



YORKSHIRE

# Judges Reports – Spring 2019

## Category: - Small Village

### Ledston

### Silver Gilt

#### Overall Impression

Although only compact, passing through Ledston is striking. The Immaculately maintained grass verges and footways combined with vibrant colour make a real impact. Particularly stunning is the front garden carpet of tulips you can't fail to miss on Main Street.

The new 'In Bloom' group are led by residents whose enthusiasm is infectious, and the judges were impressed by their detailed plans. Open to everyone's ideas, and by the use of social media and the award-winning White Horse pub as the local In Bloom hub, the group are ideally placed to fulfil the village's full potential.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider treating the bench at the junction of hall Lane.
- The copse at the entrance to the village has real potential for a great wildlife area. Consider the inclusion of nest boxes and bug hotels. Also, consider removing the non-native Spanish Bluebells and perhaps planting some native woodland species such as Digitalis, English Bluebells, Red Campion, Wild Garlic.
- Continue to maintain and enhance the current grass verges and planted areas, which gives the right balance, rather than create new smaller beds.
- The possible addition of an interpretation panel at the junction of Hall lane, explaining the village's local history, would be good to see.

## Category: - Large Village

### Barwick in Elmet

### Gold

#### Overall Impression

An enthusiastic and long established team with new recruits prepared to go the extra mile for Barwick. Spring bedding was exceptional at the Methodist Church and different styles of design throughout the village provided continual appreciation of the efforts of the bloomers. Franks efforts for wild life were much appreciated. It was good to hear the social media efforts of the group had been a success.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The judges look forward to seeing completion of the works at Jubilee Gardens and also the interactivity with the school and look forward to meeting some of the younger community members at the summer judging.

- The Millennium bed is possibly reaching the point of needing some replanting in certain areas.
- Be aware of the potential adverse effect of applying fresh wood chip to shrub and rose beds.

## Category: - Urban Community

### Allerton Bywater

**Gold**

#### Overall Impression

For a small group the 'In Bloomers' of Allerton Bywater do a superb job in relation to the size of their village. A combination of rich local industrial heritage, expertly cut and clean grass verges and well thought out and maintained planted areas makes for a very attractive and interesting village for visitors and residents alike. Highlights are many - 'Joanne's bed' at Hollinhurst, the verges and beds on Leeds Road, the Miners Memorial and St Marys Church (which looked stunning) and the war memorial are just a few. The community allotment is a superb example of ideal management, and is testament to the fantastic dedication to David and the rest of the group who run it..

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The embankment at Tickle Cock Hill is obviously challenging to maintain so possibly consider the addition of carpeting and low maintenance plants such as Vinca Minor, Deadnettle, Rubus Tricolor and/or low growing shrubs such as dwarf Hebe Pagei which will help stabilise the soil.
- Consider providing an interpretation board by the tunnel at Tickle Cock Hill explaining the history of the site.
- If possible, consider setting up a Facebook page, which could help attract new members. Is there any community development help available from the Council?

### Beeston

**Gold**

#### Overall Impression

The warmth of our welcome by Angela, Linda and the In Bloom group more than made up for the variable spring weather - hailstorms and sun!

We were impressed by the 74 sponsored hanging baskets, 24 barrier troughs, swathes of daffodils, beautiful seasonal flower beds throughout Beeston - all provided by the In Bloom group with the help of the local council. The group have very good relationships with local businesses, Environmental services, the police, the Parks dept, St Mary's Church and the local primary school which has wild flower beds and commemorative benches.

There is excellent funding in place - Cross Flatts Park has been greatly improved with a grant from Comic Relief towards the playground and Millenium garden - which displays local identity signs and a wonderful new Love Lock Tree sculpture as a centrepiece to the park. We were pleased to see provision for wildlife in the churchyard and the many

wildflower meadows planted around the town. Using facebook is a good way to keep the community involved.

The rose bushes in the church grounds were a credit to those maintaining them and the use of thick mulch was a good idea.

We look forward to summer judging.

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

- Perhaps it would be possible to introduce berry bearing trees or shrubs in the park to encourage wildlife.
- Perhaps native specimen.
- Perhaps consideration could be given to further ways of making people aware of Beeston Pit as it is such an important part of the local heritage.

## **Calverley**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Calverley in Bloom is a highly dedicated team of volunteers who clearly enjoy the whole process of the Yorkshire in Bloom initiative which they have been involved with over many years.

We were able to see several examples where volunteers within the group's ranks dedicated many hours maintaining individual areas of the village to an exceptionally high standard.

Whilst not being specifically part of our remit it was good to observe the many Calverley in Bloom fliers posted in many windows in the village. The many well-tended private gardens provided evidence that there was a general feeling of pride amongst the residents in the appearance of their village. The planters throughout are well maintained and during our visit we saw no evidence of litter or graffiti.

The dry stone wall behind the Calverley Gate trough was of particular interest as was the carved angel in St Wilfred's churchyard. The goats in the churchyard and the rainwater harvesting in the Methodist Chapel were both welcome signs of sustainability.

The jewel in the crown has to be Victoria Park. It is a great asset, sited in the centre of the village supporting many activities. The floral displays are stunning and the overall standard of maintenance is a credit to the grounds man.

The on-going project of clearing the undergrowth to expose the sections of rock-face along

Carr Lane is ambitious but the result is striking, uplifting the overall appearance of this busy road.

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

- The use of perennial planting as seen in the WI border in Victoria Park could possibly be extended to provide more all year round interest in other areas of the village, maybe in the area outside the Library.
- Perhaps the siting of bird boxes, bug hotels etc., could be more widespread in the village. Some of those seen were in a state of dis-repair and could benefit from being replaced.
- It maybe a useful excersise to produce a more long-term plan, (probably 5 year), in order to identify future projects and monitor those which are on-going.

- The wild meadow area of the churchyard is an attractive area offering potential for extending the range of leisure activities enjoyed by all age groups. It may be a possibility to extend the existing sponsorship scheme to include some trees.
- The Town Wells garden is of great historical importance to Calverley and now, following the initial clearance of much of the undergrowth, could be developed into an attractive area to visit. It could become an interesting project for the local Historical Society to investigate the site's origin and to search the records to find evidence of the original planting as well as producing an accompanying information board. Herbaceous planting particularly around the upper level adjacent to the railings could be considered.

## Cottingley

## Gold

### Overall Impression

On a very unpredictable day accompanied by Angela, we met Neil and Sylvia and several of the In Bloom Group.

We were very impressed by the number of Community groups that are involved in making Cottingley a very pleasant place to live. The village is enclosed on all 3 sides by the railway line and major roads but has a large Community orchard with over 100 heritage apple and pear trees and bug huts to encourage insects, where Apple days take place. The group are very involved with the Dementia Centre and have donated seats, compost seeds and herbs for the lovely mangers and planters, and these along with Lavender, Rosemary and Buddleia attract birds and insects. A grant from the council plus local fundraising has given Cottingley a lovely playground. The Primary school and Old People's Sheltered housing work with the group which also provides a community herb bed and notice boards. We were very impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of the Cottingley team, enthusiasm which was not dampened by the frequent hail showers! The group are clearly making an important difference to their community and it was good to hear that their efforts are supported and appreciated. The garden of the Community Centre is a lovely spot. The planting of the pergola and the colour of the woodwork add to the peaceful atmosphere. We enjoyed seeing the mosaics children had designed. The work with young dementia was really valuable. The extended orchard is a wonderful community resource, as is the community herb bed. We were pleased to hear of the community events organised by the group.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Perhaps seating or even picnic tables in the extended orchard might be considered.
- Consider bringing in areas of scented planting, especially near seating.
- Consider adding soft fruit bushes to the extended orchard, black and red currants, gooseberries etc.
- Perhaps adding labels and invitation to pick the herbs in the community herb bed might encourage residents to take advantage of it.

## Halton

## Silver

### Overall Impression

Plant quality of beds and planters was excellent and to a very high standard being a good mix of sustainable planting complimented with colourful bedding and all were completely weed free. Members of the group were very enthusiastic and very committed. For an urban environment the area was surprisingly litter and graffiti free due in no small way to regular litter picks. There was good evidence of local business involvement and Halton in Bloom signage was much in evidence ensuring the local community were aware of the work the group were doing.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Evidence of recycling, environmental work and local identity would greatly enhance the Halton in Bloom submission.
- Daffodil planting would give greater impact if local higher density was used rather than less dense planting over greater areas.
- Suggest silver birch be planted on the ground in front of the post office possibly augmented with red stemmed dogwoods to give good winter/spring colour and good impact.
- Attractive private gardens were noted on the tour but not highlighted and the grounds of Wheaton Court were well maintained and could enhance the submission

## Starbeck In Bloom

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

Starbeck in Bloom is an extremely hard working dedicated group. They all work well together and with many other organisations, to their mutual benefit.

The whole area was very clean, tidy and well cared for.

The visit to Taylors and The Cone Exchange showed many very good features including the permanent planting for the benefit of all concerned with special attention to the environment and local heritage with the lovely stone planters and the mill stone.

The cone exchange is a wonderful example of re-cycling and up-cycling to the benefit of many different groups

There were many examples of the local heritage with good information about the area.

The library with all the various activities with the lovely garden was a real hub of the community making a good contribution to the entry.

Communication, publicity and the promotion of 'n Bloom' are all excellent.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- There were many lovely cultivated and natural areas with some excellent planting but it was felt that the planters and the two beds at the entrance to the park lacked spring colour and the 'wow' factor. (Even taking into account the 'in between state' of one bed)
- The Flower Show and Garden Competition are good examples of the community gardening but we would like to have the opportunity to see more of the private and residential gardens
- It was good to meet so many people from different organisations showing their help and support and hope that we will have the opportunity to meet some children in the summer.
- Some of the street furniture looked as if it need some attention.

## Swillington

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

On a beautiful Spring morning the judges were welcomed by Swillington In Bloom members at St Mary's Church which with its blackened bell tower formed a splendid backdrop to this delightful village.

Special mention has to go for Malcolm and the small team who every Tuesday morning keep the church grounds in such good order and to Jacqui whose innovative approach to reclaiming pockets of otherwise troublesome areas is to be commended.

The judges were impressed by the planting feature to the back of the bus stop near Swillington Lane which offered variety & interest.

A good spring entry with sufficient scope/plans to deliver both short & long improvements and the judges look forward to visiting in the summer

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Overall a good variety of planting was evident across the entry but consideration for more specific planting for differing aspects/conditions could be planned. eg - the 'Dry' bed on the corner of Swillington Lane.
- Consideration could be given to the variety of 'Focus / Structure Plants' in the barrels to aid interest.
- Improving the construction aspect of the compost bays with permission from the Diocese to the rear of the church and having a planned approach to utilising compost would be beneficial.
- Consider commissioning a wildlife/habitat/bird survey within the church grounds.
- Consider installing a seat/bench to the rear of the church for reflection/quiet time which could incorporate sympathetic planting.
- Barrel / Planter replacement is on-going, consider a renewal programme with more sustainable options.
- Consider showcasing local identity / history through an Interpretation panel at a prominent location ( Church / the Green ) ?
- Continue to monitor plant health throughout the year and replace any dead/diseased plants.the planters /barrels keep them all of the same high standard until they can be all replaced.

## Woodlesford

## Gold

### Overall Impression

The Judges were impressed by the warm friendly welcome they received before undertaking the tour of the village. The village had several green spaces that were well maintained, litter and graffiti free and overall very clean. This is a credit to the partnership working of different groups, e.g Langdale, Pymont Estate, CRT & the Maltings areas, who all strive to make the community a better place to live.

All the beds/ borders were full of colour with good plant quality and selection. They were all weed free along with the troughs/ barrels. It was nice to see that the in bloom group have got plans to improve the large bed on the green ready for the summer, as it was slightly over grown and obstructing the views onto the green. The Gabon wall at All Saints Parish Hall provided a solution to a vandalism problem and looked good, well done.

All signs and sponsor plaques were in good condition and the local hooping stone brought a real insight in to the history of the village, as did the several historical sign located around the community.

It was a delight to be song too by the children from Jolly Giraffes, thank you and I hope many of you go on to become involved with the in bloom group in the future.

Congratulation to all involved for their lovely warm welcome, commitment and dedication to the community. We look forward to seeing you all again in the summer.

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

- The hooping stone is a wonderful piece of history; consider having an interpretation board or panel to best complement this historical piece.
- Consider renovating the large yellow bike that is situated in the shrub bed on the green. This would make it stand out and be a good local attraction.
- Consider implementing local designer (Mary) and her mosaic art work. It would be good for a successful member of the community's artwork to be displayed within the community they live.
- Continue to develop planting plans for the renovation of the corner shrub bed on the green. Making sure to select the best plants to maximise its potential and location within the community.
- Is it possible to find an area to show off your previous achievements? Maybe in a flower bed or on the green, to promote the WIB profile.

## **Category: - Town**

### **Horsforth in Bloom**

### **Silver Gilt**

#### **Overall Impression**

Horsforth in Bloom are a hardworking and dedicated team with a mixture of volunteers with different ages, skills and abilities everything that is needed for a successful and thriving In Bloom group. They have many interesting projects on the go including the renovation of St James Church hall, The Phone box project, the new border outside St Margaret's school and the proposed new boarder with a very well designed planting scheme.

The flower bed on the footpath to the station is well planted.

They have excellent spring floral focus with extensive planting of mixed bulbs.

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

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

- Planting is general good but the planting to the side of the library is in need of some attention.
- The Plant quality is generally very good with only the Heuchera at the station were showing signs of pest damage.
- A Few beds in the carpark were weedy and in need of attention.
- Although great strides have been made with the planting the judges recognise that some areas are ongoing projects and we very much look forward to seeing them in the summer.
- The Phone box is a great idea and hopefully it will be ready for us to see in the summer.
- Horsforth has a lot of history but maybe a little more effort in explaining it would be interesting to the judges.
- The judges were a little unclear as to where funding for in Bloom comes from and felt it would be beneficial to have a clearer understanding..

## Menston in Bloom

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

The judges had a very warm welcome from the Menston in Bloom volunteers in the bowling clubhouse at Kirkland's Community Centre, and given an enthusiastic and comprehensive tour backed up with an illustrative portfolio. Menston in Bloom formed in 2005, have in the time period, developed many town enhancing projects, and the judges saw many of these. The colourful planters, the hard work of group member's bulb planting and good tree and shrub selection spread Spring colour throughout Menston and the projects displayed.

Butterfield park, the Memorial bed, peace garden, High Royds Memorial Garden & Cemetery, and the new wooden planters all add great merit in enhancing the entry, together with the excellent Menston Primary School. Great to see Menston back in the campaign, and see how the group has developed.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The group for a small team have a large number of schemes taken on. Be careful not to overload yourselves, and maybe consider the need to show the judges all that you have done. Pick out your 'best' and concentrate more on these within your route.
- Some of the planters had been spruced up with a treatment and looked good. The entry would benefit with others doing and the street furniture would benefit from attention.
- Consideration could be given to include more signage and interpretation boards in many of the featured route Projects. Examples would be Butterfield Park, explaining its heritage, how the park was donated to the town, and identifying the very good tree and shrub plantings. Also more signage at the flower beds highlighting to passers-by that these beds are planted and maintained by Menston in Bloom, thus lifting the groups profile further.
- Great to see the large number of Bird boxes sited all around the town. Perhaps a leaflet demonstrating the 'Bird Box Trail' would be a useful tool in getting the residents further engaged.
- Continue with the bulb planting projects, especially the group's use of the many differing spring bulb varieties.

## Category: - Park, Gardens, Cemeteries & Public Buildings

## Falsgrave Park

## Gold

### Overall Impression

Falsgrave park was once the source of water for the town of Scarborough. This is well illustrated by the Conduit house along with its information board. The availability of water on the site can be clearly seen with a number of springs flowing out of the hillside. Situated in an area of dense housing away from the tourist area the park is an excellent example of a true community park. The steep hillside brings challenges but also rewards to the sea from the higher level. The group have initiated many projects including the provision of a mini library, dog, nature and hallow-en events all of which attract large numbers of people. They work closely with the council jointly achieving improvements for the park. The latest major project is the ongoing renewal and repair of the pathways.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration



Detailed information boards are situated at all entrances and strategic points. There is good signage along the paths with information for routes for wheelchair users. Many activities and events take place such as nature days, Halloween and a daft dog show which are publicised on the park's notice boards, in local shops and social media. Renovations to a wall and the erection of new gateposts at one of the entrances have been carried out sympathetically. Funding comes from the council and events held in the park. There is a gated playground with a graffiti wall which is painted over each year. Plenty of bird boxes, bat boxes, managed brambles and wildflowers later in the year.

- Monitor the 400 recently planted trees for maintenance, and possibly the provision of some replacements.
- Continue with the development of the stumpery and the associated planting.
- When possible carry out the inspection and repair of the bird and bat boxes.
- Monitor the paint on the railings to see if repainting can be achieved before they get to a run down state.
- Continue to develop and support the events in the park especially the nature days to encourage people to engage with the environment.
- Do ensure that you outline to future judges the whole range of things that the group undertakes and influences in the park.

## Category: - Charitable Establishment

### St Gemma's Hospice

Gold

#### Overall Impression

It was a pleasure to view the established grounds and gardens of St Gemma's, despite the cold and wet April morning. Although still in early spring, there was an abundance of colour from the many varieties of bulbs planted, the wide range of evergreen trees and shrubs, the numerous containers planted with seasonal bedding and the burgeoning new growth from the established trees and shrubs. There are areas of interest throughout the grounds, from linear water features, 'walls of light' and a well designed 'Path of Life'. With the help of a number of keen volunteers the grounds were well presented and a delight to see. The summer visit promises to be even more outstanding and I'm sure will not disappoint.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The location of the hospice in a busy urban suburb of Leeds, gives the grounds an important role as an oasis in which wildlife could flourish.
- Some habitat areas, bird boxes and feeding stations have already been established; however it may be an opportunity to consider developing a more strategic approach to biodiversity considerations. Possibly a role for a keen volunteer to move forward with.



YORKSHIRE