter sustainable flowering plants.
- Consider looking at 'Less is more' by concentrating on greater impact at key points of the route. The group are spreading themselves 'thin' and wide across a large area of the town in many small projects. This will help enhance the group's entry.

## Horsforth

## Gold & Category Winners

### Overall Impression

Horsforth in Bloom have a dedicated and focused team with every member using their individual skills for the benefit of their community.

The Feather bank Lane orchard is a great project helped greatly by a very knowable and enthusiastic volunteer.

Excellent well kept and managed allotments.

Interesting community art project with great use of an old phone box.

Great to see the ongoing involvement with the school and wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the teacher and pupils.

The burial ground was a mass of colour and a haven for wildlife right next to a busy road. A well kept and managed park and Japanese garden.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Planting is general good but the planting to the front of the library is in need of attention.
- The Plant quality is generally very good with only the Heuchera at the station were showing signs of pest damage it was suggested they were removed this autumn and replaced.
- Although great strides have been made with the planting the judges recognise that some areas are ongoing projects and require time and funding to take forward.
- The judges suggested that the very good perennial bed next to the car park could be extended to remove the narrow hard to maintain grass strips around the edges.

## Original Richmond in Bloom

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

There is a great sense of community commitment to In Bloom. The involvement of businesses and residents is to be commended and the work they have done has added to and strengthen your entry. The results were clear to see. You are to be commended on the excellent work undertaken to get additional flower planters and towers throughout the town. The floral displays throughout give the town a very inviting appearance. Your fundraising is impressive including your plant sales and tea dances and your plans for the future are well thought out. This was demonstrated this year by ensuring more community involvement. There is excellent communication of all your efforts and it was obvious that your efforts are appreciated. Richmond was very clean and well maintained with very few empty premises - your partnerships links are working. We were impressed by the development of the Gas Holder Garden, the displays by businesses and residents, your ongoing development work at the Community Orchard, the Rose Gardens with the lavender beds and 'benches with a view'. The display of work by the Richmond Landscape Trust was very impressive and they are to be commended. There is no doubt that the energy and work of everyone involved in Original Richmond in Bloom has enhanced the Town and you are to be congratulated.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- We would advise consideration of planting and colours to give an even greater impact - our suggestion would be to avoid blues and purples or use bright contrasting larger flowers in floral displays.
- A 'Sit and Chill' trail for visitors and residents so that they can find those hidden corners to enjoy the views and all your hard work.

- You could consider also history/bloom trail available on social media or via the tourist information office/internet.
- We look forward to seeing the results of the summer fruit tree planting.
- We also look forward to seeing your plans for additional signage (community orchard) and notice boards informing of your efforts.

## Otley

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

The market town of Otley was resplendent for the judges, colourful baskets, containers, tubs of varying shapes and sizes and plantings were seen everywhere. The In Bloom team, clearly very proud and enthusiastic about their town, and deservedly so, showed the judges the many projects and initiatives they are delivering for Otley. The team have fostered close links with a variety of businesses, organisations and establishments in the town over a number of years, which has paid off handsomely with some noteworthy displays and high participation levels. Of special note was the 'Dog Poo Competition' - where school children helped design a sticker for use on every litter bin in Otley, well done Amy, a deserved winner and a great initiative. The towns stone gateway signs a very creditable project which are permanent reminders of the in blooms commitment to enhancing the environment of Otley. The tour around a very clean and well presented town will stay in the memory for a long time, a very well done.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The Otley in Bloom team will be celebrating twenty years since its formation in the next twelve months, an appropriate time to mark its success by undertaking a review of what it has achieved, how it will continue to develop and the avenues it is to go down. The judges were impressed with the number of initiatives supported, but concerned that with the limited number of volunteers in the team, not all would get the level of engagement the team clearly want to give to maintain the high standards they have set themselves.
- Otley in Bloom benefits greatly from its close links with the town's environmental groups and Town Council, the quality leaflets produced, the involvement in the water bottle scheme to reduce plastic bottle waste and the Dog Poo Competition sticker and many others. Could the group give consideration to developing a town wide nectar and bee friendly awareness campaign? The teams' success at developing the nectar border at Wharfemeadows and the Wheelie good for bees pocket garden initiative gives them a good insight into how this could be achieved at small sights located town wide.
- It was evident during the judging tour of the town that the plethora of street furniture, in particular the street seating, is not all receiving equal maintenance levels. Would it be possible to link with the town council to influence their maintenance programme or at least get some support or funding to refurbish the seating?
- To help with the reduction in workload at the bus station, it may be prudent to give consideration to using some trailing perennial plants in the planters, interplanted with seasonal plants.

# Todmorden

# Silver Gilt

## Overall Impression

Following on from the televised Britain in Bloom series which highlighted the efforts and achievements of the Tod in Bloom team in 2018, it was good to meet some new recruits to this well established and hardworking team led by Jean and Sheila.

Our visit to Castle Hill School, where some of the 30 youngsters (under the direction of Shura) showed us how they had been involved in growing flowers for insects, and veg in the very limited space available. The plastic bottle greenhouse illustrated good recycling practices (the freshly picked peas were delicious as were the 'cream cheese lollipops' – bread sticks dipped in cream cheese topped with herbs!)

Todmorden Railway Station had excellent displays of colourful baskets and tubs with a memorial trolley adorned with potted plants. There were several banners depicting local attractions and historical events along with containers of herbs courtesy of Incredible Edible on Platform 2.

Centre Vale Park is a well maintained public open space facility with an extensive Memorial Garden. The monument and floral bedding, surrounding shrub and perennial borders and other attractive features in the garden were of a high standard even considering the unsolved problem of certain rose beds. The group's efforts to enhance Patmos Garden, including the Stumpery, have resulted in what is now a very attractive and interesting space with historical connections. A credit to you in involving other groups and entries in the Bloom campaign. Thank you to whole team for a pleasant time spent in Todmorden.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Your judging route should start on a high note and finish on one – the walk along the canal towpath at the start was not the best, but it was interesting to see the only example of a guillotine lock in the country. As one saying goes 'whatever we see we will judge it'.
- On subsequently leaving Todmorden we noticed two attractive floral features in the centre which you hadn't included on your tour.
- We wish you every success in implementing your planned projects including the proposed heritage project of blue plaques for Nobel Prize winners, and involving more local businesses and organisations to enhance your community, which will have economic benefits for the town.
- Perhaps consider extending competition categories to stimulate participation.

## Category C3c: - Large Town

### Beverley in Bloom

### Gold and Category Winner

#### Overall Impression

The town of Beverley has a wealth of history and good links between the local town council and the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Good to see such good partnerships working, But it was also good to see how the communities of Beverley have come together to make Beverley such a colourful and vibrant town. With everyone involved contributing to this excellent entry and making Beverley the place it is today - attracting visitors from around the world. Events throughout the year bring people to the area and there is something for everyone. Good to see partnerships working like the Revolution Horticultural team, Civic trust and local allotments, and schools linking with the Flemingate Centre. Everyone I met had a pride in the area and there is so much more I could say about Beverley all good I can assure you. Well worth a visit even if you're not judging. Well done to everyone involved and look forward to visiting again in the future.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue with plans to improve walkways and cycle ways along both side of the river down to the Marina.
- Continue to develop Coronation gardens especially the graveyard area. Think it has so many more hidden secrets to reveal.
- Continue to develop beds around railway station which is an excellent entrance for visitors into the town. Much more colourful with introduction of hanging baskets and floral beds replacing old overgrown shrub areas.
- Difficult I know but look at route and try and to reduce. Hard when everyone has done so much and they want to show judges what they have achieved but it will have benefits in the future.

### Goole in Bloom

### Gold

#### Overall Impression

The bloom group acts as an umbrella for some twenty four voluntary groups, all who contribute to the environment and community in a variety of ways. This grouping brings a range of experience and skills the positive results were well demonstrated on our tour. To highlight two groups demonstrates the variety of tasks being undertaken. The Green team based at West Park offers horticultural and catering experience to volunteers and provides a pathway to employment through some of the other projects. The Drop Inn project engages young people in a number of ways, including the construction of a new garden at their centre. We should emphasize that all the groups and projects were a credit to the community of Goole. The bloom group runs a school garden competition, of which we were privileged to see two excellent examples.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consideration could be given to the route, distances into the nature reserve meant a lot of time was spent on this element (excellent as it was) and time at West Park was restricted.
- There was weed around street furniture in the Town centre and cigarette ends were widely visible in some areas.
- The Town centre street furniture would benefit from cleaning and in some cases painting.
- The railway station is a big project but do continue to develop this important entrance to the Town.

## **Knareborough in Bloom**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

Knareborough is a lovely market town with a lot of history and many excellent features, creating a good centre for visitors and the local community. It is clean well maintained and free of litter etc. Throughout the town there are many attractive planters and hanging baskets many of which are supported by businesses with the "Pubs in Bloom" being an innovative and successful project.

Conyngham Park is an excellent facility providing many activities, including the recently introduced Park Run, in lovely well maintained surroundings.

The riverside is an attractive area, complete with wishing well provided by Rotary for the Diamond Jubilee.

Knareborough Castle has had a very important role in history since 1100s, being centrally located in Knareborough Forest with lovely views overlooking the river. The gardens are very well maintained and incorporate the Design a Flower Bed for Children and the beautiful War Memorial.. There are a number of information boards, and publicity is good with many high profile events taking place. Breba Gardens should not be missed but beware of the dragons. The bed race is an important, well known, well attended annual event with a huge community involvement. The Orb Garden is a valuable asset to the community and Aspin Pond an inspiring environmental project.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The judges were concerned about the weeds throughout the town and felt that they were inappropriate for a town centre. They were aware of the debate around the environmental issues. There may well be a case for allowing weeds in some areas but not the town centre.
- Most of the cultivation was very good but it was felt that one or two planted areas needed a little attention.
- Publicity was good but perhaps more use could be made of social media which might attract more young people. There is always a need for extra help especially when the Chairman is also the Mayor of Knareborough.
- Certain information boards are in need of refurbishment.

# Mirfield in Bloom

# Gold

## Overall Impression

Mirfield in Bloom have adopted 'Love Where You Live' as their theme for 2019 and this is carried through at every point in the town. From the street banners to the school gardens, the library and local businesses, it seemed the whole of Mirfield has taken this to heart. Partnership working is excellent with individual volunteer groups coming together for the good of the town and the Town Council are also clearly supportive of the bloom campaign with the Mayor, Martyn Bolt, spending two days 'on tour' visiting all the different sectors of the community with us. Business support is excellent with the ever present Co-op team leading the way and all ages are represented across the town. A lot of hard work has gone into the bloom campaign by all involved and everyone we met took pride in the achievements made. Mirfield in Bloom are to be congratulated on bringing everyone together so successfully.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to progress plans for a 'Best Street' competition in 2020 as this may help you reach even more participants in your campaign.
- Progress the Mirfield Park Memorial Interpretation in conjunction with Mirfield Town Council and other partners.
- There are a few examples of street furniture needing attention notably the seat at the island on Pinfold Close and the two litter bins under the beech tree at the church. Perhaps these could be included in a rolling programme of maintenance.
- Generally, the floral elements of your campaign were excellent but many of the wooden barrels used across the town need some attention to enhance the displays.
- Mirfield in Bloom are an excellent In Bloom entry and one which could be used as a model for other groups to follow. However, as you progress, remember that quality is always better than quantity and don't take so much on that it detracts from the excellent work you have already put in place.

## Category C4a: - Small City

# Keighley

## Gold and Category Winner

## Overall Impression

On arrival in Keighley the judges were pleased to see the beautiful displays of hanging baskets and planters, many paid for by Keighley in Bloom and some by the local shops as well as a standalone display by Weatherspoon's even though building work was being carried out to the premises. Colourful sleeves bearing the Keighley in Bloom logo were placed on the hanging basket brackets which helped publicise the work of the group. The Town Hall Square was magnificent, planted with traditional bedding plants and more modern perennial planting. The war memorial in the centre of the square was surrounded by well-maintained lawns. And the tree bases in the adjoining street were planted with colourful bedding plants. The Dementia Memory Garden is a relatively new feature of the town is well used by local residents. It was nice to meet the residents of Hillworth Lodge who looked after their own outdoor spaces which were filled with brightly coloured planted pots. The allotment sites were being tended by local residents to a very high standard with the odd exception. We visited a number of private gardens which were lovingly cared for to a very high standard by their owners and the front and rear gardens of Mount Pleasant Kennels

were being well cared for. Cliffe Castle has been recently renovated to a very high standard and was a pleasure to visit. The garden and plant pots at St Anne's school were well planted and the potatoes were being harvested soon. There was going to be a competition between different groups to see who has grown the most potatoes. The children who excitedly showed us round were polite and well behaved, the soft fruit was lovely. The gardens of Keighley Railway Station (Keighley and Worth Valley Railway side) were as good as ever with unusual plant displays and wild flower areas tended by a small group of volunteers.

East Riddlesden Hall Owned by the National Trust is a hidden treasure. The judges had a guided tour by the head gardener who had many innovative ideas for different gardens and ran courses for the public. Very well done.

The day went really well and the judges were delighted with the progress made over recent years.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The new tree bases near Town Hall Square were mulched with blue slate and had some weed growth. It would be good to maintain these to the same high standard as the ones near the square.
- The area of land adjacent to the old college site could be developed into a small park, for the benefit of the town, planted with pollution absorbing trees and perennials to improve the air quality in the area.
- It was noticed that there were several allotments on site which needed cultivating. Perhaps new occupants who are interested in cultivating them could be given a chance.

## **Category: - BID /Town or City Centre**

### **Halifax (City Centre)**

### **Silver Gilt**

#### **Overall Impression**

The judges were met in the wonderful setting of the grade 1 listed Piece Hall where locals and visitors mingled amongst outdoor cafes and bars. The take up of units within the Piece Hall was impressive with a current occupancy of 75%.

The initiatives being implemented and considered in the market complex was innovative with food / social events utilising not only the markets imposing character but also a round the clock 'go to' place.

The success of the subsidised floral baskets has obvious scope for further growth with additional floral features.

A most welcoming and fascinating insight to this intriguing & well managed town which is well worthy of repeat visits!

#### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The non-operation of the water features within the Piece Hall was unfortunate as this would have contributed to the overall vibe of this well used space.
- Consideration should be given to more containerised planting within the Piece Hall especially around the peripheral of the arena to soften and enhance the architectural landscape.
- The forthcoming pictorial visitor maps will be a great addition, consider replicating this map in leaflet format.

- The sustainable planting leading down from the Woolshops to the car park could be systematically improved with more structured planting.
- A tourist / visitor link from the railway station to the City Centre/Piece Hall should be progressed.
- Encouragement should be given to market traders & independent shops to sign up to / reduce plastic bag / cup consumption.

## Leeds (City Centre)

## Gold & Category Winners

### Overall Impression

What a fascinating morning the judges had visiting various parts of Leeds City Centre and meeting many of those involved in improving the urban environment for the benefit of residents, workers and visitors. At the forefront of this is a forward thinking Council who actively support horticulture in the city in a number of ways including the provision of a state-of-the-art nursery where many of the plants used are grown, through investing in apprentices and supporting/linking with many community groups and city centre businesses. In respect to the former, the judges had the pleasure and the privilege to visit the brain injury unit at LGI; St George's Crypt for homeless people; an experimental but clearly popular 'parklet' and the watery wildlife haven at Victoria Quays. Examples of commercial links were seen at the Victoria Shopping Quarter and on Russell Street where businesses have contributed to the landscaping. The council's own contribution comes by way of attractive hanging baskets, planters, flower beds (including some adjacent to the Civic Hall which are planted to the winning designs of a children's/schools competition), conventional parks and 'pop-up' parks. The city

also proactively addresses environmental and street cleaning issues through education and through the use of innovative modern technologies.

Congratulations must go to this City which values a green environment for the benefits it brings by way of enhancing the urban landscape, by addressing environmental issues and contributing to the welfare of its residents and workers.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It was a pity the judges didn't get a chance to visit Park Square which was originally on the itinerary.
- The 'parklet' in the Calls was an interesting and well-designed project, clearly appreciated, not to mention designed, by local workers. If practicalities allow (funding, highways restrictions, storage etc) it would be nice to see others in suitable locations of the city.
- Keep up the good work and help spread good practice to other cities!

## Category C8: - Grown Your Community

### Hunmanby

### Silver Gilt & Category Winner

#### Overall Impression

It was lovely to be met by Phil and Trish, who were to be our guides around Hunmanby. The town of approx. 3400 residents is on the centenary way, whose 'In Bloom' team incorporates a number of different groups within the village. A comprehensive tour of the town was given, with the tour stopping at points of interest on route.

The judges enjoyed the Market Cross area and Memorial garden, community herb box as well as Bayley Garden, Orchard and the allotments.

The Horseshoe Inn had fantastic planters with real wow factor! (Just what we are looking for) This was pointed out by the judges while on tour and should be included in future judging tours and also the owners encouraged to enter YiB as a small business. The judges loved the station area, with great pots and planters all done with wild planting in mind to encourage wildlife. This is worthy of its own single entry and gain the recognition it deserves. The group should be commended for their ability to raise funds.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- As stated The Horseshoe Inn had fantastic planters with real wow factor! (Just what we are looking for) This was pointed out by the judges while on tour and should be included in future judging tours and also the owners encouraged to enter YiB as a small business, and also the Railway station. These extra entries will enhance the groups profile
- The Orchard area was a little out of the way with no real signage or information about it and access to the trees seemed difficult as it was very overgrown. Perhaps development into a wildflower area here with new comprehensive interpretation boards, signage and some bug hotels and habitats here would work nicely.
- The pond and wetland area needs more management but it was lovely to see works in progress here and wonderful wild Orchids growing. The Willow would benefit from correct management, coppicing every few years would help to keep it under control and the coppiced Willow could come to great use too.
- Consider more consistency throughout the village with the planting , perhaps separate groups could work more closely together to achieve this
- Some of the tubs and planters were excellent, with a wide range of plants others were less so and actually some were quite overgrown.
- The judges loved the concept of the community herb box, it was a shame to find that it isn't used much – perhaps signage pointing out the herbs on offer and some uses may help and advertising them for free – 'Help Yourself'
- Some of the wilder areas would be ideal wildflower spaces with good Bee friendly planting if managed and maintained correctly.
- We were interested to learn that the Primary school had a great wildlife area, an outside classroom and gardening club. The judges would have like to have seen this. Fostering a working relationship with the school would be great for the group. We think links would do well if developed with the school and the youth in the village - perhaps enlisting the school to help build bug habitats would be a good start.

### Ossett in Bloom

### Silver Gilt