

# Judges Notes for Summer 2019



## Category B1 – Small Businesses

### Barleycorn Pub, Scholes

**Silver**

#### Overall Impression

The Barley Corn Pub makes a colourful contribution to the village of Scholes on the outskirts of Leeds. The front of the building is enhanced by the use of seasonal bedding, making it visually pleasing for passers-by. The quality of the plants is very good and regular dead heading is paying dividends. The relationship between the pub manager, the customers and the In Bloom Group is where the strengths of this entry lie; with customers fundraising to purchase the plants and volunteers helping the pub manager to water and maintain. In all the overall impression is very pleasing.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The judges would have liked to have seen more connection between the pub and its heritage. This could be achieved, maybe be through an interpretation board or small information leaflet.
- There may be ways to encourage biodiversity by providing sustainable planting along side seasonal bedding, and the provision of an alternative watering solution could be considered should funds allow.
- The provision is in keeping with the size of the business frontage, if space is available within a beer garden perhaps, this may allow for wider provision of more diverse displays.

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### Basin Howe Farm Cottages

**Gold and Category Winner**

#### Overall Impression

Visiting this garden is like going through a series of rooms, each with its own style and character which is most appreciated by the guests. Some areas are formal such as the Parterre and the ornamental pond, some are abundantly planted while others are wilder like the natural pond and around the elevated area which is at the height of the treetops and good for birdwatching. Despite the elements from its situation high up on the moors and the large rabbit population, the plants are thriving and Heather will always seek the right plant to suit each area.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The garden as all year interest with its Autumn bed and orchard
- There are many very attractive details such as the dry stone walling round flowerbeds, wooden sculptures in the wooded areas and bold metal sculptures amongst the flowers.
- A website with blog and a Facebook page keep guests and potential guests up to date about local events and wildlife
- Heather and Richard's enthusiasm and persistence is to be commended.

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## **Carpenters Arms, Felixkirk**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

From any approach you take into the quite village of Felixkirk every resident and visitor alike cannot help but be impressed by the wonderful floral display by The Carpenters Arms. The overall impact created by the floral displays and the planted topiary dividing the seating area from the road is outstanding. The hotel / pub clearly benefits from the professional horticultural team of the nearby St John Estate. The judges were impressed by the work carried out by Sue in enhancing the planting of the raised planters around the front outside seating area, with the well clipped structural spiral and balled box hedging plants. All imaginatively matching with a classic and pleasing colour palette with that of the baskets and hayrack that work really well with the white stoned country inn with a contemporary annex accommodation block. This annex also offers a wonderful garden setting area at the rear of the pub with far reaching views. Planted well with herbs, box hedging and catmint, combining to give a clean, classic feel to the garden and seating areas with well-groomed lawned area are well maintained with boundary hedging skilfully layered. A great asset for a delightful village.

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

- The planted areas radiating from the central feature and immediately fronting the hotel rooms are planted as herb gardens predominately with different varieties of mint with added height provided by lovage. To provide more seasonal interest consideration could be given to enhancing the views from the hotel rooms by introducing a more diverse colour palette of shrubs and perennial planting.
- Some areas within the herb garden looked patchy, consider infilling these areas of the herb garden with differing herb varieties not used.

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## **David Higgins Hairdressing, Pocklington**

**Silver**

### **Overall Impression**

David Higgins runs a hairdressing business adjacent to his house. He clearly has a passion for plants and loves to provide a colourful and welcoming entrance for the benefit and appreciation of his clients.

Within an established framework of small trees and shrubs including some interesting Acers, a large range of pots filled substantially with annual plants can be found in every nook and cranny of the garden.

He has also chosen to enhance the grass verge and road signage outside the building with pots of bedding plants which will surely be appreciated by passers-by, both pedestrians and those in their cars.

He is to be highly commended for his efforts to enhance the location for his customers and the wider community.

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

- The large number of containers within the garden creates a huge workload in terms of planting up and then subsequently watering. By his own admission, David is starting to find this somewhat onerous. To make the maintenance more practical, reducing the number of pots would help, particularly the smaller ones which are more prone to drying out. Having a greater proportion of larger pots would be preferable.
- It is also suggested that consideration should be given to introduction of more herbaceous perennials, particularly for plantings directly into the ground but also within the various containers themselves. With judicious choice there should be no lessening of the floral impact.
- The above measures would reduce the amount of watering and installing a water butt would mean less use of mains water.
- Don't forget to make time to sit in and enjoy your own garden, David!

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## Ellerby Country Inn, Nr Whitby

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

The Ellerby Country Inn looks very attractive with its sustainable planting along the length of the front of the building plus hanging baskets, pots and troughs. Bulbs are in evidence in Spring. The seating and dining area to the rear of the Inn is quite shady and is planted up with suitable plants such as ferns and fuchsias. There is also a large, well maintained and colourful flower bed, small ornamental pond, apple trees, grape vines and herbs, which are used in the kitchen. The signage, paths and other hard landscaping are extremely clean and well maintained, as is the lawned area. Watering is mainly carried out by an installed system and the staff keep the stand-alone tubs and hanging baskets topped up. There are bird feeders and a bird bath and Mark and Martin are considering developing wildflower areas.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The proposed planting and wildflower areas at the rear and the grassy bank by the bus stop should enhance the property further.
- Some of the troughs/hanging baskets at the front could be packed fuller for more impact
- Maybe consider pruning the trees to let in more light
- An information board could inform guests of the flora and fauna and perhaps more publicity could be given to the garden on your website and social media.

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## Filey Bistro & Coffee Bar

## Gold

### Overall Impression

Filey Bistro and coffee bar was a pleasant surprise and it had nothing to do with the cake! The baskets were great and we loved the colour schemes used. The brightening up of the disabled access was a very thoughtful addition, and created a floral entrance into the outdoor eating area that was wonder full to see. We saw birds and insects in the garden so the planting was obviously a hit with wildlife and the excellent wisterfia covered a seating area. Janet does a great job to this great asset to the bussiness.

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

- Consider addition of lacewing or small bug box
- It was a shame to see the begonias in plastic pots along the walls as they didn't really fit in with the rest of the theme in the garden.
- Perhaps more climbers up the trellis to introduce more Clematis and Honeysuckle for scent.
- Filling gaps with Lavender and Alchemilla and perhaps the use of Alliums and Camassia for height would enhance the year round colour, add structure and design.
- Introducing some small habitats along the garden walls or perhaps a bird box hidden in the Wisteria would be a great addition.

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## **Hutton Cranswick Fisheries**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Congratulations on your property contribution in further enhancing the Communities Floral Display. Good colour combination and plant choice shown in the baskets and hayracks. A large amount is now shown off in a very minimal space, and all grown to a high standard. Interesting to hear about how the shop uses water from the spuds so being recycled outside.

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

- Space is acknowledged as the limiting factor in developing the floral entry much further, however spilling around the corner may offer alternative options.

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## **James White Butchers, Hutton Cranswick**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

This small display is varied, tasteful and very well maintained, giving an added interest to its perfect surroundings. Planters and troughs are colourful and enhance the shop frontage, alongside the orchids seated in the shop window. The changing seasonal display is to be congratulated.

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

- There is scope to enhance the entry further with the addition of hayracks or mangers to the metal fence running alongside the shop front.
- It would be good to see some promotional material for Yorkshire in Bloom or Hutton Cranswick in Bloom

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## **John Blenkirons, Richmond**

**Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

The floral displays were lovely and appropriate to the business.

Situated within the Old Cottage Hospital (purchased in 2001) the building now is very well maintained and cared for including painting the railings every year.

The building is lit in the evening and provides a pleasant aspect to this entrance to the Town whether approached on foot or by car.

The floral displays are planted with appropriate flowers in winter and summer to provide year round colour.

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

- It would be very informative for the judges to see photographs of the year round displays.
- Pressure washing some areas of the paving where moss is appearing would add to the overall appearance of the building.

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## **King Street Kitchen & Gift, Richmond**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

We were impressed by the lovely colourful planters at the front of the shop.

The shop window was very eye catching and innovative in design. The fresh flowers in jam jars together with real plants added to the overall impression.

Your signage and support for In Bloom is excellent and evident.

Your shop window displays contribute to the overall impression of your business and the welcome to all who visit the shop and area. Well done.

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

- We look forward to seeing what design you come up with next year and would encourage you to take photographs of your year round activity to show future judges, and perhaps incorporate short history of the building/photographs.

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## **McLuckie Projects - 5 Market Place Richmond**

**Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Very good window displays featuring fruit and vegetables available at the business, Neeps and Tatties. Incorporating old photographs in the display gives a sense of the history of the building and its place in Richmond. In Bloom advertising was prominently displayed. Very attractive floral baskets and Dennis's custom made window planters displayed on the front of the building are eye catching and also complement the Castle

Tavern next door. The floral displays are watered by Just the Job, another In Bloom partner.

The building has been given a new lease of life whilst retaining the historical frontage, and is very smart. This is an excellent local shop and the McLuckie Project to upgrade the flats above and renovate Ryders Wynd, including working with Richmondshire Museum, is to be commended.

A great deal of thought and commitment has gone into this project, and through active involvement with Richmond in Bloom provides the opportunity to keep this area thriving and viable.

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

- We look forward to the development of the plans with the Museum to introduce a time line mural along Ryders Wynd.
- We hope you manage to discover what is missing from the historical sign on the front of the building and can replicate it.
- Work with the In Bloom group to incorporate/produce a history/building trail including information about the development of the building.

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## **Millgate House Richmond**

**Gold**

#### **Overall Impression**

The garden at Millgate House is impressive and a delight to visit. This is not an easy site but Austin and Tim have produced a garden which complements their business at Millgate House and is designed to be appreciated by visitors as well as satisfying and giving enjoyment to Austin and Tim.

The views from the terrace of the garden and landscape are beautiful.

Wildlife is encouraged into the garden. Art and sculpture features throughout.

We were impressed by the hostas and roses and the different trees in the garden.

The information booklet about Millgate House and Garden is excellent and provides information on the history of the garden, building and business.

Tim and Austin demonstrated that they do not rest on their laurels and revisit the garden with new ideas and improvements.

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

- We look forward to seeing the development of your plan for a meadow outside the back of the premises - we wish you good luck with that project.
- It would have been interesting to see photographs of the garden at different times of the year.

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## **Mocha Chocolate Shop, Richmond**

**Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

We were impressed by the floral planters which had been made and painted to blend into the overall design of the business. The innovative hanging basket water planting device demonstrates the enthusiasm of Denis to contribute to In Bloom and present his business at its best to his customers and visitors to Richmond. The window display was attractive, welcoming and with good signage. Denis is an active member of the Richmond In Bloom group working hard to involve the community and demonstrate the advantage to the Town, community and businesses. We could see evidence of this throughout our visit. Mocha is committed to being environmentally responsible - using paper bags, wooden spoons, recycling plastics and using coffee ground on the allotment.

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

- Photographs of year round planting and displays would be helpful to the judges.
- Working with the In Bloom group to incorporate into a history/building trail including the information about the fountain and development of the building.

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## **Paul Harrison Cars, Hutton Cranswick**

**Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Many sheep troughs and planters adorn the business at entrances, forecourt and corners of buildings together with mixed borders around the perimeter fencing. This vast and very varied display really complements what would have been a very large empty space. Everywhere was maintained to a very high standard. The unique Watering System is commendable. Year round Plants and shrubs in the long borders have been taken on board and are maturing well, screening the units around whilst being of great benefit to wildlife and offering visual floral colour.

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

- Carry on supplementing the borders with more climbers to enhance the space. It is always good to promote Yorkshire in Bloom and demonstrate your support for the initiative. Consider plants offering more height in the sheep troughs to give greater structure and design to otherwise good displays.

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## **River House Bed and Breakfast Malham**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The immediate impression at the front was of a beautiful garden which emanated peace and tranquillity and on closer inspection, there were so many varieties of plants to give a succession of colour and interest with surprises in every border. Excellent use was made of the small space both at the front and in the rear courtyard and in response to queries from guests, a brochure of all names of plants shrubs and particularly roses is available.

The hard landscaping, hanging baskets and tubs, used high quality, innovative products of good aesthetics manufactured from recycled tyres.

There is great co-operation with the lengths-man in maintaining the local environment and promoting the local facilities.

The proprietor is a regular exhibitor in the local show and ensures the garden has all year interest with plans for future planting.

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

- Consider placing bee-houses on walls and small bundles of twigs the back of the borders to provide homes for insects and pollinators.
- A wall mounted water butt in the car park or courtyard would facilitate water harvesting.
- A shallow container filled with gravel would provide drinking areas for bees and insects.
- Enhance the heritage of the hotel and create further interest by restoring the wall mounted sign in the car park.
- Further promote Yorkshire in Bloom by displaying award and encouraging neighbouring businesses to enter.

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## **Stable Cottage Bed and Breakfast Richmond**

**Silver**

#### **Overall Impression**

With the old stone walls of the house creating a lovely backdrop the display of plants draws one in to look closer. The variety and number of plants squeezed into a narrow and small space certainly creates an impact and can be seen and enjoyed from the car park. Whilst giving the appearance of a border the plants are in a wide variety of containers. Inviting into the property the gate and yard are enhanced with raised containers standing on the structure housing recycling bins giving. Climbing rose and scented plants add to the atmosphere although this is a shaded area. Many of the planters are a garden in a pot

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

- The variety of containers in size, colour and shape could be grouped in a better way to give a more cohesive design. Fewer larger containers would be more effective by reducing watering and stress on the plants in heat.
- Although plants can be freely rearranged, more thought could go into choice of plants and appropriate plants for different areas. The willow which will grow is not the wisest choice for this site.
- Attention needs to be paid to pruning and maintenance of plants although feeding regime is good.
- Beware of too many large plants raised to height as they would increase the problem of shade in an already shady situation. Try to use varieties which will allow light to penetrate.

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# The Box Tree Restaurant, Ilkley

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

The garden of the Box Tree Restaurant is not big but it most certainly has the wow factor! Even driving along the road, visitors to Ilkley cannot fail to admire this lovely garden. The evergreen framework with its repeated box cones holds the garden together and year round provides a strong element of design. The standard of upkeep in the garden is very good and the colour scheme of the begonia planting complements the garden and is both bright and relaxing, thus the softness of the begonia planting pleasingly compliments the formality elsewhere. The hanging baskets are bright and interesting and the irrigation system for the baskets is a good idea as is the herb garden for kitchen use which is a valuable asset.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider including a bay tree in the herb garden, if space permits.
- Since box is such a major element of the garden, keep watching for signs of any box blight coming in.
- Perhaps label the herbs in the herb garden for the information of people passing in the street.
- Consider further pots of mint if space permits.

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# The Dusty Miller Brighthouse.

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

The hanging basket, barrel and window box displays at the front of the pub certainly had a wow factor.

The displays are supplied and maintained several times a year by a charitable organization giving people a sense of job satisfaction.

All year-round displays are produced with both winter and summer flowering plants.

Community group charity events take place all year-round raising funds for local groups.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue providing good displays which not only look good and smell good but also attract customers and bees.
- Consider using self-watering planters or barrels so that the correct amount of water is given at all times.
- Look into feature plants in some containers which can be easily seen from the road side.
- Ornamental Box plants may need renewing as they get older and occasionally feeding with a slow release fertilizer.
- Keep an eye on the Ash trees to the rear of the car park as they may eventually push the wall over.

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## **The Huddersfield Irish Centre**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The small garden area at the front of the centre is hard surfaced but has been skilfully turned into a colourful display garden. To do this all the plants are in containers which increases the work involved in maintaining the area. The planting this year is on the theme of green, white and gold in recognition of being the Irish centre.

There is a small bug house and water is collected from the roof.

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

- There available area is very well planted and the fences are used for fence baskets, so it is really a case of carry on with the good work.

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## **The Oak Tree Inn, Helperby**

**Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

As one approaches the quite village of Helperby the first site that we behold is the splendid display of hanging baskets from The Oak Tree Inn. Bright, vibrant and colourful the baskets/hayracks sit well with the red brick façade accompanied by well clipped box plants in raised planters add structure and form to the appearance to the Inn. All watered by an automatic irrigation system installed, and changed seasonally to keep that appearance all year round. A weed and litter free clean car park and outside path offer a warm welcome and cared for appearance to any tempted to frequent the establishment.

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

- The herb planters in the Beer garden are now looking tired and would benefit from a spruce up.
- The screen around the car park and raised herb bed would be enhanced with a coat of paint and the herb planters replenished with fresh plants.
- More insight into how to create a greater floral impact maybe learned by visiting other establishments owned from within the Provenance Hospitality group.
- As a first time entry it is great to see the staff take an interest and pride in the appearance of their workplace. Well Done.

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## **The Old White Horse Brasserie**

**Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

On approaching the building you notice the hanging baskets on the outside and then enter a courtyard that is surrounded by fruit vegetables and herbs that are used in the preparation of the food for their customers.

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

- The balsam growing on the river embankment should be removed
- Consideration could be given to restricting a variety of plants and increasing the volume of the remaining plants
- Water harvesting of the roof area of the building could be both economical and environmentally good

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## **The Stansfield Arms**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

The Stansfield Arms has just gone through a major refurbishment which has transformed this late coaching house but still keeping its old charm. The old timber decking has been replaced with recycled composite decking and outdoor lighting.

Good signage invites passers by to promotions throughout the year. Very welcoming restraint on the outskirts of Bradford

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

- Hanging baskets and planters could be started earlier to get the best out of them.
- Use liquid feed to boost them during year.
- Try self watering baskets to reduce maintenance.
- If self watering system not in use have removed or resurrect it for future years.
- Add more sustainable plants to the cart at entrance reducing bedding plants.
- May need to replace cart at some point or carry out repairs.
- Keep replacing herbs in beds and boxes to keep them fresh and get the best out of them.

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## **Waggon and Horses, Todmorden**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

The effort being made by the Waggon and Horses is to be commended. Baskets and planters were excellent and will improve as the season progresses. The new roped deck area is a very good additional feature. Efforts to ensure recycling of materials and the donation of used pots to the local schools is noteworthy. The use of the cart and whisky barrels as planters catch the eye.

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

- The judges look forward to seeing the development of the bee friendly border on the car park which will add further to the submission.

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## York House Richmond

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

The floral hanging baskets and planters at the front of York house are very attractive and reflect the nature of the business and the enthusiasm of it's owner Christine. Planting is year round.

The gardens at the rear are a delight and Christine has managed a difficult and steep site to create many areas all linked to produce a lovely garden.

Sculpture features throughout and seating areas make the most of this garden. Planting is varied including a productive vegetable and fruit garden and wildlife is encouraged throughout. Frogs feature in the pond.

Christine's involvement and commitment to In Bloom is to be commended both in terms of time and donations.

The commission of the wall painting at the side of the building both amuses and delights and adds to the image of the business and Richmond.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Plans for the development of the old play area could successfully incorporate a fernery and stumpery - this would provide an additional feature to the garden and would be attractive to even more wildlife.

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## Yorkshire Country Holidays Richmond

## Gold

### Overall Impression

This interesting site contains a number of holiday cottages linked with a garden which was originally part of John Yorke's Richmond estate, and latterly used as a market garden, and tree nursery before falling into disuse. Photo opportunities abound with site of the Norman Castle on one side and the Culloden Tower on the other.

The huge task of refurbishing the housing and reinstating the walled garden has been a labour of love for Marcia and Dennis and is an ongoing project.

The upper garden which is in proximity to the cottages considers wildlife with wildflower borders, a pond alive with wildlife, a good variety of shrubs, small trees and perennials with well-kept lawn setting the scene for a relaxing atmosphere full of interest.

The lower garden slopes downhill from the herbaceous borders past the abour and parterre planted with roses and wisteria past various beds and another smaller pond across extensive lawns down to a woodland pathway. There are a good variety of fruit and nut trees which are shared with the birds and squirrels love to plant walnuts which spring up in locations round the garden. Hedge cutting takes place after the nesting season and the lower garden provides opportunities for wildlife habitats.

A new resident in the garden is a hedgehog who has a different answer to the problem of slugs.

There are a number of fund raising events which the gardens are used for and it is part of the NGS scheme and the gardens are open to the visitors to the cottages and for community events. There is more than enough to keep anyone happy and busy.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Research appropriate plants for shady areas.
- Prune dead branches from old apple and fruit trees then consider further restorative pruning.
- Retrain young beech tree near lower woodland path to create a feature arch.
- Consider a selection of ferns with varying leaf textures for dry shade under trees.
- Continue to fill gaps in herbaceous borders.

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## Category B2 – Medium Businesses

### Abbeydale Residential Home, Ilkley

**Gold**

#### Overall Impression

It is obvious to any visitor to Abbeydale that every effort is made by dedicated staff to make it a gloriously flowery place for all residents to enjoy. There is definitely a wow factor here and it was wonderful to see it on a lovely summer day. The standard of plantings throughout the site and the health of the plants was impressive, and the massed roses were beautiful. The new bird table is an original idea and provides a valuable focus for the planting in the area. It was pleasing to hear that the use of chemicals is kept to a minimum and to see the use of water butts and having a greenhouse is a valuable idea.

It was impressive to learn how much the residents are able to enjoy doing some of the planting themselves. The planters which consist of individual units which can be planted up indoors is an unusual and valuable feature.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It is a good idea to include familiar, old fashioned planting like sweet peas.
- Where possible include further insect friendly planting on site, especially near seating to bring in butterflies for the enjoyment of residents.
- If space permits consider planting a buddleia to bring in butterflies.

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### Co-op Food Mirfield

**Gold**

#### Overall Impression

Mirfield Co-op is at the heart of many local volunteer groups in the town. Not only is much community funding generated from the store, the corporate community policy means that staff are able to volunteer their time for local causes. Mirfield Co-op staff work with all the local primary schools giving practical and financial help. They are a vital link in the Mirfield in Bloom group and community is at the heart of everything they do. The rockery and planting around the car park gives a good impression as you drive in and the floral baskets and troughs do not disappoint. However, the jewel in this crown is the staff commitment and customer service skills that the co-op team hold. Put together with their enthusiasm and energy this is a Yorkshire in Bloom entry which deserves the highest accolades.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to find suitable plants for the long rockery which surrounds the car park always bearing in mind 'right plant - right place' . Some of the plants which remain from the original landscape scheme, hypericum and ivy, will need close attention if they are to be kept in check.
- Much progress has been made on the Rotary bed and sourcing new plant selections with the help of Tim Grace will see this bed establishing itself over the coming seasons.
- Continue to work on next year's poppy project but take advice about sowing and planting times to maximise the impact.
- The Co-op Critturs Club House is a great attraction on the bank with the materials all collected by appeal on social media. Continue to showcase your work through Facebook, 'Mirfield Matters' and other social media sites.

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## Country Style Foods, Leeds

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

The overall impact of the floral display at the entrance to the building was outstanding with all plants showing exceptional health & vigour. The planting combinations worked effectively to produce a jaw dropping spectacle for the pleasure of both employees & visitors to this well established company.

The continued use of recycled containers as pots is innovative and gives a clue as to the factory's identity and a new partnership with a floral plant supplier can only be of long term benefit to the entry.

The acquirement of the old church building gives more scope to develop and implement floral features and more importantly improve the local street scene & community which is to be applauded!

A great entry worthy of recognition!

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Explore the possibility of harvesting rainwater from the buildings to reduce the need for mains water for irrigation.
- If the tiered planters prove successful outside the newly acquired church building consider improving/replacing the hard standing area immediately outside the building.
- Consider erecting a lectern or similar interpretation panel outside the old church building depicting the history / story of Countrystyle Foods.
- Consider some tiered planters to add variety to the overall scheme outside the main entrance.

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## Hollins Hall, Harrogate

**Gold and Category Winner**

### Overall Impression

Hollins Hall is a retirement village in Hampsthwaite, Harrogate, on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales. At its center is Hollins Hall an impressive example of a late Georgian manor house, with 71 retirement properties and is set in 14 acres of landscaped gardens. As you drive down to the hall you are greeted on both sides by immaculately maintained grounds. Opposite the entrance there is a more formal area of planting, again

immaculately maintained and with the key features of a waterfall and pleached limes. The gardens have been redeveloped by David Hullah, the works have been excellently designed and planned to compliment the site and the Hall. The Residents are encouraged to get involved in creating their own plots with the help of David, who willingly listens to their ideas and implements these and has clearly built up an excellent relationship with the residents and goes that extra mile to ensure the resident's wishes are met.

Tubs are well situated in areas around the Hall to add interest and are well balanced for colour and plant choice. David has also created, as a result of resident's request a vegetable plot, which has proved successful, alongside the vegetable plot is a small orchard and wildlife area which gives a different aspect to the more formal areas. A very big thank you to David for escorting Amanda and myself around the grounds and he should be rightly proud of what he has achieved over the years. When viewing properties on the site the judges both agreed, a major factor for purchasing a property is the immaculately kept grounds.

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

- Continue to explore further the possible extension to the wildlife area at the side of the orchard and leave more areas of mowed grass over to wildlife to reduce maintenance areas
- Consider putting together a management plan for the site detailing the annual maintenance regimen and specific requirements for specialist areas and future plans.

## **Middlethorpe Hall and Spa, York**

**Gold**

#### **Overall Impression**

The guests at Middlethorpe Hall make good use of the splendid grounds, which are also open to National Trust members. The grand formal gardens have been restored and are maintained to a high standard by Head Gardener Andy. In other areas there is a spring garden, a shade garden, a stunning annual border raised from seed and a knot garden. The hotel chef makes good use of the produce from the potager, the tomatoes from the greenhouse, and the apples, pears and greengages from the orchard. The many species trees in the grounds are catalogued in a leaflet and the gardens are mapped out in a guide. Other areas of note are the blossom arch, the surprise of a beautifully planted sunken garden which cannot be seen from the house and a croquet lawn. Wildlife is important at Middlethorpe where they have 27 bird boxes, bug hotels and bees and the park is 95% organic. Areas of grass are left to grow and there is a lake.

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

- Students from Askham Bryan and National Trust volunteers assist in the gardens
- There are plans to sow more wild flowers in the unmown areas
- Themed garden tours and flower arranging workshops are organised in conjunction with RHS
- Deadheading of the spent roses would make the area more attractive

# Oulton Manor, Leeds

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

It was a lovely summer day to visit this lovely place. This is a flowery haven, set in lovely surroundings, sports fields where the residents can sit and watch cricket taking place or children training. This is a place full of flowers and lovely places to sit and enjoy the view.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The impact when arriving at the front path with its bedding, lavender, box hedges and trees creates a lot of impact. The masses of bedding plants are bursting with colour. the use of lavender to help bees and butterflies is impressive. the plants were of good quality in all areas. the hanging baskets were impressive. The quality of the grassed areas was good. The flower bed with concentric rings of colourful begonias is a real statement.
- it is impressive that residents had a say in designing new parts of the gardens.
- Harvesting the lavender for residents to enjoy in their rooms is a good idea. There were many attractive seating areas for resident use.
- The roof gardens for the enjoyment of residents in upper stories and the dementia care unit is a good idea.
- The plans for a greenhouse and raised beds with possible use by residents for growing vegetables are good ideas. The spot planting of grasses and canna lilies is interesting.
- Consider planting buddleia in areas with space to bring in even more butterflies and bees. consider some old fashioned planting, sweet peas with fragrance or snapdragons or asters which may awaken memories from youth.

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# Wetherby Manor Care Home

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

We certainly got the 'Wow' factor when we walked towards the front entrance to Wetherby Manor Care Home, with stunning, immaculate flower beds and hanging baskets greeting residents and visitors.

The garden behind Wetherby Manor has garden seats and tables - all newly re-painted - amongst yet more seasonal beds which overlook a lovely new water feature which is adjacent to the path to give all residents the chance to catch the water as they pass. Wheelchair access is paramount with a long meandering path running through the garden and alongside a superb newly planted Lavender hedge.

All the lawn area, which was destroyed earlier in the year by crows searching for Chafer grubs, has been completely replanted.

There is a new greenhouse which residents can use alongside a herb garden and 2 raised vegetable beds growing potatoes, leeks, spring cabbage, radishes, rhubarb, strawberries and gooseberries - all used in the kitchens.

Residents raised funds for the improvements and delightful painted plant-pots from the summer fair are dotted around this area - this is only one of many social activities on offer, some of which attract Wetherby residents and are all advertised along with garden updates in the Home's colourful, monthly newsletter.

Butterflies and bees are attracted by the beautiful Buddleia tree, all the lavender and herbs in the garden plus sweet peas grown from seed and planted by a resident. Wetherby Manor must be a wonderful place to live and congratulations are due to all concerned.

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

- There are really very few areas for consideration - perhaps you could consider (or show us) water butts and composting - an excellent entry - Well Done

## **West Park Hotel , Harrogate**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Planted boxes at front of hotel were excellent with good colour combination of blue petunias and pink flowering ivy leaf geraniums. Very little space at front of hotel to carry out any further planting. Directly onto a major route into Harrogate

Courtyard at rear of hotel very pleasant light and airy broken up with planters and screening making a pleasant area for visitors to sit outside away from busy highway traffic and good for judges to see.

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

- Check entry prior to judging, make sure everything working and plants in good condition.
- Consider screening adjoining wall with planters as with other areas of courtyard. Specimen trees in situ will make good scenes as they get older and break up the large expanse of concrete wall they are up against.
- Consider smaller planters at front of hotel but appreciate very little space available to work in due to hotel leading directly onto main street.
- Good collection of trees and shrubs in Courtyard planters but do not overplant. A good entry with potential

## **Category B3 – Large Businesses**

## **Airdale Shopping Centre Keighley.**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The judges were very impressed by the hanging baskets and planters on the outside of the building as many people travel by bus, the floral displays are the first thing they see as they arrive in Keighley. Near the offices on the top floor of the centre there is a safe area of plant displays which are maintained by different schools whose children are encouraged to participate in gardening activities. We also saw some lovely pot Scare Crows they had made for a recent competition. All the plants looked really healthy and were growing well at the time of judging. The selection of plants in the covered staff area were looking well, as it is difficult to get the correct plants to grow in these conditions. The centre has an ongoing maintenance programme renewing lighting, reusing rainwater and keeping public places looking inviting to use. Shop occupancy levels are high and the whole centre is a pleasure to be in. Waste is recycled and most of it sold to cover costs

and a new compost recycling scheme is being introduced for the hanging baskets at the end of the season.

The forward thinking centre manager and staff encourage community groups to hold events in the centre throughout the year, among the events are the plant sale which raises money for Keighley in bloom and events for young people.

It was a pleasure to visit Airdale Shopping Centre from beginning to end of our visit.

The public areas were very clean, light and airy and the outdoor of the building bedecked with over a hundred well planted and maintained hanging baskets and troughs.

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

- Continue to keep the centre up to date and in good repair.
- Consider recycling the hanging basket compost to improve soil conditions outside, you may find it more beneficial to use new professional potting compost to plant up new baskets.
- Continue to encourage Community groups and schools to visit the centre where they can be encouraged to grow plants and enjoy gardening throughout their lives.

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## **Crystall Peaks Shopping Mall and Retail Park**

**Gold and Joint  
Category Winner**

#### **Overall Impression**

This is a truly impressive site to visit. With over 40 acres, the team work hard to maintain this beautiful area, and to say that it is just a 'shopping centre' is a little bit of an understatement.

With areas including a wildflower area, stumpery, rockery, the wonderful living wall on the Eastern entrance and very well thought out colour co-ordinated baskets and planters help to create a truly enjoyable experience to everyone's retail outing.

With an area for recycling all the green waste resulting in usable compost for the area, reused wood chippings for the site, hedgehog houses, a wormery and along with, amazingly, beehives on the rooftop. The wildlife on site was evident with the wonderful site of nesting swifts swooping in and around the site. The team undertook a great deal of research to encourage the birds onto the site and it has obviously paid off. Young Kestrels had just flown the nest, another achievement for the team, and one which was evident on the day by the proud comments from the team who escorted the judge around the site.

With strategically placed interpretation boards placed on various areas around the centre, the team continue to work and encourage other local community groups, by engaging in local projects.

With a small team of very dedicated gardeners lead by Steve they have created a wonderful place to visit - inspirational.

To all the team, well done!

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

- Be proud of what you have achieved by placing banners in the centre point of the shopping centre, letting your shoppers know of the different areas around the site. Numerous shoppers will use the same entrance on each shopping experience and may not get the opportunity to see the other entrances around the site.

## Flemingate Shopping Centre

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

This modern shopping centre not far from Beverley's railway station fits in well with the old historic town, allowing views of the town's wonderful Minster. Flemingate is vibrant and busy. Pleasing to see most retail space taken up in today's uncertain business climate. Colourful hanging baskets can be seen along all the walkways outside the shops. Good planting around the centre which is well maintained and good to see how local schools are involved in designing and planting certain beds. Although artificial grass can be seen at the front of the centre it is used for large events and children's play, and as it's well-maintained does not detract from other features. One other feature the centre has which many residents may not know are two healthy bee hives on top of the building busily pollinating flowers in your urban gardens.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to work with Communities and schools on projects around centre.
- Good to see events and entertainment in Beverley supported by Flemingate centre.
- Pleasing to see such an area as Flemingate giving so much to the community of Beverley and the thought that has gone into this shopping area.

## Fox Valley Shopping Centre

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

On a pleasant sunny day we were warmly welcomed by Medi, Claire, Brett and a very smart red-coated beagle to Fox Valley, built on the site of the Samuel Fox steelworks 3 years ago, where we discovered what a delightful experience shoppers are treated to when they visit the Centre. There are evergreen beds around to boundary of the site at one side with a delightful wildflower area on the slope at the other and trees and evergreen planting around the parking bays providing a perfect backdrop to the 26 large planters filled with Buxus, lavender, herbs and seasonal planting - all encouraging insects and bees. The on-site florist has planted 96 hanging baskets and cafes and restaurants have large planters with olive trees, herbs and seasonal plants and there is a compost area. The new independent quarter is planted with cherry trees, lawns planted by the Brownies and floral borders complementing a wonderful roundabout with a statue of Samuel Fox carrying his trademark umbrella, which also forms the design for the roof of one of the restaurants. A local artist has painted a huge mural and old photographs and huge hoardings show the pride still felt in the site's industrial heritage.

For shoppers enjoyment there is a Victorian style bandstand, fountains, a large screen showing sports events and a huge green giraffe sourced from Chelsea Flower Show. There is a weekly market and band concerts as well as Farmers, Craft and a planned Vegan market. Extensive publicity advertises the many events held here such as the Easter Garden Lover's fair with art and plant pot painting competitions and the Christmas lights switch on.

Fox valley has student Ambassadors on alternate summer weekends handing out the weekly newsletter, fund raise for Bluebell Valley and is supported by volunteers from the Steel Valley project. The complex was immaculately maintained in keeping with the imitation RollsRoyce golf buggy and its uniformed driver - surely the ultimate shopping experience for shoppers who are chauffeured around Fox Valley. Well done to everyone concerned - a wonderful entry.

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

- The excellent brochure would be helpful to judges before their visit.
- Perhaps there could be a competition for children to design small posters publicising events and Yorkshire in Bloom.
- Also information boards on the wild flower area and possibly a bug hotel would emphasise the site's obvious concern for the environment.

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## **Nidd Hall, Harrogate**

**Gold and Joint  
Category Winner**

### **Overall Impression**

This was a privilege to judge on the day and with Head Gardner Harvey, with his obvious enthusiasm and clear enjoyment in his work. With such a small team, it is remarkable what has been achieved year on year.

The grounds have hidden gardens around each corner creating a varied landscaping delight. Harvey's dedication to wildlife and leaving sections to nature works extremely well with all wildlife catered for. With bug hotels, bird boxes including a Tawney Owl box, all extremely well managed. It was also very encouraging that no chemicals are used on the site, leaving nature to take care of itself with careful maintenance from Harvey and his team.

All across the site the planting schemes were colourful and very well maintained and planned to suit their locations, again with nature not too far from Harvey's thoughts regarding the plant selection for pollinators and scents around the bench locations.

A must start to explore the gardens is the view from the terrace of the boxed hedging and more formal gardens with its magnificent vista's across the valley. All grassed areas were manicured to a high standard with all hard surfaces in very good condition.

It is quite clear from the judging day that the residents regard the standards of the gardens as one of the factors in returning each year.

Harvey and his team are always looking at new creative ways to utilise parts of the grounds and its natural environment to create interesting themes throughout and with the clear support from the General Manager Nidd Hall will continue to receive all the accolades it deserves. With the very high standards Harvey and his team present we only feel it necessary to highlight their achievements with very little considerations.

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

- There are some magnificent individual specimens of trees throughout the grounds
- and we would recommend individual Interpretation Boards to highlight these for guests.

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# Rogerthorpe Manor

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

Situated within rolling farm land, Rogerthorpe welcomes the visitor as soon as you enter through the gateway. The immaculately maintained gardens and grounds are a credit to Vic and his dedication over the years, to providing beautiful floral displays, cosy corners, groomed open lawns and original features (stone arches , seating areas and the folly) around the hotel for visitors and guests to enjoy. All this, providing a stunning backdrop for events, weddings and celebrations throughout the year.

There's a generous mix of seasonal and sustainable planting around the gardens of the hotel, from the wall baskets, planters, mangers, shrub beds and mature trees, all offering quiet spaces and wonderful photo opportunities. The mixed planters around the raised seating area outside the Jacobean are of note, and the wildlife area to the front of the site with a "5 star" bug hotel, adds charm as well as biodiversity, and guides the eye to the wider borrowed landscape of the fields beyond.

All communal areas and car parks are extremely well maintained, and it was a pleasure to visit.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Difficult to suggest improvements that would be sympathetic to the building, and it's good to know that the management team see the gardens as important as the hotel offer, as the grounds definitely give the site the wow factor.
- Maybe consider the Hotels awarding winning credentials at Yin B, in the gardens and pub area.

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# Rudding Park, Harrogate

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

Rudding Park is a privately owned luxury hotel set in 300 acres of landscaped gardens and woodland in which the driveway and parking areas are set. The Borders are set with beautiful permanent planting, creating a peaceful and relaxing atmosphere which enhance the beauty of the whole entry.

The kitchen garden is really interesting and provides many varieties of fruit, vegetables, herbs and edible flowers. The gardeners work very closely with the top class chefs from the hotel enabling them to create all their own very special dishes. Visitors are encouraged and are provided with a very informative leaflet. The variety and number of insects and habitats demonstrates the success of this area to consider wildlife.

The planting around the hotel is well considered for the benefit of the guests and to enhance the outdoor seating areas whilst fitting in with the wider landscape which houses a number of very special rhododendrons.

Recycling and green management is important and the newer spa and leisure area has been designed to recycle water and be efficient.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider interpretation boards to identify heritage trees and specialty Rhododendrons.
- Signage; a clear welcome notice to the kitchen garden together with interpretation boards would add to guest appreciation.
- A pond area would also add to the biodiversity and interest.
- Sadly there is a problem with some young yews which may be a result of last year's drought conditions, hopefully they may recover.
- Keeping a photo record of the many bulbs when flowering in Spring would be interesting to see.

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## Sheffield Forgemasters

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

This garden is a green and floral oasis in the middle of the architectural back drop of this impressive site dating back to the 1800's.

The garden is bordered by trees with a mixture of beds containing, shrubs, perennials and varieties of grasses providing a colourful display throughout. The garden has been well designed to follow the flow of the paths and gives you a different aspect of the garden as you walk around, especially from the bridge. The added bonus to the garden, and blends excellently into the site is the pond area with its two ducks, which I believe are now permanent residents.

This is a tranquil area for the employees to enjoy and has seating throughout and suggests you are somewhere else rather than in the middle of this renowned steel works. It was encouraging that improvements from last year's judge's suggestions have been implemented and shows willingness to continue to improve this site and make the small changes needed that would bring this up to a Gold standard site.

My thanks to Julie and Andrew for providing a very pleasant visit and a totally unexpected surprise.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to add to the bird boxes already in place and possibly add a feeding station to attract further species adding to the wildlife habitat.
- Continue to mulch beds where possible to help with weed suppressant due to the reduction down to one gardener to help with maintenance.
- Continue to improve the grassed areas back to a good standard to help with scoring in future judging (I appreciate the drought conditions from previous years did not help)
- Re-stain the benches to bring them back to a good standard and treat the decking and the wooden sections with a darker stain, which would give a good visual aspect to the planted areas.
- Again, I appreciate that the site has only one gardener and that jud's comments can be implemented over a well-managed plan over the coming years.

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## Tankersley Manor

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

As soon as you enter the driveway and car Park of Tankersley Manor the high quality of the landscape is evident. The well pruned evergreens are now a major feature of the hotel, as are the summer hanging baskets and well-kept lawns. The use of bedding plants in appropriate places make a lovely feature and the clean and well maintained hard landscaped areas are a credit to everyone. The well maintained and sympathetically designed buildings go well together to advertise the high quality of this hotel.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The efficient use of energy resources and re-cycling are to be highly commended as is the work of the outdoor gardening team who are busy pruning and shaping the different coloured evergreens which are a main feature of the hotel giving year round colour and shapes and textures ideal for the background of wedding photographs.
- The use of winter flowering hanging baskets could brighten up the main entrance during the winter.
- Photographs of seasonal spring bulbs and other seasonal flowering shrubs would be very helpful for judging in future years so that the extent of year-round colour can be assessed.
- The introduction of a small wild flower area in an appropriate position within the grounds would be a huge asset with perhaps a small sign to explain the area to the guests.
- Continue to keep the landscaped areas well maintained which will be a benefit for the guests throughout the year.

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## Woolshops - Halifax

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

The 'Woolshops' shopping centre certainly added to the overall well-kept appearance of the town and added many unique features and initiatives to create both a commercial and sustainable development. Under the management company Savills Jason Gregg was delighted to show the judges around the centre, the quality of the floral features throughout was impressive as was the recycling processes that are carried out on a daily basis. The modern flow of units flows seamlessly into older historic properties which have obvious development and commercial opportunities.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider displaying historical information on display boards/lecterns highlighting the Woolshops history/importance at strategically located points.
- Consideration should be given to utilise wall space to grow 'Green Walls' this would certainly achieve a wow factor and enhance the green credentials of the entry.
- Replacement of the wooden planters should be accelerated with consideration given to self-watering units.

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## Market Cross Shopping Centre Selby

**Silver Gilt**

### Overall Impression

The centre has been owned and developed by the same landlords for twenty to twenty five years. We were meet by Alison who showed us round the centre, including the central area that is used for a program of community events over the whole year. The whole site was very clean and enhanced with 33 well grown and well maintained hanging baskets, other small areas of planting area also in place. There are plans in place to continue enhancement and development to the centre including the construction of a green wall. Congratulations to every one involved with enhancing the shopping experience in Selby

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- When possible develop and construct the bug hotel, consider the possibility of an interpretation board as to what may be expected to occupy the facility.
- A couple of the small seasonal areas of planting had been recently done if possible carry out planting a little earlier to gain most time from the investment

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## Category B4 – Tourist Attractions

## Beverley Racecourse

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

The Racecourse is sited on the outskirts of historic Beverley surrounded by beautiful countryside. The course and its surroundings are well maintained and a lot of work has gone into improving facilities on the course. The parade ring has recently been refurbished as well as the hospitality areas. Colourful and subtle planting has been carried out and enhances the course making the visitor's experience even better. Good use of shrubs in surrounding areas with the incorporation of seating areas. As well as racing other events go on at the course throughout the year. A good venue to come to and can only get better as the site is developed. Well done to all the ground staff for their excellent work on site.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Future development of the main stands will only improve this entry.
- Beware incorporating climbers near seating areas. Make sure they are not too vigorous and invasive.
- Consider replacing old cherry trees along perimeter with more suitable trees for the site. More upright and less spreading. Possibly a row of one species rather than individual trees.

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## Overall Impression

Wonderful visit to this “Victorian” period garden, the plants are thoroughly researched prior to changing or redeveloping any planting scheme, to retain as true to period as possible. From the formal bedding schemes on the rear lawns, to the many gardens rooms around the site, the visitor is transported back to a time of the Victorians love for collecting and creating out of the ordinary features.

With a work force of 5 permanent staff and 40 enthusiastic volunteers these gardens are a credit to all involved, and its inspiring to know that the staff are consulted on yearly planting schemes and are fully involved with plant selection for the formal bedding schemes; this years on a tropical theme with hot reds and oranges, banana’s and cannas, providing a stunning display for the visitor. The gardeners now being able to produce their own seasonal bedding on site, will give the advantage of being able to grow plants that are a little more usual, for future schemes.

Around every corner is a new garden room to see, with view points and intriguing buildings along the way, from the fernery, the herbaceous borders, formal rose garden with its original cast iron arches, to the more relaxed rose dell, and “privy” garden, with its scented plant theme, all set off by a fabulous back drop of mature trees. The newly renovated Target Range and its mosaic planting are stunning and draw the visitor in to explore. There are areas set aside for biodiversity, the pet cemetery being of a more relaxed maintenance with habitat piles, and the side lawns left longer, and cut less frequently to provide room for bee orchids and other wildflowers and grasses to encourage bees and other pollinating insects.

The gardens have something to offer for everyone; for the gardeners, plant choices and combinations, to the history of the gardens, to pleasant walks, places to picnic and just enjoy being in lovely surrounding, to active play spaces for children to burn off some energy, all without distraction from the historical site, and areas to relax and have a cup of tea, alongside events throughout the year, it’s a place for all the family.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Talks with a local bee society and the possibility of introducing hives within the garden, will be an interesting addition to the site, and the potential for Brodsworth’s own honey.
- It will be interesting to watch the further renovation improvements in the Target Range garden and the building.
- The introduction of guided garden tours and the provision of buggies to assist those with mobility issues to access the wider gardens will enhance the” inclusivity” offer.
- The introduction of edibles and herbs in the cafe garden, is an interesting addition, and maybe some interpretation here for future, Victorian receipts for seasonings, puddings and bakes maybe

# Knaresborough Castle

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

This historic site situated overlooking the River Nidd is extremely well presented with lovely gardens. The castle dating back to the 1100s was an important part of the Knaresborough Forest and has played a significant role throughout history. It had been well maintained with very good information and facilities for visitors.

There are a lot events and activities taking place throughout the year for all groups of people. The castle is lit up at night which emphasises its position and importance to Knaresborough. Publicity and information are both very good. The grounds and gardens were very clean and tidy with no evidence of litter, graffiti etc. The floral displays are excellent with appropriate choices for the different areas of display. The pathways are clean with lovely neat edges.

The War Memorial is truly exceptional and well cared for with a beautifully hand polished brass plaque and stunning floral displays.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The main areas are all excellent but the growth on the rocks needs some attention otherwise this entry maintained a very high standard.
- The “Design a Flower Bed” was very good in getting children involved but it might be an idea to get them to help with the planting up
- The moat area is in need of attention and height reductions in certain areas. Certain interpretation boards are in need of cleaning/updating.
- It is important to maintain these very high standards and continue with publicity to ensure the castle and its grounds continue to be on visitors “To Do” list

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# KWVR

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

A warm welcome greeted us on arrival at all of the stations, Its was a pleasure to meet the different people who are involved in making this an amazing, well run and colourful gem of a visitor attraction with award winning public facilities.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider less cultivation of some of the more inaccessible areas, including track sides and the steep banks opposite the platforms leaving it to return to a more natural look.
- Which save work for the volunteers and encourage more wildlife.

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## Lister Park

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

Lister Park is a historic Park which has benefited from a substantial Heritage lottery grant.

The park and its buildings are well maintained with a number of interesting features including a Boating lake, Art Gallery and Cafeteria. The botanical garden and geological trail are of particular interest.

It was pleasing to see that Lister Park was one of the few Park that still maintained formal bedding

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It was sad to learn that there was no friends group for the Park and if one could be formed it may be helpful although it is understood that this may be difficult,
- The biodiversity of the park could be enhanced to the benefit of the whole area.
- Consideration could be given to more recycling and water harvesting from the roofs of the buildings.

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## Newby Hall and Gardens

## Gold

### Overall Impression

On a warm summer afternoon we marvelled at the wonderful array of colour and heady perfume at almost every turn, as we were treated to a wonderful tour of Newby Hall Gardens by Stuart.

With stunning vistas and widely differing themes it is impressive how the garden links together seamlessly.

The famous double herbaceous border, one of the longest in the country looked resplendent with delphiniums, being just one of many stars of the show.

Now attracting in the region of 140,000 visitors per year, the garden has evolved to become a splendid tourist attraction. There are plenty of non-gardening related attractions to enjoy alongside the hall itself, including a delightful miniature train, the bear house, dolls house, adventure playground and restaurant. There really is something for everyone at Newby Hall whatever the weather.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Much of what Newby Hall does is excellent and we note the garden is constantly evolving. Keep up the very good work!
- We feel a dedicated area for fruit and vegetables would further increase variety. This could be a potager. Or could a community group or school help design and plant a bed?
- Although marketing of the garden is very good, we would have liked to have seen more awareness of the Yorkshire in Bloom campaign.

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# Oakwell Hall

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

Oakwell hall estate continues to develop in ways to support visitors (300,000 Plus) and at the same time to engage new visitors. Examples of this are the construction of a new mountain biking trail, constructed with the co-operation of a number of groups. New information boards have been installed providing information about the hall and estate, it is hoped also to renew the wildlife information panels when funds allow.

A friends group, volunteers and a lot of activities for young people both within school visits and as events go on making the site very busy and exceptional value for money when costs are compared to visitor numbers.

Plans within the council to develop volunteering and cultural offers see the hall and estate well placed for the future.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- should funding ever allow an explanation board about the garden style and wild flower meadows could be useful.
- The cat mint will need some maintenance to achieve the results required to edge the border in a spectacular way.
- One is unsure if advertising the varieties of Yorkshire apples planted would be a good thing or not , local knowledge would need to consider how they could be explained without detriment to the plants.

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# Ripon Racecourse

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

Ripon racecourse is known as 'Yorkshire's Garden Racecourse' and with very good reason! The setting is superb and the floral displays are eye-catching with a definite 'wow' factor. The piece de resistance is the two phone boxes which are festooned with colour. The hardstanding areas are very clean and fences, signage and benches are all in a very nice and cared for condition.

The gardening team led by Carl successfully find practical solutions to the everyday challenges of running a busy racecourse with up to seventeen race meetings per year. The racecourse uses an impressive 20-30 tonnes of compost per year and also has a keen environmental awareness.

As you'd expect there is a keen horse theme throughout and even the weather vane has a horse in the middle! Ripon Racecourse is an example to all of what can be achieved with dedication and hard work.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The overall standard of horticulture at the racecourse is excellent. Keep up the consistently good work that you are doing.
- Consider using a greater selection of bedding plants in selected key areas, to complement the trailing begonia's, African marigolds and other such delights.
- Try to make a greater mention to the judges of the impressive environmental aspects, such as the adjacent lake run by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and things like the green roof.

## Scampton Walled Garden

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

We were delighted to visit this lovely place on a lovely afternoon. Clearly the garden is lucky to have such knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff. We were lucky enough to arrive on a wonderful day and see the garden at it's best. The heritage of the garden is unique and we were pleased to see how it is being cared for and will be into the future. The range of planting in the Plantsman's Walk is outstanding the cloud planting of box makes a striking contrast to the more relaxed planting around it. The use of ornamental grass is original and makes a bold statement which contrasts with the casual planting in other areas. Throughout the gardens the soft colour scheme and gentle planting is serene and peaceful. We were impressed by the importance given to providing for wildlife around the site. The policy of leaving seed heads uncut till late winter or early spring is a valuable one, and allowing community groups to enjoy using the cut flower garden and lay a part in organising flowers for the tea room is an excellent idea and the range of courses and activities is impressive.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider the possibility of an information board giving details of the designer.
- Consider the possibility of information boards in the various garden areas making people aware of the idea behind the design.
- Perhaps it might be possible to display and update information on wildlife present and seasonal highlights.
- If possible it might be a good idea to make a priority of topiary clipping as this will do a lot to emphasise the strong, clean lines of the design.
- Consider increasing the amount of seating in the parkland.

## Sutton Park Stately Home

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

An excellent plantsman with an eye for detail, Head Gardener Michal has restored and redeveloped these grounds, which have all year interest, to a high standard. The playground and picnic area has a shady border, there are ornamental and wildlife ponds with appropriate planting, a fernery, a laburnum walk, croquet laws, specimen trees and an orchard which includes fig trees. The terraces in front of the house are attractively planted and were used in the filming of the TV series Gentleman Jack. Without seeing the before and after pictures of the grounds, it is difficult to appreciate the improvements made.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The swathes of lavender which take over from the Spring bulbs make an impressive entrance although the car park and separately run café areas could be enhanced.
- All paths, the ice house and terraces are well maintained including grass paths in the wildflower meadow
- Wildlife is important to Sutton Park and there are log piles for hedgehogs, bird boxes and areas left wild.
- Children from the local primary school are invited in and help in the kitchen garden, which may benefit from labelling
- The park has events such as park runs, horse shows and spring walks which are publicised on local radio and social media.

## The Forbidden Corner, leyburn

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

Throughout the amusement site the planting complements the natural environment and utilises trees and shrubs to screen the tunnels and follies which adds to the sense of adventure and discovery. Where planting schemes have become tired new planting has been chosen for 'right plant right place' and there is a willingness to introduce new ideas including a wildflower area and extensive bulb planting. Plants are well maintained and of good quality and there are plans in place for further changes.

Water conservation and recycling is impressive with all the water used being collected in huge tanks to water the garden areas and for use in the water features around the Forbidden Corner.

It was good to see the stained glass window from the local Carlton Chapel being reclaimed for use in the new tower. The new picnic and play area is a great addition and once again appropriate planting is being established around the area.

The encouragement of wildlife in the herb garden area which includes bird feeders and bat boxes has proved successful and rewarded with the sound of song birds.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider the use of leaflets or labels to identify plants; this could be in the form of a numbered guide. Deep Secret Rose for example.
- The new play area could be enhanced with the inclusion of equipment to explore sounds and speaker tubes.
- Maintaining the Forbidden Corner and Tupgill Park is a huge undertaking and since a previous visit the improvements made with the increased staffing levels are evident, so much more could be achieved with additional regular staff.
- Keeping a photographic record of changes and of year round colour would be useful and of interest to judges.
- Consider encouraging further public participation in recycling.

## The Himalayan Garden, Ripon

**Gold and Joint  
Category Winner**

### Overall Impression

The Himalayan Garden is a truly beautiful and amazing place. The dedication, talent and enthusiasm of the staff, together with the impressive commitment and generosity of the owners have produced something really special at this beautiful site. Visiting it on a lovely summer day was a delightful experience. The conservation and propagation of rare rhododendrons was very impressive, as is the range and variety of planting throughout the site made for a really unique visitor's experience. The use of art in the landscape with original sculptures really added to the beauty of the landscape, augmented with the many feature buildings from around the world were a thrill to visit. The care and consideration given to conserving and providing for wildlife were obvious everywhere.

The hard landscaping and paths were maintained to a high level, and the use of recycled materials in making seats and features was pleasing, so was the efforts to make as much of the gardens as possible wheelchair accessible. This ongoing effort is really fulfilling a need.

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

- The maps given to visitors is a good idea but signposts would be of great value throughout the site.
- It was good to see the children's play areas. Continue to develop features like this where appropriate in the gardens.
- Consider raised beds or containers of scented herbs around the tea room and picnic area to provide scent and butterflies for diners to enjoy.
- Continue to expand the labelling of the plants.

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## **The Middleton Railway Trust, Leeds**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

What an experience this was, the passion of the team is absolutely infectious. the history and heritage is wonderful. Well organised, fantastic interpretation. The planting around the station is wonderful, well cared for and all adds to the overall experience. They work closely with local community groups and have regular education days or schools. The volunteers are varied in age and experience, the volunteers do everything from manning the shop to driving the locomotives. Newly planted area in front of the entrance work really well.

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

- Add more planters and succession planting across the station.
- look to have extra help with the planted areas from other volunteers/local school groups.
- Continue to add wildlife friendly areas, Bug hotels/ bird boxes etc.

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## **Thorp Perrow Arboretum, Bedale**

**Gold and Joint  
Category Winner**

### **Overall Impression**

Visiting Thorp Perrow on what turned out to be a beautiful summer day was a delight. The welcome was warm. the initial impact of the site, amazing and the knowledge and dedication of the staff truly impressive. The scale of what is being taken care of is amazing. Five national plant collections and 51 Champion Trees. The care for wildlife was obviously of vital importance and it was pleasing to see the trouble taken to provide enjoyment to child visitors Seeing the Catherine Parr oak and hearing of the skills being used to preserve it was amazing., also the conservation of ancient daffodil varieties is a valuable undertaking. The ongoing work to produce new maps, trails and catalogue is well worthwhile and It was great to hear of the many and varied events throughout the year and the different organisations who have worked with Thorp Perrow. It is pleasing that the site has committed and talented volunteers and a Friend's group, and to hear about the ongoing work with schools, and the tremendous importance of protecting and observing wildlife of all kinds at the site.

Aided by the planting for insects and birds around the Mound, and an amazing Bog Garden.

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

- Signposts, or 'you are here' boards with a map at strategic points would be a big help to visitors.
- Perhaps an interpretation board with the history of the site would be valuable at the lake by the house.
- Consider information boards about the wildlife on site around the Mound area.
- Consider information boards near some of the champion. Trees, such as the Catherine Parr oak.
- Consider planting with hazel or viburnum tinus as early nectar sources.
- Continue to develop the education garden.

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## **Tupgill Estate, Leyburn**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

The entrance and drive leading up to the restaurant and wedding venue areas are well maintained and have been enhanced by a new 'Welcome' feature on the roundabout. The wedding venue area with terrace and lawns surrounded by borders is well used but free from litter and well maintained. The mix of herbaceous planting with roses and shrubs gives year round interest. Beautiful stone urns and planters on the terrace were planted with annuals. The area around the holiday cottages is inviting with well planted baskets adding colour.

The Estate is some 500 acres, the smaller area judged is well managed with sympathetic work on-going to carry out wall restoration under the Hedgerow and Boundaries Grant. There are areas of wild bird seed cover next to the woodlands. The lake is regularly cleaned and new seating has been placed around the lake with bulb and perennial planting also undertaken. Consideration has been given to the local equine community with a new equine walkway being created around the Estate but separated by fencing.

A new wooden cabin has been created in the woodland area between The Forbidden Corner and the Tupgill Estate, this is a great resource which could be used as a picnic area on wet days, particularly for school trips. Plans to utilise it for education and recreation are exciting.

Again a good example of water recycling with all the water used to maintain the Estate being rainwater collected in huge tanks and being recycled.

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

- Planting schemes could be unified to fit in with the natural surroundings, so a little less formal planting around the house and in the tubs around the cafe.
- The introduction of some pale coloured plants in the stone urns on terrace would link with the herbaceous borders and give more impact.
- The resources available such as the woodland and lake area, and particularly the new wooden building lend themselves to areas of educational opportunity.
- The addition of a wildlife pond may also be considered and a stumpery would create an interesting feature.
- Consider planting shrubs or small trees with strong autumn colour in the area above the lake to extend interest.
- Clear interpretation boards could be placed strategically to highlight interaction with wildlife observation.

## York Racecourse

## Gold

### Overall Impression

As one would arrive in the members car park and traverse through to the parade ring you know that you are on a journey through what is one of England's major premier racecourses. The grounds and gardening staff do an amazing job in showcasing the course to the nation with its amazing seasonal floral displays, and superb lawned and grassed enclosures. Visiting straight after a race meeting, it was unbelievable to see the absence of litter, and any trappings of 29,000 racegoers two days before.

The use of herbaceous, sustainable and evergreen planting around the site is commendable and a delight to see. The quality of the planting and maintenance of the displays, not just around the parade ring, but within the herbaceous borders, stands balconies, hospitality areas and even planted litter bins is a testament to the skill and dedication of Zac and his small team. A pleasure to visit and be shown round such a clean and floral environment. Well Done

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Possibly consider the addition of more green topiary structures into the barrier displays.
- Great to hear that the staff participate in 'Give and Gain' days within the community, please continue with this, and perhaps pull the community into the racecourse with perhaps an open day or working with local schools and giving tours around.
- The horticultural ethos and maintenance programme demonstrates a great understanding of biodiversity with floral planning and design. Continue in this manner with future projects and incorporation of further plant variety within your schemes.

## York Treasurers House

## Gold

### Overall Impression

Very well presented and structured garden. The principle colours of blue and white shone through with a good mix of permanent and seasonal planting. The volunteers should be very proud of their efforts. The raised viewing areas are commendable giving interesting views of the garden.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Strengthen the interpretation.
- Review the accessibility to the gardens.

## Yorkshire Lavender, Terrington

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

This delightful garden evokes all the senses and it is no wonder that many photoshoots take place here.

The sensory garden has scented and tactile flowers and a wide range of unusual herbs which self-seed and are propagated on site. There are waves of all different types of lavenders of various colours from which the oil is extracted off site then returned to produce all kinds of lavender related goods including edible products. Plants are on sale here including hanging baskets of lavender. Lavender and herbs are used in the cafe. Head gardener Julia is always ready to further develop the grounds and natural pond is being developed, pony tail grass is used for informal hedging and a fabulous bug hotel has been made by a member of staff.

The undulating meadows allow visitors to sit and admire the superb views of the surrounding countryside. There is a mirror pond, an ever-developing imaginative children's play area and sculptures depict a complete cricket match.

Workshops are held in willow weaving, art and hanging basket making and there are mint weekends. I saw owner Nigel giving a talk to a group on the growing and propagation of lavender

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Perhaps a few more signposts or a map included on the leaflet would ensure that people visit all areas.

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## Category C10 – Charitable Establishments

### Barnsley Hospice

**Gold and Joint  
Category Winner**

### Overall Impression

What a lovely site and a fabulous team of volunteers. Thank you to Paul, Terry and Steve for showing me round. It is also good to hear that the number of volunteers is expanding. The entrance and front of the building are enhanced by beautiful hanging baskets and planters. The sensory garden in the courtyard next to the Limes unit provides a lovely tranquil place to sit with an interesting selection of plants. The artwork contributed by visitors to the site also enhanced the area.

The new greenhouse is a fabulous addition and already looks as if it has always been there. It will no doubt be put to good use.

Planting around the site fills every corner with year round colour providing tranquil seating spaces and views from every room. This is a beautiful site where it is clear to see the thought and care which goes into enhancing the experience of the visitors and users.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The sensory garden could be further enhanced with interpretive signs suggesting how to appreciate the sensory features. Smell the Lavender Listen to the water
- The new wooden planters built by the caretakers are a great addition. It would be good to see more of these and the older clay pots refurbished or replaced.
- I noticed a Mill Stone tucked round the back of the shed. This would make a lovely water feature.

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## **Grow with CASE**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

Grow with CASE is a hands-on horticultural training programme for students of CASE, a Hull based charity supporting adults with learning and other disabilities.

Since last year's visit plot 1, the productive area, has acquired an apiary and the vegetables in the raised beds are now identified with attractive pictorial labels drawn by one of the students. An abundance of vegetables were growing here, much of which is used in the kitchen back at the main training site. In plot 2 the themed area had an art installation in the form of a jigsaw with a relevant 'message'. The pond had been cleared and plans are in place to rejuvenate this area. This plot provides a calm and restful area for the students. Plot 3 acquired two years ago continues to develop with the building of a fruit cage, three raised beds and an on-going project to provide seating using painted old tyres.

At the time of the visit students were looking forward to their Open Day at the end of the month when fellow allotmenters are invited to join the group for coffee and cake.

It was a great pleasure to meet up with Matt, Sally and their enthusiastic group of trainees once again.

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

- It was good to see the on-going development of Plot 3. All being well, the bottle green house will be finished by next year and being put to good use.
- The apiary is a new addition to the facilities at the allotment. I am sure the group will have thought of this, but in due course it might be nice to have some interpretation of the life of bees.
- Still on the subject of interpretation, the cleared and rejuvenated pond would also be another location where some information on the insects and animals likely to be seen would be of benefit to the students.

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## **High Green Methodist Church**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The Judges were impressed by the warm friendly welcome they received before undertaking the tour of the church grounds. The Church grounds have several grass areas that are immaculately maintained, a wide variety of plants and shrubs, a vegetable area and a wildflower section. This is a credit to the two members of the in Bloom group who carry out the maintenance of the grounds. It was nice to hear that the in Bloom group continually strive to improve the area all year round and are constantly looking at new ways and plants to achieve this even though all the beds/ borders were already full of

colour with good plant quality and selection, as well as being weed free. The planting of the cross in the flower bed in front of the Church was a nice idea and well thought out.

The in Bloom group has its own nursery section at the back of the Church grounds which they use not only to replace plants but also to sell. This helps them to generate funding which is put back into the up keep of the grounds. There are also compost bays, bird boxes and a log pile to help the group continue to improve their bio-diversity.

Congratulation to all involved for their lovely warm welcome, commitment and dedication to the community.

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

- Consider having more information boards to showcase the heritage and history of the site.
- Look at improving recruitment if possible of other people to assist with the up keep of the wonderful church grounds.
- Consider involving more local community groups to take an active role in working alongside the in Bloom group.

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## **Just the Job**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

There is a sense of pride yet fun in the community at Just The Job Environmental Enterprise Ltd.

It is clear that support and empowerment which is shown to individuals encourages discovering new abilities and growing together to accomplish a variety of projects and aid the wider community. On site the wildflower meadows and orchard provide a facility where people can discover more of the local flora and fauna. The introduction of information and homes for wild bees was fascinating.

Collection of wildflower seed for banking is one example of important liaison with other organisations.

The rebuilt stone bench provides seating to enjoy the views whilst surrounded by nature. The new building has extended the training facilities with food hygiene and other crafts providing a venue when weather is less clement.

It was good to see Luke and Jack who are entering the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme and conducting an aerial survey using drones.

The sale of plants has been augmented with growing and providing natural confetti and willow for structures and crafts is being grown on site.

The new pond is still in process but will provide habitat for frogs, diving beetles and skaters and many other species, a project worth a return visit to watch as it matures.

There are year round activities involving the wider community including a Wassailing Christmas event. The group also conduct regular maintenance contracts; assist with Richmond in Bloom, and take part with local community activities.

Well done to Steve and all concerned for all the achievements and the lives which have been enhanced and nurtured here.

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

- Continue to develop relations with young people's groups and look for ways to utilise their skills particularly with social media.
- Further development of the pond and the beehive project needs progression.
- Continue to grow and develop social media communications.
- Continue further development of year round activities with the general public.

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## Kirkwood Hospice Huddersfield

**Gold and Joint  
Category Winner**

### Overall Impression

The gardens are well designed and maintained to a very high standard by a dedicated team. Every part of the garden assists the work of the hospice be it gardening therapy, space for children or areas for patients and relatives to relax in. A major project over the winter was the need to have the very large planters repaired, this involved emptying planters of plants and soil. Once repaired the planters had to be refilled and re planted. The good part of this was it provided the opportunity to introduce new plants and planting styles. This has been done to good effect even allowing space for patients to undertake gardening tasks.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to monitor ,maintain and adjust the planting in the planters as they become established.
- Pursue and research the project to install a watering system.
- Trial the sowing of a floral mix on the rear bank to see if they can be established.
- Continue to develop the growing to eat project.
- Congratulate everyone involved in gardening at the hospice.

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## Northcliffe Environmental (NEET)

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

The project uses the natural environment to assist people who have mental and physical difficulties to a good conclusion

It has many features including garden centre cafe and woodworking area and is continually developing new and amending existing features and facilities

The scheme of delivering part prepared meals of food to individuals is to be commended.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It is hard to make specific recommendations in an area of continuing evolution but may be more could be done on the biodiversity and water harvesting.
- Whilst is appreciated that it may not be possible to improve the access to the site, access is difficult and may put some people off visiting the scheme.

## Overgate Hospice

## Gold

### Overall Impression

Overgate Hospice is a well maintained sustainability planted Garden with outstanding views over the valley where anyone could sit in the quiet contemplation

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Some of the planted areas are becoming very old and could do with replanting particularly some of the rose beds.
- While it is understood that most of the funds are needed for patient care may be a long-term plan for the refurbishment of the grounds could be considered.

## Richmondshire Museum

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

A delightful and inviting garden and frontage greets visitors to the Richmondshire Museum.

A well maintained building in the historical heart of Richmond has been enhanced by the addition of a small vegetable, fruit and flowers allotment terrace, thanks to the hard work of Sue and Gary. The allotment terrace, just a year old, is already very productive and managed organically.

The allotment and gardens incorporate old plants, herbs, roses and bushes together with more recent planting. A 'Short History of Some of Our Plants' laminated booklets have been produced and are put out in the garden so that visitors can identify and understand the use to which many of the plants were /are put to.

The painted stones, produced by children visiting the museum, are innovative labels for the plants, both informative and fun. The garden is enhanced by old agriculture and domestic items, such as the mangle under the fuchsia.

Seating areas are plentiful so visitors can sit and enjoy the outside of the Museum. Congratulations on all your hard work.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Experiment with cutting back to give more defined shape and control in some spaces.
- It would assist the judges to see photographs of before, during and after ongoing work.
- Summer pruning of soft fruits and trees.

## **Overall Impression**

The Spring visit to St Gemma's was a real treat, the Summer visit was an absolute pleasure. The grounds were a blaze of colour, with mixed perennial and seasonal plants showing at their best. The Winter work on the Dales Ward replanting project is notable with open views now through to the garden. The Mediterranean border a true mix of exotics and vibrant and vivid colours, a real success. Yet the garden has tranquil corners where running water can be seen and heard and wildlife is encouraged with habitats created and nectar plants in abundance. The spotless condition of the grounds is a credit to the staff and volunteers who have clearly worked very hard to produce their best for the service users and staff. Well done to all concerned.

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

- The peak workload in the summer clearly stretches resources to the limit. Some work has already been done but an early review of the 50 plus containers around the grounds with consideration given to selection of greater use of perennials, removing or replacing small containers with larger ones with water storage chambers, and where practical reinstating or installing automatic watering. This could potentially enhance the displays and give savings in the long term. Maybe an opportunity for a sponsorship or donation scheme.
- Replacing some or all of the vegetable beds with perennial herbs would reduce workload but still provide all year round benefit.
- The quality and standard of the interpretation signage is excellent. An additional sign informing the visitor about the varied wildlife and habitats created would be a valuable addition.

# Category C6 – Parks, Gardens, Cemeteries

## All Saints Church, Barwick in Elmet

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

All Saints Church dates back to the 14th century with the chancel being the oldest part. The planters at the entrance were excellent and the grassed areas around the church were well maintained. Janice and Linda were enthusiastic in the development of the borders and containers and the work to improve areas of poor ground conditions are to be commended. The area where ashes are scattered was a lovely peaceful spot. The use of annual bedding eg begonias to give seasonal colour at the front of sustainable planting was very successful.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Your aims to improve planted areas around the church should include some evergreen shrubs and herbaceous perennials with differing textures to give year round interest plus cut foliage for church decorations.

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## Barwick Methodist Church

**Platinum**

### Overall Impression

These grounds of the church in the centre of the village are very impressive with well-designed colour coordinated bedding scheme which is maintained to a high standard. The containers in front of the hall are similarly very attractive with different varieties to give interest. Congratulations to the team who are responsible and that goes for the quality of refreshments – thank you!

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It might like be beneficial to carry out some pruning of the large shrubs on the west side of the church.

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## Carlton Marsh Nature Reseve

**Platinum**

### Overall Impression

This inspirational project to transform a redundant railway goods yard polluted by the worst kind of effluent from a neighbouring scrapyard into a haven for every species of wildlife has taken years of dedication from Barnsley council and a small group of knowledgeable and dedicated voluntary rangers, committee members and members of the Yorkshire Wild Life Trust. The habitats range from wetlands with reed beds and shoreline scrapes, lowland meadow and pasture to the relatively shallow school pond (recently relined with funding form Tesco Bags for life) at the entrance for children to explore.

All these volunteers must be extremely proud of their achievements when they review the amazingly detailed annual report giving the list of every species of flora and fauna to be seen throughout the year on the reserve. The Natural History Report makes impressive reading with details of everything to be found on the reserve and when, and how often. There are long term plans for the planting which is managed to provide ideal habitats for many species of birds, butterflies and moths and care is taken to ensure good viewing facilities from the hide and footpath without intrusion on the natural fauna.

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

- Consider planting more buddleia and flowers with early sources of nectar around the picnic area and school pond.
- Encourage schools to visit in small groups.
- The volunteers have an immense breadth of Knowledge which it is essential to share and to encourage younger participants to volunteer consider recruiting local D of E students aged 16 to 24 on long term placement or approach one of the local Universities to register as an outreach study resource.
- Continue with the long term legal battle for ownership of the far end.

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## **Churchfield Peace Gardens**

## **Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

Churchfield Peace Gardens were certainly peaceful, providing a calm oasis in the center of town.

The site was beautifully maintained with new annual planters and the recently installed archway setting off the entrance. The local history of the gardens is well portrayed with an interesting and informative interpretation board showing the location of the graves and the Light Lines Somme memorial.

The introduction of new ornamental trees and information posts provides continuity for the site and the addition of the annual planters, hanging baskets and the mixed planting in the raised bed add interest.

There is an active group of volunteers led by Doreen and the gardens are well used by local residents, town center workers, and students from the local college and university. It is obviously much appreciated and respected as all street furniture and memorials were in excellent condition. The group have a programme of events, including the Pic Nic in the park which is well supported. They are able to raise funds and seek funding for ongoing projects such as the restoration of the grave stones and the installation of a second entrance arch.

It is lovely to see a town center park both thriving and developing. A credit to all concerned.

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

- Consider developing the bracken area near the steps to provide year round interest.
- Continue to seek support and funding from town center developers and businesses. The proposed McCarthy and Stonehouse development adjacent to the site may provide an opportunity for support.

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## Cliffe Castle

## Platinum

### Overall Impression

It was lovely to meet the enthusiastic and committed staff at Cliff Castle. The site is beautiful and the recent renovations are now coming into their own with the cacti and semi tropical areas becoming established and with the interesting and informative interpretation boards in place.

The new planting to the outside of the building and on the banking down to the lake has been carefully selected to be in keeping with the original design and planting on the site and a lot of care has gone into selecting heritage plant species and ensuring that they are planted in the correct location. It will be interesting to see this planting develop in their natural form and habit rather than the harsh pruning often carried out on Local authority sites.

Metal urns have been sourced to replace the original urns, which had been lost or fallen into disrepair, and located on the steps leading down to the lake, these give continuity when progressing down the site. It was also lovely to see the historic dolphin lamp restored and re gilded.

The site is obviously well used by the local community and there are interesting proposals for establishing an Andy Mans Club on site.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to develop community involvement. It will be interesting to see how the Andy Mans Club develops.
- Replace plants which have failed to establish in the new planting.
- The commitment to adhering to the historical period for the renovation of the site make this site unique and the staff should be commended for this vision.

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## Dearne Valley Country Park

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

This lovely site covers 80 Ha close to Barnsley Town Center. The amount of work that has been carried by YWT together with volunteer groups and with the support of Barnsley Council has been significant. The park hosts an impressive array of habitats including that of the Willow Tit which is the focus of the Back from the Brink Project. Work has been carried out to clear and create secluded glades to support this endangered bird.

The site is clean and rubbish free. The car park has been renovated and extended The community orchard planted in 2017 is establishing well and all the trees have survived. Even the skate park was free of litter. The local anglers have been encouraged to keep a watching eye on the are around the lake to discourage anti social behavior. Because it feels cared for the site feels welcoming and encourages exploration of the many trails and habitats. It is a wonderful resource so close to the town center

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The interpretation boards are interesting and informative but care is needed in the selection of materials for their construction. Damaged boards should be restored before they become beyond the point of repair.
- Additional interpretation detailing the industrial past of the site would be interesting particularly while parts of the old viaduct are still visible.

- A management plan for the site would be useful to focus resources

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## **Elsecar Park & Nature Reserve**

## **Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

What a lovely park, with so many different and contrasting areas within its boundaries including a reservoir and local nature reserve, play and games areas suitable for different ages, formal gardens and less formal gardens providing something for everybody from families, walkers/dog walkers, those keen on nature, to those who like calm spaces and those who like to be active! Plantings are appropriate and relevant to the location and/or historical aspects of each area.

The park is looked after by three on-site staff and a local college student with support from the 'Friends' group. The Friends group also organise an annual programme of events, access funding and produce a newsletter. A project successfully undertaken in the last year has been to remove graffiti from a culvert in the reservoir banking replacing it with a painted woodland scene copied from a design developed at the local school. The nature reserve lends itself naturally to the enhancement of the environment and increasing biodiversity on the site, but additionally the entire park is managed with sustainability in mind

In improving this park over the past 14 years or so Barnsley Council have contributed to conserving the heritage of the park, while still making it relevant to modern day use. A robust, rolling 3 year management plan ensures that further developments will continue and maintenance of that which is in place will be assured.

Well done to all the staff and volunteers who look after this wonderful gem of a park.

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

- It is noted in the management plan that there is an intention to develop educational materials for local schools and this is to be recommended. Perhaps some of these materials could also be adapted for use by families as trails and/or activities.
- Might it be possible to have a water butt in the top park for watering the plant containers in that area?

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## **Friends of Cudworth Park**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

The Friends of Cudworth Park work closely with the local authority and are to be admired for their efforts. The judges were impressed by the avenue of lime trees and a magnificent weeping willow in the park. The information boards were kept bright and welcoming in spite of a degree of vandalism.

The old bowling green has been turned into a Peace garden with a war memorial remembering the Battle of the Somme with the names of over 40 local people who lost their lives. There were several sponsored planters which added colour to this area.

Regular litter picks are organised to help keep the park clean and tidy.

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

- Continue to obtain grants and donations from local businesses to continue improvement to the facilities within the park.
- To add interest for children, consider planting bug hotels and bird boxes using it as a project with local community groups.
- Consider using perennials rather than bedding plants in all areas of the park and in the planters with a central shrub and trailing plants to give height and depth, and using a few annuals to give an added splash of colour.
- Consider removing weeds such as docks and planting plugs of wild flowers such as foxgloves in the long walled border in the Peace park.

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## **Friends of Dean Rd & Manor Rd Cemetery Scarborough**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

Overall Impression The friends group is very active having been established for over twelve years. Their dedication to raising funds throughout the year including monthly sales at the Dead House are to be commended. A key initiative is the interpretation of the site with the Heritage Lottery funded World war one project that includes the production of information packs for teachers. In addition to this graves with a particular relationship to the history of Scarborough have been identified, and the cemetery trail is informative. The relationship with the community payback team is paying dividends in terms of memorial restoration and repair. Alterations to the maintenance program to incorporate areas of longer grass and flowers is welcome as a recent development..

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

- it was felt that the herbaceous perennials that had been naturalised in the grass areas would benefit from being grouped together to give a bigger impact and ease maintenance.
- There was a large area of cemetery that had been sprayed off creating an unsightly effect, alternative timings or methods of vegetation control may be desirable.
- It was good to see the path cleaning machine in operation, but better still if it had operated before our visit.
- Do continue to pursue options for the restoration of the chapel, this could be a real asset to not only the cemetery but the whole community.

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## Friends of Filey Parks

## Platinum

### Overall Impression

What a treat this was! The enthusiasm, passion and dedication from this group was obvious from the start and Catherine had a wealth of knowledge about the heritage of Filey which we loved hearing, all the historic facts enroute around both Glen and Crescent Gardens.

Planting was immaculate and the gardens very well kept with plants in great condition. It was great to see the development of varied borders and planting for different interest throughout the year and importantly acknowledging the plant choice in attracting wildlife. It would be great to see more of this and a further reduction in the traditional bedding planting schemes as it works so well here. (Difficult we know when it's not an in bloom groups decision, and is traditionally what is expected.)

A return visit to Filey is already planned. Well done to all the friends group volunteers and local authority staff whose endeavours showcase these sites as loved, cared for and proud of.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The maze was fantastic but to keep this neat perhaps replace the lawn with either clover or a thymus variety that creeps, is hardy for footfall, has scent and flowers.
- I loved the sculptures in the park and perhaps the new sculptures planned could incorporate the rare tree planting that is planned with sculptures of leaves.
- More signage here would work well.
- Consider installing a leaflet dispenser advertising the friends group leaflets and showcasing the parks and advertising for volunteers.
- Refurbishment and painting of the Gardens notice board near the main car park, and painting of the railings would enhance the entry even further, together with more prominent signage giving recognition to the friends group.
- We had a peep down the Woodland Walk, this would be a great environment to create some bug hotels and wildlife habitats, involving local schools and youth groups.

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## Friends of Harold Park

## Gold

### Overall Impression

Harold Park is a small park which is full of interesting features particularly the sensory garden.

The idea of having passive and active routes marked on the paths around the park was innovative and useful to the park user.

The proposal to develop the park as dementia friendly is truly innovative and commendable.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The lake looked as if it needed some of the weed removing from the water surface.
- The recycling composting and water harvesting could be improved.
- Widening the age range of the friends group to include younger people could be useful in the long-term

## Friends of Holbeck Moor

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

Obviously the group are working hard to make a real difference to the community and we were pleased to hear of the interesting and exciting plans they have for the future. The community is lucky to have this group of dedicated people working for them and they deserve the support they are getting. The park with its smooth grass, mature trees and colourful beds is a lovely resource for local residents. We were pleased that the park is so well used for events. Having a skateboard park, a well used multicourt, is a valuable resource for local young people and creating picnic benches with spaces for wheelchairs, and new raised beds is a really useful idea. The heritage trail taking people into the city centre with many finger posts is an imaginative project. The Holbeck sign is bright and original and using the letters for banners is a good idea.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The idea of a hedge in the park to screen fencing and help hide the motorway is an exciting project. If the main aim is to hide the motorway then consider a leylandii hedge. This is one of the rare occasions where it might be appropriate due to being fast growing and sound deadening to shut out the noise of the motorway. On the other hand if just screening the fence is the objective then consider putting in a native mixed hedge which will have year round interest and wildlife benefit.
- Carry out research on appropriate planting such as holly, hawthorn and guelder rose. Add climbers such as dog rose and bryony.

## Friends of Monk Bretton Park

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

The park is either a difficult space to manage or a vital area illustrating the history of the area. The reason for this dilemma is that the very large central area is an ancient monument due to the remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation. This means that cultivation and planting is around the outer edge. The friends group is vital to the success of the park and the events they hold. The group has established a new five year plan, and continues to promote and protect the park, which at times can be challenging.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Complete the five year plan, as a guide to developments for the future.
- A difficult area for the group is resolving the effects of grass cutting with cutting encroaching onto the paths and the play area surface was covered with grass cuttings
- Monitor the pond walk way to ensure further damage is prevented.
- Either report or remove graffiti as appropriate.

## Friends of Roberts Park

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

A historic Park which has benefited from a substantial Heritage lottery grant which has helped restore the infrastructure of the park.

The friends group is an informal arrangement which takes responsibility for a successful entertainment program within the park.

The park is well used and is adjacent to Saltaire Village and therefore gets significant use from tourists

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- A more formal arrangement of the friends group may be beneficial in the long term.
- Consideration could be given to more activity involving younger people or a junior friends group etc
- Biodiversity within the park is low and could be considered for attention in the future
- Additional interpretive information on the park and the surrounding area may be useful to the visitor.

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## Friends of Sandringham Park

**Platinum**

### Overall Impression

Visitors to Sandringham Park are greeted by colourful, flourishing planters along the gate and under the noticeboard.

The slope by the side of the other entrance has recently been replanted with all year round interest with the help of the RHS who have also contributed to a bee-friendly bed and there is a delightful fairy trail, with bird feeders and an insect hotel through shrubs and wild flowers, which appeals to children.

The main group consists of 9 volunteers and we were welcomed by Kazia, Sue, Cindy and the Mayor Gaylan and his wife Sandra, other help comes from the village handyman who has just dug the holes for a large information board done by Wetherby School.

A much needed water tap has been installed with funding from The Rotary Club with other funding from East North East Homes and LCC who also maintain the wonderful playground and empty that bin.

Other bins in the park are emptied daily by Wetherby Council and community litter picks and the In Bloom group keep the park litter and graffiti free.

This lovely area which has been rescued by Kazia and her group provides a wonderful community area for school and playgroup picnics and village events and is a great credit to all concerned.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Keep up the good publicity and continue to try to recruit new helpers.
- Extra sign boards could add interest including the history of the park - otherwise there is very little to suggest - congratulations on a very worthwhile entry.

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## **Friends of South Cliff Gardens Scarborough**

**Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

The friends of South Cliff are a very active group of community driven volunteers, led by Chris and Adrain, who have been successful in fund raising to enhance the garden. The plant selection was appropriate for seaside locations and consideration had been given to planting for all year round effect.

The main strength of the group has been the ability to work with other groups and the council to secure £5m of Heritage lottery funding to restore the South Cliff gardens and buildings. The picture windows in the seating area provided a good solution to a difficult problem.

The wildlife area to the rear of the putting green showed a commitment to conservation.

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

- the seasonal bedding displays were of very mixed quality, this did effect the overall impression of some of the gardens, hopefully the weather would allow them to improve for the main visitor season.
- A difficult issue was the restored rose garden where so much work had been undertaken to good effect but dry weather last and this year is having a detrimental effect.
- We feel that once restoration starts the combined effort of everyone involved will ensure that the gardens star in the offering of Scarborough to residents and visitors alike.

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## **Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station**

**Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

The enthusiasm and passion of the Sowerby Bridge Station Friends could be seen in all that they had undertaken. The exploitation of the connection with the Brontes of Howarth was imaginative and the use of history boards on the station platform added great interest to the station

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

- The paved area to the rear of the main building had a number of weeds growing with it
- The phone box could do with some attention

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## Overall Impression

Wilthorpe Park which covers an impressive 80 acres was approached from the Northern end by the railway line. The entrance at this point had been newly tidied up and Interpretation boards gave information on the industrial heritage of the site and on the Back from the Brink project detailing the creation of habitat for the Willow Tit. Moving up through what appear from this vantage to be a rural site. We then walked up the park taking in the recently planted fruit trees creating an edible route to school and some of the native trees supplied by the Octopus Energy company.

We then reached the children s play area and beyond this the more traditional park area. The park gates have been newly refurbished thanks to funding from a local sponsor The addition of the Park name to the gates reinforces the sense of identity and ownership of the site. new tree identification post formed a tree trail. The group is successful in applying for funding and uses the money effectively to benefit the park. They also have significant support from the local community.

Beyond the play area the site of an old pond has been converted into an innovative cycle track allowing children to learn to use their bikes and scooters safely. Funding is being sought to further develop this area with transport themed street furniture. A small area of wildflower meadow had also been established to the rear of the houses on Woodstock Road.

The top section of the park contains some lovely formal gardens including well thought out herbaceous borders and a lovely rose garden. These areas are well maintained by an impressive array of volunteers of all ages from scouts to keen older gardeners. Marys border was especially lovely. The new planters by the Post office also add colour and enhance the identity of the site.

The range of different areas environments in Withorpe Park moving from the rural at the bottom to the formal gardens at the top, the support of a committed group of volunteers and the local community and forward planning for the use of funding and resources will see this group go from strength to strength. I was really impressed with what they have achieved.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider replanting the shrub beds to the sides of the newly refurbished gates at the Greenfoot Lane entrance to smarten up the area and to give the gates and the entrance more significance.
- Continue to develop the wildflower meadow along the land to the rear of the properties on Woodstock Road. This could become a lovely additional feature to the park with possibly a wildflower or insect trail.
- Consider removing the weeds and detritus from under the fencing to the play area. The weeds in this area gave the initial impression that the park was poorly maintained which certainly wasn't the case.

## Friends of York Cemetery

Platinum

### Overall Impression

The area is quite unique, covering many aspects of horticulture, arboriculture and wild flowers over 24 acres. The nature of the site has an abundance of wildlife and all involved, including many volunteers, should be very proud of their efforts. The team are constantly reviewing the development of the site which in turn keeps the site refreshed and engaging all year round. The newly installed signage is to be commended. I wish the group well in their new development of a visitor centre/workshop along with toilet facilities. I was delighted to hear that the Friends had recently been awarded a Duke of York Community Initiative Award.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- To identify new projects and initiatives and to continue to seek support and funding to continue the great work that has been achieved over many years.

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## Ginny Greenholes - Spofforth

Platinum

### Overall Impression

Ginny Greenholes is not only a wonderful wildlife area but also has picnic tables, benches and bicycle stands adjacent to Spofforth's children's playground which has superb equipment bought with grants from Play England, the Heritage Lottery fund, Spring-watch and The Wildlife Trust. Visitors find a wealth of interest with over 100 wildflowers recorded - many in groups which attract different insects.

There are numerous bird and bat boxes, insect houses, log piles and even an insect hotel all with excellent information boards and delightful leaflets.

The area has been developed in consultation with and by the community since 2010 with the help initially of numerous grants and The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme together with the local Army Foundation College from a very overgrown site to become a wonderful nature reserve with a Yorkshire heritage orchard, where visitors - including school parties can learn about wildlife, conservation and composting as well as biodiversity and nature - all in a safe delightful environment .

The tremendous amount of work and dedication involved is a great credit to everyone.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Areas for consideration are very difficult to find as Spofforth in Bloom and the volunteers are constantly introducing new ideas to further improve Ginny Holes - just continue as you are doing - Congratulations

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## Golden Acre Park

## Platinum

### Overall Impression

A fantastic floral display of block white plantings at the entrance of the park welcomes visitors.

Over recent years the gardens have seen much metamorphosis led by Dean and Gary and their very capable volunteers. Existing features have been upgraded, beds and borders re-organised to include an ornamental area and a higher maintenance bed in another area. Features include Limestone and Sandstone Rock Gardens, Bog and the Bakewell late season border for extended winter interest and sheltered Courtyard area. The Display House has recently been transformed into a planted area typical of the Mediterranean region.

This garden provides visitors with inspiration and ideas for their own gardens. Themes range from Tropical, Cottage, Formal styles to a Potager and Containers, the wildflowers along the old miniature railway line. Housing Hemerocallis and Hosta collections, the Dahlia, Chrysanthemum and Cactus Societies exhibit within the garden. The judges particularly liked that tasks are engineered around the visitors and the gardeners/horticulturists were available to give advice and the teams recycling principles. Increasing appeal by adding something new each year - this year celebrating the 50th anniversary moon landing. Dean and his team are to be commended on the hard work and dedication reinvesting and redeveloping the grounds, planting new areas, maintaining its sustainability and always thinking ahead and progressing forward - well done.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Support the continuation of self - funding adoption originally for trees to enhance the arboretum into alternative schemes for other possibilities such as bird & bat boxes, insect homes etc.
- The park supports wheelchair access, where possible consider a flagged/flat area next to existing seating for maximising similar viewpoints for the wheelchair user.
- Support the continuation of labelling around the park to encourage visitors to learn while enjoying the park.
- Support the introduction of a plan of the garden at the entrance and a board for horticultural and community events and could generate some funding from local advertisements.

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## Hillsborough Park Walled Garden

## Gold

### Overall Impression

Hillsborough Walled Gardens is situated within Hillsborough Park next to Middlewood Road.

The walled gardens date back to 1779. I approached the gardens through the replica Anfield Shankly Gates, kindly donated by Liverpool FC and was a reflective moment to those who lost their lives in the Hillsborough Football Ground Disaster on 15 April 1989. Entering the gardens you are greeted to a haven of tranquillity with paths leading to various seating areas to truly unwind. Within the gardens there are various beds and borders with planting schemes incorporating, herbaceous, wildlife, vegetables and herb beds, giving this wonderful colourful and aromas and has obviously been very well

planned to incorporate as many senses as possible, all maintained to a very good standard.

There is an excellent wildlife area to the side of the garden which Christine from the group helps maintain, containing a stumpery and pond.

There is very clear evidence of working with external partners and funding organisations to sustain and improve the garden, one particular partnership that will provide great support is the planned development of the old coach house, next to the garden, through AgeUK which the group are on the steering group. The planned development to help people with Dementia will provide an excellent opportunity for the residents and staff to utilise the garden.

Many thanks to Andy, the two Janet's, Melvyn, Christine for a very pleasant visit and again volunteers dedicating their time to restore and help maintain and publicise the awareness of this wonderful tranquil garden.

Future investment and continued management from the friends group will truly make this a special feature.

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

- A new interpretation board within the wildlife area to renew the old one
- Think about an interpretation board within the garden outlining the brief History of the garden.
- Continue to further develop and work with partners to explore volunteer opportunities to help with maintenance of the gardens
- Continue to look for further funding opportunities to develop the good work already undertaken in the wildlife area.
- Continue to build on the relationship with Sheffield Council were possible to help with maintenance.

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## **HMP Hull**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The first impressions on entering HMP Hull was of a very colourful entrance, well maintained and areas considered for the visitors to see with small wildlife areas and relevant sculpture with a local heritage theme.

The ornamental areas were of a high quality in particular Emma's garden, a very peaceful and contemplative space. The Islamic garden a relative new addition is proficiently constructed and is settling in well. The grass maintenance is of a high standard and in particular the edging around the whole site. The addition of the lobelia containers to the PIPE Unit is very simple but effective.

There is some excellent partnership working such as Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Grow Wild, Hull Foodbank and more recently Beverley Beekeepers creating links within the community and also increasing skills.

There is good publicity for the gardens with its own Twitter site and its own army of supporters, the display stand at the Yorkshire Show, Hull Garden logo and the tour of the city by the Windlesham trophy. The portfolio is an informative document of the project with lots of details including the breakdown of vegetables produced. This could possibly be given a monetary value to calculate the amount the unit is producing and how much it is saving the prison budget.

It is good to see that the garden project has added to the skills of the residents in many ways including qualifications and that the management team is extremely supportive in

the project. The enthusiasm of the team is tremendous particularly with the new projects and ideas they bring to the scheme and the gardens are a credit to them.

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

- Could you consider some more sculptures around the site to enhance the biodiversity areas and maybe a war memorial using the sculptures of the soldiers could be contemplated
- The bee hives are a great addition to the site with the addition of the beekeeping course. There maybe needs to be a plan of what to do with the honey as it could be an income generator
- The plans to create allotment plots sounds a good scheme and maybe other crops can be chosen to be grown to increase variety. Maybe consider growing comfrey which can be used to activate a slow compost heap or can be used as a liquid fertiliser or trying green manures in the winter to help increase fertility. In the polytunnel over the railway siding maybe consider raised beds to help improve soil structure and fertility.
- It was interesting to hear the plans for the trials with peat-free compost and the results will be helpful for future years.
- The further development plans for I & J Wing for murals and planters are a great project to involve others in the site and creating a better, more appealing area for everyone to enjoy.
- This one maybe a step too far for you, but a suggestion to change the area by the staff area from an ornamental lawn to a long bed of wildflowers or perennials good for insect pollinators. This would reduce the problems with emptying the bins and the possibilities of damaging the ornamental lawns and bedding plants.
- You may also want to get involved with the Blue Campaign (@blue\_campaign1 [www.bluecampaignhub.com](http://www.bluecampaignhub.com) ) which is trying to persuade people to Re-wild gardens and green spaces marking them with blue hearts. Maybe making blue hearts could be a new line for the workshops?
- Consider raising the cut slightly on one or two chosen lawns like the one in the Goop area. Leaving the grass slightly longer will allow clovers and selfheal etc to grow creating more flowers for the bees.
- Consider a visit to HMP Littlehey to meet Bex and see the vegetable production and compost areas

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## **Joseph Rountree Foundation - Homestead Park**

**Platinum and  
Category Winner**

### **Overall Impression**

The team makes excellent use of the grounds and there is plenty of interest around every corner. Each year a garden is given over to a theme and this year Adam had chosen Wallace and Gromit and Sean the Sheep with a display of sculptures and willow figures, appropriate planting and even an allotment which had stunning visual impact and made both children and adults smile.

Other outstanding features in this community park were the Paisley Knot Garden where the topiary was undertaken by hand, the Cherry Walk, Danny's White Border and Dementia-friendly Garden. There is a meadow area with a tree trail of specimen trees, picnic tables and wildflower beds, a productive community garden given to local groups to work. The Backhouse Pond is being restored to its former glory.

The park is well signposted and has many information boards and leaflets available in several languages about the grounds and wildlife and a timeline. A staff member has recently installed a camera to observe the wildlife and there are many bat and bird boxes.

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

- The enthusiastic staff come up with their own ideas. Apprentices are employed and groups of autistic young people are encouraged to help
- Spring and summer bedding produced on site and the onsite shop does a roaring trade
- There is a large composting area and recycling bins and recyclable plants pots made from a rice by-product are being used.
- Visitors make good use of the children's playground and green gym, the library/Explorer facility and cafe.

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## **Keighley Memorial Garden**

**Gold**

#### **Overall Impression**

Keighley Memory Garden is situated within easy walking distance of the town centre and bus station in a relatively quiet part of town, overlooking a large grassed area.

The garden was completed in 2018 and is planted with different varieties of perennials, some with coloured foliage and others with flowering plants which give a tranquil effect to the area. The curved seat enables people to sit and talk together more easily. On the nearby information Board there are photographs of some of the old buildings in the town where the older population used to frequent in their younger days to evoke memories of the past. Part of the garden is shaded by a overhanging tree which gives shelter from the hot sun.

The garden is used regularly by groups of people suffering from dementia as well as the general public who just need a quiet place to sit.

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

- Keep up the maintenance of the garden by planting any gaps.
- Ensure the seat, paving and interpretation sign are kept clean.

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## **Knaresborough House**

**Gold**

#### **Overall Impression**

The gardens of Knaresborough House looked lovely in front of this impressive building for everyone to see. The good hanging baskets and planters added to the overall impression creating a “wow” factor.

The parkland to the rear of the house was well maintained with some lovely trees, creating a valuable space for the community which is well used. There are now some good facilities including the green gym. Considerations for wild life and the environment were evident with bird boxes, water butts and some composting.

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

- The flowers beds at the front needed some attention.
- The entrance to the park from the car park had some interesting topiary but it was generally felt it lacked colour which would make it more inviting.
- Most of the commemorative benches were well maintained and well used.

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## **Locke Park**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

Locke Park is a Grade II listed historical park in the centre of Barnsley. With mature trees and open spaces it is a green oasis within the city which is clearly popular with members of the local community including families, dog walkers, local schools and many others.

The 'Friends' group work tirelessly not only helping with park maintenance but successfully raising significant funds from a number of sources including a number of highly popular events within the park. Much, though not all, of this money goes towards the restoration and upkeep of historical features within the park, including most recently the cleaning of the Joseph Locke statue and the clearing of shrubs to improve the sightlines to this feature. Funds have also gone towards a children's playpark, fitness equipment and to support a junior fun run.

They have planted many bulbs to extend the seasonal interest and are starting to establish some wildlife areas.

All great work, which I am sure is hugely appreciated by the local community.

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

- The group clearly have a highly committed core of around 6-8 people, but need to be mindful of the future and to that end should be seeking to increase their 'membership', or at least to increase the number of people who have a higher level of commitment other than the occasional large-scale project.
- The rose garden/valley was a more floral area within this substantially green park, but didn't appear to have much year round interest (unless there has been some bulb planting here?). There has been some perennial planting towards the bottom end, but perhaps this whole area would benefit from a planting review?
- Also referring to the above, it is suggested that this peaceful, more self-contained area might benefit from some seating for those who wish to 'escape' from the busier parts of the park.
- It was good to hear about the establishment of wildflower and less 'managed' areas within the park. With this in mind, perhaps some interpretation on the biodiversity within the park could be included in a suitable location(s)
- Thanks for the leaflet produced as per last year's suggestion - it was very useful and interesting.

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# Millhouses Park

# Platinum

## Overall Impression

There is an incredible sense of pride and ownership on entering this park. The first thing you appreciate is the extremely high standard of maintenance- the lawns are expertly cut, paths immaculately swept and planted areas weed free. Both the Council and Friends group do a fantastic job here, and it was an absolute pleasure to visit.

The park hosts a first class range of recreational and sporting facilities including tennis courts, an all-weather mini soccer pitch, outdoor gym and putting green. Kids are extremely well catered for with a skate park, cycle track and the impressively innovative splash park.

The River Sheaf runs through the park and this allows users to enjoy a less strenuous visit, offering a delightful walk along its banks.

It was pleasing to hear of the on-going projects and additions to the park including the extension of the Trim Trail, new notice and interp boards and the fence painting on the footbridge, plus the regular engagement of local organisations wanting to help.

It was also pleasing to see the pollution-reducing planting along the main road.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider treating/painting the benches in the Sensory Garden. This would raise the standard even further of this already delightful area.
- If possible the addition of wildlife interpretation board somewhere along the River Sheaf would inform visitors of the variety of plants and animals both found along the river and in the nearby woodland. This is something Tesco could possibly fund via their Bags of Help programme.
- Consider planting a few fruiting trees, malus and or prunus , possibly along the path in the southern end of the park to add a bit of variety and spring colour. A possible funding source is <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/urban-tree-challenge-fund>
- Consider using Community Payback and/or the National Citizens Service [www.ncsyes.co.uk](http://www.ncsyes.co.uk) where young people could get involved, for any labour intensive projects.

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# Mirfield Railway Station

# Gold

## Overall Impression

The Friends of Mirfield Railway Station are doing a very good job in brightening up the station platforms for travellers using the station. The floral boxes were a delight, beautifully planted and well maintained. Imaginative floral art work has been used where the platform is too narrow to take planters and these are a welcome addition to the overall scene. The 'Welcome to Mirfield in Bloom'- banners leave no one in any doubt that this is a much loved station and the partnership working with Northern is to be applauded. This is a very good railway station entry and it would take very little to take it to the next level.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- When time and budget allows, continue to progress plans for the long shrub border under the birch trees.
- Continue to progress plans to extend the floral art banners onto other parts of the station platform.
- The begonia beds on the bank outside the station need rethinking. Perhaps this is not the right place for flower beds and your resources could be better used elsewhere.

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## **Monk Bretton Memorial Garden**

## **Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

The gardens have seen a continued program of improvement over a number of years. The improvements have been organised and implemented by a dedicated group of volunteers. Not only have they had the vision to improve the site, they have done this by working with schools, the fire service, scouts, and many members of the community. An impressive feature is the creation of metal poppies mounted on the railings each commemorating a name on the memorial. biodiversity and future plans are part of the groups work.

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

- An area for consideration would be to consider increasing the density of the seasonal bedding planting in the borders, this would improve the floral impact of the garden.
- Continue to implement the plans you have as time and funding allows but importantly maintain the gardens.

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## **Peasholm Park Friends**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The judges were particularly impressed with the enthusiasm of the friends group and their dedication to add value to the work being undertaken by the parks team. The woodland glen provides a welcome and natural entrance to the park leading from the recently improved lily pond . the rare trees add a distinctive individuality to the park. This is enhanced with wooden sculptures on an animal theme along with natural woodland habitat. Candelabra primulas grown by the friend add colour to the small stream that runs through the glen. The notice boards and tree trail leaflet give visitors information and a sense of history. the Dahlia bed at the entrance and seasonal bedding were to a good standard. A visit to the island was a privilege to view the oriental garden, which has recently been refurbished. The web site gives a good insight into the work of the friends.

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

- Some of the benches and litter bins through out the park require attention in terms of a repaint and or to remove graffiti.
- Not for the Friends but one of the oriental arches on the island is cracked and requires attention.
- Continue to add and replace the animal sculptures as funding allows.
- Continue the program of working with school children in the park.

## Ripon Spa Gardens

## Platinum

### Overall Impression

What a pleasant surprise. As a first time entry next to the heart of Ripon lies the beautiful park of Spa Gardens. Next to the Spa baths this Green Flag park has much to offer many a visitor. The well restored Victorian bandstand, with its recent revamped flower beds and hanging baskets, hold concerts on Sunday afternoons throughout the summer. For the more active, how about the 'Green Man' trail, or crazy golf, or a game of bowls, or even just a coffee in the café. Tree sculptures enhance the many flower beds, of both shrub and herbaceous as well as the splendid themed displays of summer bedding. The judges were shown pictures of the park throughout the seasons and can see this standard is maintained throughout the year. (Checkout Alice in Wonderland!). The judges were particularly impressed with the entrance area and war memorial. A special mention has to go to Martin, for his care, dedication and pride in his work, which is self-evident within the park and grassed areas. Well done to all staff and 'Friends of' Volunteers.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It would be good to see more interpretation around then park. The Alice in wonderland tree sculpture is an excellent piece of art but lacks the interpretation and links to Ripon by Lewis Carrol.
- Very good leaflets were handed to the judges on events up and coming. A place to dispence these and made more ready available would enhance the entry.

## Royston Canal Club

## Platinum

### Overall Impression

The canal is the remains of what was once a fully functioning branch canal. It is now maintained to a very high standard as fishing canal. To maintain about a mile and a half of canal is no small task, when you add in fund raising and engaging with schools and the community the canal group carry out work that benefits both the community and nature.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue the excellent work, and maintenance that is been done.
- Celebrate (when completed) the extension of the flexi- pave surface to the tow path.

## Scholes Methodist Chapel

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

Scholes Methodist Chapel is a good example of what can be done in a small space. The flower beds displayed good seasonal colour with an interesting backdrop of Astilbe and Heuchera. The plants were of very good quality and were maintained beautifully by Lilia and her colleagues. It was good to see that watering is regularly carried out, even in the dry areas along the side of the disabled access path.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consideration could be given to increasing biodiversity by providing further sustainable planting to attract bees and other pollinators, and there may be option to utilised grey water from the chapel roof to assist with watering.
- An interpretation board or small information leaflet giving more connection between the garden and the heritage of the chapel and links to Scholes in Bloom volunteers could be considered

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## **Spofforth Millennium Garden**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

On entering this garden there is an overwhelming feeling of peace and tranquillity created by the original garden design enhanced by the lovely planting.

The research and help in getting this project to where it is today demonstrates how projects should be set up and how funding can be obtained.

The colour theme of white blue and silver is maintained throughout and the planting is continually renewed to ensure the high standard is maintained with suitable additions made.eg the snowdrops. Good knowledge of horticulture and expertise is evident throughout.

The whole area was extremely very clean and well cared for.

The signage is good and it was pleasing to note that this lovely space is well used by residents of the village and people passing through.

The sundial adds an interesting feature to the garden

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

- It is important to continue as it is to ensure this lovely space remains as this great asset to the village.

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## **The Friends of Pannett Park**

**Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

The Friends of Pannett Park are rightly proud of their pristine park which caters for all ages of the local and wider community. The active core members of the Friends bring their skills and enthusiasm to the various areas. Lottery funding has allowed the restoration of this park, but the detail and innovation has come from the Friends and the gardeners with the support of Whitby and Scarborough councils. The planting is mainly sustainable and gives year-round interest. The old rose garden has been replanted for scent and colour. As well as the Whitby museum and Art Gallery situated within the park, there are stunning installations throughout the park, including a fully working floral clock which is approached by a timeline, a commemorative arch in glass and wood which resembles represents the whale jaw bones associated with the town and frames a vista of the Abbey in the distance and the newly installed poetry plaques to be found within the flower beds. Seasonal events are held here and well publicised and leaflets are available for park trails.

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

- An attractive and safe play area, which children helped design and has nautical themed wooden sculptures, can be used by visitors of all ages
- No dogs are allowed in the park, which helps keep it clean
- There are plans to include a little library in the productive community garden which is worked by different groups, uses its own compost and has an information board
- The Jurassic garden also has an information board, has replicas of footprints in the path and appropriate planting.

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## **The Lawns Cemetery, Filey**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

A well kept driveway leading into the site sets the scene for this multifaith cemetery. With 'compartmented' areas hedged to create 'rooms' and great to see planting of trees around the site all add to the lovely calm feeling throughout which gave the feeling of a very peaceful place. The two large planters near the entrance were great with an interesting use of Beech tree as a central feature., and the grass was lovely and neat.

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

- The Cemetery was overall good however some of the plants looked quite sick and in poor condition. The Cherry avenue looks sick and needs replacing, they may look well in flower but the need for forward planning is obvious. Perhaps removing every other to start and replacing and then removing the others a little later so the loss doesn't feel as great. All trees and hedges here would benefit from feeding and soil conditioning.

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## **The Rose Garden , High Green in Bloom**

## **Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

The judges were very impressed with the warm and friendly welcome they received from all members of the in Bloom group. The whole Rose Garden area was well maintained, litter and graffiti free and overall very clean. This is a credit to the small group of only 8 people that form the High Green in Bloom group, who all strive to make the community a better place to live.

The group took over the maintenance of the Rose Garden in September 2012 and since that time have transformed the area into a wonderful place for the local community to visit, relax and enjoy. They have got several memorial acknowledgements to local residents, as well as a Centenary tree to mark the First World War (including a hard carved stone).

All the beds/ borders were full of colour with good plant quality and selection. They were all weed free and well maintained. It was nice to see that the in bloom group have got plans to continue to improve the area by adding new bug hotels, develop existing shrub beds that have been misused in the past and create new areas with the use of wildflowers.

The in Bloom group has a good following of around 400 people on their Facebook page, which they keep well informed by uploading all the improvements they have undertaken throughout the year.

The in Bloom Group raises a lot of money by holding an annual gala each year that has multiple stalls and free rides for the children of the local area. They are also very good at getting grants and funding from every possible source, which is all reinvested into the maintenance of the area.

Congratulation to all involved for their lovely warm welcome, commitment and dedication to the community.

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

- Continue with your plans to improve the path network around the area to give safer/better access to the Rose Garden.
- Consider having more information boards to showcase the heritage and history of the site.
- Consider the positioning of your wildflower areas to best fit in with the layout of the current area, to maximise the effect they have.
- Consider a leaflet to showcase all the hard work the in Bloom group have done and possible include a map of the site to highlight key areas.

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## **Friends of Thurnscoe Park**

## **Platinum**

#### **Overall Impression**

Thurnscoe park may be small park but it is big on features, plants and ideas. It plays an important part in the community and is well used and well planted. A great effort by a great team responsible for the park

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

- The development of the wildflower meadow will further enhance the park. Continue to encourage all members of the community to get involved in the park. Continue to develop the composting areas

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## **Town Hall Square Keighley**

## **Platinum**

#### **Overall Impression**

What fabulous display of annual bedding. Steve Thorpe who designs, plants and looks after this area has excelled himself in planting every available space including the tree bases and fence bottoms with a vibrant and varied selection of annual bedding plants. The square is well maintained and we are told that coach trips are now altering their routes to take in the spectacle. A new perennial bed has also been added to provide year round interest and to create additional wildlife habitat.

A workers memorial garden has been established in one corner to commemorate local people who have died at work. There is a newly installed WW1 memorial bench and a

proposal for further sponsored benches to be added in future. A maintenance programme has been established for repainting the fencing and for cleaning the war memorial.

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

- Continue the high standard of maintenance of both planting and street furniture in this area.
- Look at whether more sustainable planting could be introduced, possibly around the Workers Memorial Garden

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## **Wombwell Cemetery**

## **Platinum**

#### **Overall Impression**

Not only is the cemetery very well maintained, the activities of the friends group ensures that new projects are undertaken to improve either the facilities or the grounds. This been achieved by a variety of fund raising streams and the hard work of the volunteers. The chapel which has been restored now acts as a community room, serving visitors, volunteers and the community for many uses.

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

- Continue to develop the new planting area at the cemetery road entrance as it is a little sparse at the moment.
- Continue to explore ways of marking the non WGC soldiers graves in a slightly more permanent way but also in a sympathetic manner to the grave stones.
- Carry on the splendid and very successful work that you have undertaken over many years.

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## **York Museum Gardens**

## **Platinum**

#### **Overall Impression**

The gardens were very busy at the time of Judging with many visitors enjoying the grounds. The planting was to a high standard and one of the highlights was the edible wood and artists' garden. The landscape is maturing extremely well and is a credit to all concerned. Some of the landscaped areas are also undergoing rejuvenation which will improve and sustain the gardens for many years to come.

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

- Consider screening off areas of site materials, e.g. timber, mulch, etc fom the general public.
- Review some of the maturing trees as a number may not be able to mature to their full potential due to location.
- Look to improve interpretation.
- Perhaps consider Apps.

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# Category E1 – Young Peoples Award

## **Battyeford J and I School, Mirfield**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

On a lovely summer day we were warmly welcomed to Battyeford school by Sue, Lyn, John, Joanne, Stuart and Year 6 members of the garden club. This meets weekly after school. Plants are grown from seed in the polytunnels with the whole school involved in planting, watering and weeding. There is a lovely variety of flowers including poppies, sunflowers, agapanthus and lavender. Raised beds overflow with vegetables, such as peas, runner beans, onions and potatoes plus fruit and herbs and small pots of sugar water are amongst them helping to support bees. The vegetables and herbs are used in the school kitchen or sold by the pupils to raise funds and they hold regular Tombolas. Members of the local community donate plants as well as wood chip to suppress weeds and parents plus amazing staff from the Mirfield Co-op help with a variety of jobs including making small bees for the local library and the Co-op. The bees complement the school's poster campaign, run by Mirfield in Bloom and on display throughout the town sharing the message - 'Love Where You Live'. The environment is important to the school with a water butt, composting, recycled tyre planters and a wonderful bug hut. These gardens are a credit to the staff, helpers and especially all the children who are being guided to love and care for plants and our world in the future. Really well done everyone.

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

- Possible points to consider - just continue to look for funding and volunteers to help drive forward the courtyard/pond project as and when time allows - congratulations everyone.

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## **Birkwood Primary School**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The judges were warmly welcomed on a well-informed conducted tour of the school and gardens by two year six children and their inspirational teacher. The entrance to the school was enhanced by raised planters with bright and colourful shrubs and annuals. All children, in all classes, are involved all year round in sowing, planting, tending and eating the produce of the vegetable beds, with a competition to design a poster for each class's beds. The raised beds in the Community Garden are bursting with flowers to attract wildlife and healthy ripening fruit and vegetables which the pupils are encourage to pick and eat. Any excess produce is sold to parents to raise funds for future projects. Wildlife habitat abounds with several bug hotels, piles of dead twigs and even nesting material for birds. Good use is made of the new composting area and leaf harvesting, and of recycled tyres, wood, yoghurt pots and plastic bottles.

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

- Consider more water harvesting and leaving a shallow water feature for wildlife in the Community Garden.
- As the space is limited in the garden area, consider a wildflower area at the playing field, perhaps adjacent to the play bus so that children learn that this is part of the natural environment. The pupils could be involved in the design of the area.
- Consider planting an orchard in the area to the right of the community Garden with each class choosing a fruit tree.
- Consider planting red flowers, e.g. geraniums in summer, polyanthus in winter in the planters to compliment the WW1 seat.
- Consider involving more parents/grandparents in fundraising and looking after the gardens during the holidays

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## **Church House Pre School Nursery Mirfield**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The children at Church House were clearly very comfortable playing in the school garden and were keen to tell us, in their own way, about how much they like the flowers. The staff are to be congratulated on creating a safe but stimulating environment for creative play. The floral boat near the entrance to the school is bright and colourful and the involvement of the local community was evident in the work done by the Wood turner and the stone painter. The woodland walk is work in progress but what has been achieved so far is excellent and the children's imaginations were clearly inspired by "Goldilocks Bed" and the "Boot Camp". Well done to staff and children at Church House.

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

- Explore Mirfield Educational Trust and other organisations for further funding opportunities.
- Continue to work on the Wooland Walk project but beware stretching yourselves too thinly. Concentrate on on quality not quantity and only take on further stretches of the path when you know you can maintain it to your current high standard. What you are achieving is excellent but don't compromise this and lose your quality.
- Continue to have fun while learning.

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## **Crowlees School Mirfield**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

This is an excellent first time entry to Yorkshire in Bloom. The children, under the direction of Miss Hardy, are enthusiastic and knowledgeable. All fourteen classes at the school benefit from the garden and the weekly after school gardening club is well attended. Veg boxes were full of healthy and well grown plants. All the children we met were environmentally aware and keen to do their bit for the planet. Ideas such as the "bug mugs" and the "old hay socks" indicate that there is clearly some imaginative thinking going on in this school making learning in the outdoors fun.

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

- Continue to use the outdoor classroom at the top of the field for as many outdoor lessons as possible. This is a great resource where many creative Ideas can be explored.
- Progress plans for the tree sculptures when the necessary funding allows.
- Progress plans, when possible, for the pond area.

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## **Eastfield Primary School**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Eastfield Primary School is located in a new building opened in 2017 surrounded by extensive grounds. They have made an excellent start in developing these grounds to improve the school environment, to give pupils the opportunity to grow their own fruit and vegetables and to provide varied habitats for wildlife. Much of the work is undertaken by the gardening club pupils with the support of volunteer Steve Carter and teacher Mrs Kyle.

A serious setback was encountered early in the year when a grounds maintenance team sprayed off lavender plants and bulbs in the long beds on the approach to the school and also newly planted raspberry canes. Undaunted the school subsequently involved every single pupil in planting at least one plant to brighten up the school entrance.

A large polytunnel has given the gardening club the opportunity to raise surplus plants which are sold to raise funds. They communicate with the wider school community via assemblies and a noticeboard and the polytunnel and wider grounds are used for the teaching of curricular subjects such as science and geography.

With the aim of planting a woodland area so that Eastfield can become a Forest School, there is a definite ethos of an intention to engage all pupils with the natural environment. Well done to all concerned with the progress made thus far.

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

- It was noted in the portfolio (for which many thanks), that foxgloves, which are potentially poisonous, were growing in the memorial bed. Whilst appreciating this is a sensitive subject the school might like to undertake a risk assessment in regard to this matter and advice can be found at <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Resources/Info-Sheet/A-Checklist-of-Potentially-Harmful-Plants> and elsewhere on the internet.
- In the long run it will be preferable from a maintenance point of view to have more perennials in the beds in the approach to the school. It is so unfortunate that they have suffered a setback in this regard. Hopefully some of the bulbs may have survived - only time will tell. Lavender cuttings will provide replacements for those that have been lost.
- As the grounds develop interpretation in various locations would be beneficial for pupils
- The following websites have useful resources supporting gardening and outdoor learning in schools: <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/home> and
- <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/schools-and-groups/>

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# Gooseacre Primary School

# Silver Gilt

## Overall Impression

It was lovely to visit Gooseacre once more and see the progress they have made since starting their gardening club in the previous school year. As before, I was shown round by a group of enthusiastic gardening club pupils along with teacher Lisa Jones. The central courtyard was looking good with a surprising range of vegetables, herbs and ornamentals for such a small space, substantially grown from seed in their greenhouse. Nice touches were the wooden spoon and cork labels and the decorated ladybird stones. Work had started on the development of a reading garden in another small courtyard area. The gardening club will provide and look after planters which will enhance the space. Each class in school has now taken ownership of the wooden planter outside their classroom and there was a variety of plantings, signage and small artworks. The group sell surplus plants to boost their funds.

Well done to all those involved with the school garden and improving the school environment - it is definitely heading in the right direction!

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It was noted in the woodland wildlife area that there were foxgloves, which are potentially poisonous, in one or more of the raised beds. Whilst appreciating that pupils are likely to be accompanied while visiting this area, the school might like to undertake a risk assessment in regard to this matter and advice can be found at <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Resources/Info-Sheet/A-Checklist-of-Potentially-Harmful-Plants> and elsewhere on the internet.
- Plans are afoot to redevelop the woodland area in conjunction with local community garden maintenance group Twiggs which will revamp this useful resource for the benefit of the school. Interpretation would also enhance the benefit of this area.
- The school is also giving consideration to the weed-prone gravelly area outside each classroom (nb none visible at the time of the visit) with a view to a more practical solution. Whether this involves horticulture or otherwise it will undoubtedly make these areas less 'scruffy'.
- As mentioned in the main overall impression, all these plans mean the school is heading in the right direction, so keep up the good work!

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# Greenacre School

# Silver Gilt

## Overall Impression

Greenacre School gardening team consists of 13 pupils age 16-19 led by Michelle Atkinson and an enthusiastic and committed group of support staff. In the last year or so they have tackled under-used and overgrown areas of the school grounds including ornamental and productive beds and a large polytunnel.

The vegetable beds have been planted up and each has a laminated tick list of tasks. As pupils have grown in confidence they have been able to go into the garden and carry out these tasks with minimal supervision. Clear forward planning is in place including the use of an online tool to help with this.

Much is done to attract wildlife into the area including bird and bat boxes and a hedgehog house. Interpretation around the garden explains to students what they might see while outside.

Produce and plants are sold in a stall at the front of the school to bring in funding for the garden.

This is a great start to revitalising a valuable resource for the gardening pupils and the school as a whole. Well done!

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

- The raised ornamental beds to the side of the school had been cleared of overgrown plants and were awaiting replanting. The gardening team have this in their sights and once done they will enhance this area.
- The polytunnel is already being well used and the group are even attempting to grow watermelons! A new skin due to be put on during the summer holiday will improve light levels and increase the lifespan of this great facility
- The area to the side of the polytunnel which has been cleared will require some form of appropriate planting to stop the weeds returning
- It would be nice to see some communication of the progress that is being made to the wider school community, perhaps via the website or a display next to the plant stall

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## **Hutton Cranswick Community Primary School Garden Club**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

This very enthusiastic School Garden Club has three wonderful Teachers who have created the full spectrum of Horticulture Learning, Planting and Interest for everyone to Absorb and Enjoy. Having a tour round the garden by knowledgeable and enthusiastic children was a delight had by these judges. Having 22 learners in the after school gardening club, each on a rota to water their growing endeavours, shows the childrens love to their activity. With every class in the school taking part in some horticultural activity, their work and presence around the school ground is self evident. From fruit, veg, flowers to wildlife habitats, natural planting, trees, pond and enclosed outside classroom in a natural setting are all great learning tools adopted by this progressive school.

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

- Consider looking at how the pond area could be made safer for use within the programme.
- Consider enrolling on the RHS campaign for schools gardening. A ready available source or resources for you to access free of charge - The following websites have useful resources supporting gardening and outdoor learning in schools:  
<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/home> and  
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/schools-and-groupsh>
- Continue with the excellent work done with the great variety of projects that the children clearly enjoy.

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# Hutton Cranswick Playgroup

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

This outstanding entry was a sheer delight to experience. All the children take part in a multitude of environmental and wildlife friendly activities with the amount of knowledge and learning demonstrated being of the highest standard. A list of activities could go on and on, as well as their participation in planting and adopting planting troughs on the road outside working with their community. A joy to visit, thank you Laney, Elaine, staff and children for our wonderful visit.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider enrolling on the RHS campaign for schools gardening. A ready available source or resources for you to access free of charge.
- The following websites have useful resources supporting gardening and outdoor learning in schools: <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/home> and <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/schools-and-groups/>

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# Nafferton Primary School

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

On our approach to the school you are greeted with a wonderful display of colour with flower troughs on the railings and well kept borders. Walking up to the school entrance there are several hanging baskets and pots proving colourful welcome to the school. We had a warm welcome (and refreshments) from Paul, the Headmaster and Annabella who was a member of the school gardening club. She was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic and it was obvious that the club was extremely vibrant within the school.

We were shown a newly created bird feeding area which was well looked after.

Around the perimeter of the school grounds are varied areas of interest which have been created and plans for further ones in the future, in their 3 year plan. Garden areas are well planted with a good variety of plants and vegetables. Left over water from the dining room is used to water these areas. The school is environmentally friendly with its wild flower areas, compost and recycling bins.

The school is actively involved with the local community and get a number of plants donated from families and friends of the pupils.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to develop new areas around the school and maintain the present areas of interest.
- Continue planning ahead and maintain your involvement within the village community.
- Ensure that the gardening club continues to thrive at the school, driven by an enthusiastic Headmaster and 2 of the teachers who we met on the day.
- Well done to you all. The school is a credit to the village.

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## **Newington Academy After School Gardening Club**

**Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Situated in the west of Hull, Newington Academy has comparatively extensive grounds. An enclosed garden encompasses both productive and ornamental areas and provides an outdoor location used both for curricular work and as a calm, therapeutic space for pupils with various issues. The after school gardening club not only look after this area but also the various raised beds surrounding the school. They also make and maintain a number of attractive hanging baskets around the school which are to be auctioned at the end of term to raise funds. All the plants in the hanging baskets have been grown from seed with the help of volunteer Steve Carter.

Unfortunately the school suffers not infrequently from vandalism and the group are to be commended for their perseverance and positive attitude to this.

The gardening group is going to expand with teacher Mrs Young set to work with older pupils while Mr Carter works with the younger pupils.

A big well done to all in the meantime!

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

- New fencing to the rear of the school has opened up the opportunity to have a wildlife area under the trees along the boundary and it will be most interesting to see how this develops.
- It was good to see a move to more perennials in the raised beds, but the number of these raised beds must create quite a bit of work in terms of maintenance. In order to keep the gardening within the school grounds sustainable in the long term perhaps consideration should be given to reducing the number of these.
- It would be nice to see the three 'R' (reduce, re-use and recycle) addressed in a more robust manner.
- How about some interpretation/signage in the enclosed garden? This could be a wintertime activity for the gardening club.
- There was little evidence at the time of the visit of communication with the wider school community eg via noticeboard, newsletter, assemblies, website etc. If it happens, it would be helpful to hear about it. If it doesn't, then think about ways to blow the garden club's trumpet and highlight the good work that they do to improve the school's environment.

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**Old Earth School**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The school clearly gives the visitor an immediate impression of a well maintained and cared for environment but the most impressive fact about the school is the enthusiasm and knowledge of both the children and staff with regard to the natural environment with the children's knowledge of honeybees being exceptional

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

- More could have been made of three biomass boiler.
- The now all weather running track and games area has removed some of the biodiversity from the school and could be offset in other areas of the school grounds.
- The school could foster more community involvement within the schools activities regarding the environment.

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## **Oxspring Primary School**

**Gold**

#### **Overall Impression**

On arrival at Oxspring Primary School the judge was somewhat taken aback to find the pupils in the playground dressed as pop stars. Boy George was one of the welcoming party. We were told as it was near the end of term it was dressing up day which was being enjoyed by everyone.

At the school garden the judge was greeted by a small group of pupils who took charge of the judging party and explained the different areas of the garden before passing us onto several small groups of students who confidently and eloquently what was happening in all the different parts of the garden.

These included the school greenhouse, aquatic area, fairy wood, willow walk, and the newly made pizza oven which they were going to light later in the day. There was also a circular memorial seat in the garden where pupils could sit and have some peace and quiet if needed.

After visiting the garden, we were shown indoors to look at recent photographs of school activities including shows and social events.

The Were thoroughly enjoying their gardening and outdoor activities making very different and unusual things supervised by the teaching staff who go the extra mile to interest and stimulate the children.

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

- The children we met were able to explain in great detail what they had been growing and making in their outdoor lessons. they were able to answer any questions without hesitation or having to ask for any help.
- Well done to the staff who came up with so many innovative things to do and recopies for making plant fertilizer and other beneficial products. The ideas just keep on coming.
- Keep on recycling and coming up with more innovative ideas to help the environment and raise funds for the school.
- Both children and staff were highly motivated and were enjoying their time at school.

## Priory Primary School

## Gold

### Overall Impression

On entering the school there is a noticeable theme about the outdoors with wall paintings in the corridors and examples of Forest School projects. Gardening and wildlife is an integral part of the curriculum and involves the whole school whether it is growing fruit and vegetables on the quad or working with Yorkshire Water on the 'Soak it Up' project the pupils are all engaged not just in gardening but also encouraging wildlife with insect hotels, bird boxes and compost heaps. All of which are encouraged by the Head Teacher Mrs Roe who enthuses the pupils to look after the site and wildlife. The school not only look after their own neighbourhood but also engage with a school in Sierra Leone gaining further experiences in growing techniques

I must thank all the students I met on judging day who were all very knowledgeable about gardening and the environment, explained the project with Yorkshire Water and carried out a litter pick as we walked round.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider trying some heritage seeds from Garden Organic ([www.gardenorganic.org.uk](http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk)) to help explain the breeding of plants but also the need to keep a gene bank.
- Maybe consider a labelling scheme for the different vegetable varieties with painting the different names on pebbles
- It was very interesting to hear about the 'Soak it Up' project with Yorkshire Water from the students and the plans to plant more trees on the playing fields. You might want to consider leaving a strip of grass adjacent to the tree planting longer to encourage more insect pollinators and small mammals so it softens the area between the playing field and the tree planting area. You could also get involved with the Blue Campaign (@blue\_campaign1 [www.bluecampaignhub.com](http://www.bluecampaignhub.com)) which is trying to persuade people to Re-wild gardens and green spaces marking them with blue hearts. Maybe consider a trip to University of Hull campus to see their swales project
- The plans for the Hull for Heroes new development will provide further green corridors for the local wildlife and more opportunities for the students
- The work on the pond area will give even further opportunities for the students for different habitats to attract more wildlife into the school grounds.
- Maybe consider growing comfrey which can be used to activate a slow compost heap or can be used as a liquid fertiliser
- The murals are a legacy from the Year of Culture and a great addition to the site
- If bird or bat boxes, insect hotels are required try HMP Hull as they can create a range of products for wildlife gardening. (Mr Tom Leach)
- Maybe look at Learning through Landscapes web site for further ideas ([www.ltl.org.uk](http://www.ltl.org.uk)). There are grants for Nature, training available and free resources. There are also more downloadable activities on the Woodlands Trust web site (under Activities for families and children [www.woodlandstrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandstrust.org.uk))

# Richmond Methodist Primary School

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

The entrance to the school was very clean with well-kept grass and planter with old tyres recycled and planted with a variety of plants and vegetables provided by a loving Grandad. The children plant up but staff cares for the plants along the front for safety reasons. There is an enclosed garden with pond which is well used by wildlife and provides opportunities for pond dipping and life and living processes. Unfortunately a heron has reduced fish stock. Children participate in planting and growing vegetables and flowers in the raised beds, there is a variety of fruit trees and ornamentals. Lavender and herbs encourage bees and insects. The garden is used for both children and teachers to relax both before and during school hours. A lovely haven.

In the school grounds is a small "forest" and willow weaving structure. There are a variety of planters on the fences including milk carton planters and willow baskets containing more lavender. There are more tyre containers and planters round the patio area at the back of the school.

There are plans in place for the future. It was clear to see the enjoyment of the children in the grassed play area. Thank you and congratulations to Mrs Swinburn and all the team.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Larger containers would be easier to maintain consider stacking 2 tyres high where appropriate.
- Water retaining gel mixed in compost would also be beneficial.
- Summer pruning of fruit trees would encourage fruiting whilst avoiding vigorous growth.
- Photographic evidence of before, during and after projects would be a good for further student participation and show progress made.
- A wooden set of steps or ramp is needed on the outside of the pond to avoid frog spawning on paths.
- The plans to plant spring bulbs in the grass area at the front of the school needs careful consideration of varieties to be chosen. The grass will need to remain uncut for a time to allow bulbs to regenerate. Consider shorter narcissi and perhaps earlier flowering varieties.
- The woven baskets are very prone to drought and then difficult to rehydrate. By lining with strong plastic with drainage holes at least 4cm up from bottom this should improve plant health.

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# Stoneferry Primary School

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

The team at Stoneferry have created colourful planting to break up the unsympathetic surroundings producing a variety of areas for the pupils to enjoy in the middle of the urban environment. Troughs, planters and hanging baskets all help to create colourful areas. The support by volunteer Steve Carter is so valuable to help to support the gardening club and Steve passes on a range of skills from gardening to jam-making . Great to hear about the weekly quiz and that prizes for Gardener of the Year and Most Enthusiastic Gardener are given out every year. Thank you to the members of the garden club Elsa, Scarlet, Liam and Ruby who showed me round the school.

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

- Consider trying to plant some of the trees into bigger containers or into the ground to allow them to grow. Maybe some larger containers from HMP Hull could be considered for other areas of the site to try and give some other planting areas.
- Consider making compost from waste from packed lunches which will help improve the soil in the raised planters etc
- Maybe look at Learning through Landscapes web site for further ideas ([www.ltl.org.uk](http://www.ltl.org.uk) ). There are grants for Nature, training available and free resources. There are also more downloadable activities on the Woodlands Trust web site (under Activities for families and children [www.woodlandstrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandstrust.org.uk) )
- Maybe consider growing a range of other herbs near the rosemary area to let the students try different ones
- Consider some water storage to help the watering of the containers. Maybe discuss this with Yorkshire Water

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## **Molescroft Primary School, Songs in Bloom      Gold**

#### **Overall Impression**

WOW. You cannot fail to be impressed by this entry. Molescroft Primary school is rightly proud of its children and what they are achieving horticulturally. You cannot fail to be impressed from reception class to eco warriors, everyone is involved in horticultural projects: from bug hunts in the jungle, pond dipping, allotment growing and finally singing floral displays each designed by all classes and expertly presented by the children. Garden presenters of the future watch out. And if judging was not hard enough you are asked to pick overall winning tubs. Much harder than judging for the RHS. Well done Molescroft.

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

- Develop wildflower meadows at front of school along roadside. Getting parents involved will improve unused area of grounds.
- May be worth cutting back some of the jungle by the pond, a few briars in there could do with removing although there not putting children off.
- Continue with your eco warriors they are great ambassadors for the school.
- I'm not available to judge your singing containers next year but whoever does, Good Luck!

## Category E2 – Universities, College & Further Education

### Leeds University

### Gold

#### Overall Impression

The university campus was a pleasure to visit and proved a real eye opener for this first time visitor. Although the university has been established for many decades, it's clear that it is constantly evolving and major capital investments are ensuring it maintains its place as one of the top universities in the UK. The grounds are well maintained and used as a 'Living Lab' - by the various onsite faculties. Any improvements are worked within the fifteen year Landscape Development Plan, where sustainability, promoting wildlife habitats and a cohesive environment are principle aims. All plantings are measured using an innovative biodiversity standard to optimise any new landscape features during the planning stage. Successful examples of this are the now maturing and very colourful Charles Morris Garden, the Roger Stevens Cooling pond, the Laidlaw Library roof garden and a now established interactive Sensory Garden. The presence of a low maintenance urban wildlife garden with an apiary on site located at the centre of the campus, reinforcing the universities commitment to raising awareness and implementation of biodiversity considerations. An art trail, walking route and a significant level of interpretation, encourage the casual visitor to explore what is a well presented clean and tidy campus.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The location of the university campus so close to Leeds city centre adds significantly to the opportunity to develop St George's Field as a city centre wildlife haven. Development of a sizeable natural water feature could attract an even more diverse range of flora and fauna. In addition the planting of more tree species would add to the already developing range of trees seen on campus.
- The university already embraces the positive aspects of recycling both in its actions, policies and research. Having a demonstration garden on campus using solely recycled materials with appropriate interpretation, could help student and visitor appreciation of the many opportunities to help reduce our individual carbon footprint.
- The information forwarded to the judges was useful. Additional information about earlier developments and projects could have helped inform before the visit, particularly as the campus is so vast and the visit time limited. A future project for a student maybe to develop a visitors experience around campus using a drone camera, highlighting key points assisting with movement and to help target locations. Doubly useful as an on-line introduction to the campus for the general public.

## Overall Impression

On the face of it The University of Bradford looks like a group of well-designed modern buildings built for the twenty-first century, but look closer and you will see the detailed planning which has gone into the campus. Many of the buildings are built to some of the highest environmental standards which include Hemp walls for insulation, rainwater harvesting for flushing the toilets etc, Solar panels and green roofs on some of the buildings.

Look closer and you will see a great deal of effort has been put into the horticultural design of the whole area. Apple trees have been planted in many areas including around some Car Parks which have been placed some distance from the main buildings to encourage motorists to walk. Black and red currant bushes have been placed at the side of many paths for people to browse on. There are even large Peach trees in some of the sunny areas. There is a medical herb garden in which the plants are labelled with name and use. Student vegetable growing areas are dotted around so everyone can have a go at growing their own. New memorial trees are dotted throughout the campus and bee friendly borders are planted next to some of the main paths which give of lovely scents in the hot sun. a new rock garden was built outside one of the newly refurbished buildings last winter containing many unusual varieties of grasses and perennials. But that's not all on the roof of one of the buildings is a well designed roof garden planted with drought tolerant plants which need minimal maintenance along with a small pool with moving water. The university keeps its own bees on the roof which are encouraged to fly away from the buildings before descending to collect nectar. Back at ground level there are areas of wild flowers both annual and perennial which attract bees and butterflies and need minimal maintenance. Outside some of the main doors are old fashioned type geranium planted with other bedding plants to add summer colour. Compost is produced on site and is used for hanging baskets and gardens. Lastly the grassed areas are fed and neatly manicured to give that natural look

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The grounds and gardens are a tribute to the grounds staff who also perform other duties. The placing and design of the planted areas shows off their horticultural skill which is sadly lacking in many public places.
- Move memorial garden from the disused Heaton Mount campus.
- Ensure there are sufficient funds for the purchase of wild flower seed for new and existing areas to continue in the future, these areas cost little to maintain.
- Install a picture of the Bradford skyline on the long wall of the roof garden overlooking Bradford.
- Keep hedges and shrubberies pruned at the appropriate time.

## Overall Impression

The wide variety of planting schemes around the campus such as the quadrangle with hostas and aralias and the swale planting makes a great environment for students and staff. The planting of the courtyard areas creates space for people to use for their own wellbeing to take 10 minutes out of their busy day and to be able to sit in green surroundings. There was a nice combination of roses near the sculptures using Rosa Ballerina. Areas of the grounds are continually being reconsidered as to their best use and upgrading planting accordingly. The trip to the top of the library was great to see the extent of the grounds looked after to high standard by the grounds team.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider a sculpture walk to explain the art works around the site, maybe they could be added to the campus map
- There is a good collection of trees maybe these could be labelled
- Good to hear about the plans for the memorial garden creating another quiet space for people to visit and remember
- When the campus map is next updated would it be possible to highlight the areas of the grounds that are available for staff and students to use for health and wellbeing such as the Quad areas and wildlife area.
- The site is very clean and tidy although the bins vary in quality and maintenance but the idea of using rocks instead of bollards is working
- Good ornamental summer bedding in many areas gives great structure and colour. One or two tubs needed a little more attention to keep up the standards.
- Further interpretation information at the wildlife area will be useful and adding log piles to the wildlife area would increase the insect activity. You could also consider getting involved with the Blue Campaign (@blue\_campaign1 [www.bluecampaignhub.com](http://www.bluecampaignhub.com)) which is trying to persuade people to Re-wild gardens and green spaces marking them with blue hearts.
- Also consider other interpretation around the site to explain some of the features such as the swale area or maybe more could be made of the medicinal area for students and staff. ( maybe consider working with HMP Hull to produce the interpretation panels)

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**Category C7 – RHS It's Your Neighbourhood**



YORKSHIRE

**Barnsley Main Heritage Group**

**Level 4 - Thriving**

**Areas of Achievement**

What an interesting site with so much potential. It was lovely to meet such an enthusiastic group of volunteers and with such a mixed age range. I can only admire their vision in seeing the potential of the site of the disused Barnsley Main Colliery and their efforts in developing it from a major fly tipping site towards a local heritage site.

The work that has been carried out to clear the site and to establish the infrastructure for the pic nic area, the car park, the pop up museum and in establishing the beautiful wildflower area is fantastic.

The ideas for developing the Wood Yard as a memory site to support both older people in remembering their past and younger people in understanding the history of the site while also supporting the natural environment is impressive and I hope it can be brought to fruition.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Continue to explore the possibility of linking up with the Dearne Valley Country park by establishing footpath links.
- Continue to explore the development of fitness trails with the support of Barbells Gym. This is an excellent idea for encouraging younger volunteers.
- Seek to replant the car park shrub bed with rabbit hardy planting or create a rabbit proof barrier around this shrub bed until it establishes. Mown grass or wildflower planting which has been successful in another area of the site may be more successful.

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## **Cudworth Environmental Group**

## **Level 4 - Thriving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

The Cudworth Environmental Group works in partnership with the local community, local authorities, and other organisations, and plays an essential part in a vibrant community, which it is today. The group meets every month to look at how to improve the parks and green spaces in Cudworth. They have a team of enthusiastic volunteers who work hard to make the area attractive for everyone to live and work in.

The high street was clean and tidy with good use of hanging baskets and planters with shops encouraged to do their own. The brick wall near the Co-op was full of petunias and once in full bloom will enhance the high street.

The group are also responsible for work in Cudworth Park where the old bowling green has been turned into a peace garden with a war memorial and planters. Within the park are flower beds, lime trees and play areas. Numerous events are held in the park, including galas, and Tea in the Park.

Well done to all the volunteers.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Consider using shrubs and perennials or drought tolerant plants with a few annuals in the brick wall near the Co-op.
- Consider extra and large planters to enhance the front of the Co-op.
- Consider obtaining sponsorship for wooden planters around the town.
- Continue to promote the rich local history.
- Consider visiting another group for mentoring and new ideas.

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## **Dishforth Community Garden Project**

## **Level 4 - Thriving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

It must be inspiring to be part of this community team knowing you are changing and improving the environment of what could otherwise be a very transient community. Thanks to SSGT Rob Bellis, many community based projects are happening around the former RAF base, assisting in cementing this community together. The memorial garden is a great asset to the ground with vision and plans to enhance this further. With assistance from a LIBOR grant of 40k – the sports pavilion has been transformed into a great venue for the community to use, as demonstrated by the Hawaiian theme day the weekend before our visit and the Circus event upcoming. The new allotments that have been created at the site are now ready for tenants to move in. The young children's gardening themed activities at the community hub is great to see with the education of plants, wildlife, food and nature. These skills and experience they can now carry forward with them as they may move around the military bases.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- • With more volunteers comes more skills and manpower. Extra help with maintenance of the splendid memorial garden would help the limited number of present volunteers.
- • The area of the Children's Garden at the community hub will be enhanced by the painting and replanting of the stack display.
- • Perhaps consider some interpretation boards around the site. IE Memorial garden, Wildflower area, and sport pavilion site.
- • Good to see that the project is helping to build community cohesion, and to continue to encourage the residents around the base to get involved and use the other communal facilities.

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## **Dovercourt Surgery**

## **Level 2 - Improving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

It was great to see and feel the enthusiasm of the volunteers, who have been referred by the surgery. This is fine example of gardening and outdoor activities being used to improve people's health and well-being.

The raised beds are particularly well maintained, neat and with clear labelling, and the crops were all in fine condition.

The new poly tunnel, which the volunteers were working on, will further increase the site's growing potential.

The mini-wildflower meadows are a nice touch and bring something different to the site.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- If the surgery is amenable, consider introducing a few fruit trees, which could provide another element and, in time, provide further produce to help sustain the site.
- Again, if possible, consider planting climbers to cover the perimeter fence. Virginia Creeper, Lonicera, Clematis and or Boston Ivy would provide year round colour. Introducing climbing fruits would bring further benefits.
- Regarding further projects which require some labour, such as tree planting, perhaps consider Community Payback the National Citizens Service [www.ncsy.es.co.uk](http://www.ncsy.es.co.uk) where young people could get involved.

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## **Firth Park Community Allotment**

## **Level 5 - Outstanding**

#### **Areas of Achievement**

Like its partner site at Heeley City Farm, this is hidden gem within the environs of a big city.

The site offers excellent opportunities for everyone, including disadvantaged people, to develop to not just horticultural skills but also building, carpentry and landscaping.

It was good to hear of the wonderful work with the school children, and it's an amazing site for them to learn about wildlife and growing food. The kids even get healthy snacks made from the site's produce every time they attend! As well as a superb variety of flowers, herbs, fruit and veg growing on site, there is also lots of information on wildlife. This is a proper outdoor school!

There is excellent community engagement in what is a challenging area, and there is real sense of inclusiveness for anyone wishing to get involved.

It was inspiring to see ongoing projects on the newly acquired plots and hear about long term objectives.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Continue to look for further sources of funding. It was reassuring to hear that the organisation will now have more of an opportunity to do this.
- Consider a more high profile sign at the allotment entrance. The work done here deserves a visit by more people. We appreciate that a higher profile may attract the wrong people, however.

- It would very interesting to know how many species of insects, butterflies, birds and mammals, plus wildflowers are on site. This could be an excellent opportunity for ecology students at Sheffield University to get involved and undertake a survey.
- Regarding further projects, perhaps consider the National Citizens Service [www.ncsyes.co.uk](http://www.ncsyes.co.uk) where young people could get involved.

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## **Friends of Crow Wood Park**

## **Level 4 - Thriving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

The friends group are good at organising events and appear to have achieved Financial stability with a good contact sponsors and funding organisations

The Friends group also appear good at organising working parties to improve the park

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- The development of a longer term plan for the park may be useful.
- A formalisation of the members group of the friends may be helpful.

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## **FRIENDS OF SANDRINGHAM PARK**

## **Level 5 - Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

This entry demonstrates what can be done when an area is found, that needs a lot of attention, and someone takes on the task of doing something about it, with very good results.

The group led by Kazia has a core membership of 9 people and many others as required. They work with many organisations to gain financial support as well as expertise, help with projects and recognition. Well done on gaining your eighth Green flag Award.

The area has been cleaned up and is a credit to all concerned. There are many good examples of environmental issues eg bird feeders, a bee friendly bed and an insect hotel. It was also good to see an interesting area for children.

Vandalisation and bad behaviour have almost disappeared and the area is well used and enjoyed by the community with many successful events taking place.

The display of plant pots at the entrance makes a real statement and welcomes everyone to the park.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- The signage was good and it was really interesting to hear about all the history of park and it would be a good idea to consider introducing a new notice board for that.
- This is a small hard working group well supported with good communication using Facebook and Twitter. Keep up this good work and continue to seek additional help and support.

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## **Friends of the Valley - Gleadless      Level 2 - Improving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

What a pleasure it was to meet such an enthusiastic group of volunteers, determined to make a difference in their local community by creating an area for people to sit and relax, surrounded by plants of all descriptions and colour.

What was just a concrete front and rear seating area is now a space with flowers and herbs in abundance. Each herb has a sign and the community are encouraged to pick them for their own use. In an area where very few of the residents have their own gardens this is a welcome addition for the surrounding community.

One of the younger volunteers has created a number of features from recycled wooden pallets which include bird boxes, two seating areas and raised wooden planters. The bird boxes have been lovingly and very artistically painted by another of the young volunteers. A bench and planter have been placed close to the turning circle for the bus stop, again making this area a more welcoming site

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Consider placing more of the raised beds in the front area, replacing the tyre planters over the next few years.
- Look at placing containers on the wall to break up the possible 'bleakness' of colour. It is a lovely brick entrance way and the use of containers on the wall will only enhance the area.
- Work with the local authority to enhance planters on the main road.
- Carry on working with the local schools and other community groups in the area.

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## **Ginny Greenholes - Spofforth**

## **Level 5 - Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

Ginny Greenholes is not only a wonderful wildlife area but also has picnic tables, benches and bicycle stands adjacent to Spofforth's children's playground which has superb equipment bought with grants from Play England, the Heritage Lottery fund, Spring-watch and The Wildlife Trust. Visitors find a wealth of interest with over 100 wildflowers recorded - many in groups which attract different insects.

There are numerous bird and bat boxes, insect houses, log piles and even an insect hotel all with excellent information boards and delightful leaflets.

The area has been developed in consultation with and by the community since 2010 with the help initially of numerous grants and The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme together with the local Army Apprentice College from a very overgrown site to become a wonderful nature reserve with a Yorkshire heritage orchard, where visitors - including school parties can learn about wildlife, conservation and composting as well as biodiversity and nature - all in a safe delightful environment .

The tremendous amount of work and dedication involved is a great credit to everyone.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Areas for consideration are very difficult to find as Spofforth in Bloom and the volunteers are constantly introducing new ideas to further improve Ginny Holes - just continue as you are doing - Congratulations

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## **Gleadless Valley Methodist Church**

## **Level 4 - Thriving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

The core of seven volunteers with one paid worker is making a considerable difference to this area of the city.

The group have created a small wild flower area and have a number of small but established fruit trees on site. With a variety of plants (all labelled) the site was a haven for wildlife with butterflies and bees etc. There is an established water source in place and a number of well used/placed compost bins on site.

The variety and quality of produce grown is a credit to the volunteers and is a useful addition to the church kitchen. It was nice to see a variety of salad crops on the site.

What is a very tricky hilly site to obviously manage the volunteers of Gleadless Valley Methodist Church are a credit to the community.

Keep up the very good work.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Consider more bird boxes on site and a bug house
- Continue your work by including more salad crops.
- Consider planting more perennial plants ie; Lavender to encourage more pollinating insects onto the site
- Work with other community groups in the area (especially the new groups) encouraging each other along the way.
- A sensory area would prove to be an added bonus to the garden, somewhere for the volunteers to sit at the end of a hard day and for members of the community to sit and visually see your achievements.

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## **Goldthorpe Railway Cutting**

**Level 4 - Thriving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

The scale of the project, the engagement of so many from the community, official organisations and commercial companies, have worked to change what was effectively an unofficial waste tip into productive green space.

A wonderful example of a community working with partners to resolve what many would have seen as an impossible task.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- The installation of information boards will greatly assist with the education projects that are carried out, and be a great help to visitors.
- It may help to rough out a plan with zones showing how areas are to be used and developed, as the site is used for cropping, conservation and education this would ensure that new developments do not compromise existing uses.
- Try to ensure resources match developments as maintaining the site needs to be the first priority.

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## **Grimethorpe Community Farm, Barnsley**

**Level 5 -  
Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

Excellent community involvement, with ownership of different areas by volunteers. The service provided by the café. Education and learning for all sections of the community both young and old.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- The chippings that are going to be put down will improve access to all, Continue to improve on the floral containers, Continue with plans to develop a wildflower area across from the farm

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## **Grimethorpe war and Miners memorial**

**Level 4 - Thriving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

Excellent use of bedding plants next to the memorial, involvement of all sections of the community. A fitting tribute to those who lost their life serving the local area

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Try and push for more frequent grass cutting round the flower beds, continue with the plans for the installation of the bench

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## **Heeley City Farm**

## **Level 5 - Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

The farm is an incredible little area of colour, scent and activity within suburban Sheffield, offering a real sense of escape.

There is outstanding work being undertaken with young and disadvantaged people, giving them valuable opportunities to learn horticultural skills and animal husbandry, whilst raising environmental awareness.

The farm runs an impressive list of activities and events.

The farm is a first class example of sustainability. Nothing is wasted and everything is grown naturally, with a real focus on organic growing.

With the attraction of the animals as well as conventional play, the community is fortunate to have a facility like this which offers fun and engaging activities for children but in a different way from that of the usual public open spaces.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Consider adding interpretation to the outdoor pens of the rare breeds. There are some interesting facts about these animals it would be good to share.
- Consider a 'face-lift' for the pond. Removing some of the overhanging branches and the associated leaf litter would improve the ponds biodiversity. Perhaps YWT could assist with the branch removal, and perhaps the National Citizens Service [www.ncsy.es.co.uk](http://www.ncsy.es.co.uk) or Employer Supported Volunteering (possibly from Sheffield City Council) could assist in clearing out some of the reeds in winter.

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## **High Green In Bloom**

## **Level 4 - Thriving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

The In Bloom Group continue to improve the local area with 25 planters and other flower beds, including perennial planting which helps to attract wildlife like bees, butterflies and other insects.

They are assisting other local business with their horticultural maintenance and always offer advice when required; these include the leisure centre and parish council building.

The whole neighbourhood is absent of both litter and graffiti which is a credit to the hard work of the In Bloom group.

The event held every Christmas by the In Bloom group is very successful and appreciated by everybody as it is well supported by the local community. The event consists of the Christmas tree lights switch on, carols from the local school and a visit from Father Christmas.

The In Bloom group do very well in getting sponsorship to help them keep the local community looking its best. This includes the local Gala they run each year, where one of the highlights is the funfair rides for children which are free.

There is clear evidence of history boards and In Bloom notices all around the village. The In Bloom has its own Facebook page which they regularly update

#### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- The In Bloom group could show more evidence of composting, recycling and built environment.
- Consider replacing old/ worn planters with new self-watering containers.
- Consider clearing around the 'High Green' sign at Thompson Hill to enable passer-by to clearly see the sign to encourage them to visit the community.

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## **Incredible Edible Brighthouse.**

## **Level 3 - Advancing**

#### **Areas of Achievement**

Worked well with engaging external groups

Raised presentation and informative labelling of plants.

Good fundraising skills.

Clever irrigation.

Enthusiastic team who work really hard.

Good use of recycled wooden planters and benches around town.

Good use of canal and riverside areas.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Increase investment for plants from local or external organisations.
- Try purchasing better varieties of perennials which add prolonged seasonal colour and texture.
- Make use of more sustainable planting to reduce the workload.
- Add more interest throughout the seasons by using occasional evergreens, berrying shrubs, and plants with winter, spring and autumn colour.
- Identify the right plants for the right place.
- Get help from and communicate with local nurseries and plant experts when needed.
- Use small drifts of winter and summer bedding plants to add colour.

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## **Lady Lumley Almshouses Thorton le Dale**

**Level 5 -  
Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

Lady Lumley Almshouses present a characterful frontage to the main road through the village but it is at the back of the property that the beautiful gardens can be found. It was nice to meet Mary and Rob who showed us around and told us about the gardening project here. Twelve individual gardens make up the whole with residents sharing plants and ideas but retaining their own individual styles. The residents at Lady Lumley's are a fantastic example of what a small community is all about and they should be congratulated on their horticultural achievements. The gardens at Lady Lumleys are a hidden gem full of colour and scent. The gardens contribute to the local 'Open Gardens' scheme and are well worth taking time to visit.

It's particularly nice to see each individual gardener retaining their own ideas of what they like to grow. This includes flowers as well as fruit and veg.

The social benefits of gardening are highlighted at Lady Lumleys with neighbours looking out for one another and socialising together.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- It would be nice to meet more of the residents who could have told us their own individual gardening stories.
- Continue to maintain your high standards and keep enjoying creating your beautiful gardens.

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## **Lodge Drive Mirfield**

**Level 5 -  
Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

The residents of Lodge Drive are to be congratulated on presenting an outstanding neighbourhood. Private gardens were immaculately maintained and it is clear that everyone has been included in the project enhancing community spirit and co-operation. The adopted theme of 'home' as an add on to the Mirfield 'Love Where You Live' campaign was inspired, fun and executed to a very high standard. Up cycling has been taken to another level in Lodge Drive. Additionally, the residents have taken on some elements of maintenance of the adjacent 'Greenway' and have opened up some of the footpaths to be more accessible to all. This is an on going project which all the community will benefit from. An outstanding first time entry into Yorkshire in Bloom combining hard work and humour.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Continue to support each other using the bloom campaign to bring the residents together for work parties and social occasions.
- The barrels at the entrance to Lodge Drive are in need of a little attention. Their maintenance will only enhance further the overall appeal of Lodge Drive.
- The work you have begun on the Greenway is benefitting everyone from the local community by opening up access for all ages. However, you are only a relatively small group so plan your programme accordingly and don't overstretch yourselves by taking on too much and not being able to maintain what you have already achieved. It must be sustainable and achievable.

## **Low Moor Community Kids Allotment**

## **Level 5 - Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

Continuing to work with young children and their families teaching them to grow flowers fruit and vegetables .

Enabling the children to interact with each other and learn different skills..

As well as sharing plots children have their own plots which they maintain, preparing ,seed sowing ,planting and cropping.

Both Angela and Robina should be congratulated on their dedication over the years and the amount of children they have encouraged into learning horticulture. Without them this scheme would not have succeeded for so long .Their work is invaluable. The parents I spoke to on site much appreciate the work that these ladies do.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Next item on your wish list , compostable toilet, Sure funding can be found from your many supporters.
- as timber decays around existing beds replace with recycled plastic boards.
- Continue to work with volunteer groups to assist with larger projects around the allotment.
- The work that goes into this project is unbelievable but it all goes towards its success. Well done

## **Lower Hopton**

## **Level 2 - Improving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

Lower Hopton is a close neighbour of Mirfield but retains its village feel and individuality. There appear to be very few properties which have gardens so window boxes and baskets make up the floral street scene. The children from Hopton School were a delight to meet and they had great enthusiasm showing us Up Park and the work they have been doing with the RHS Outreach Team. Surprisingly, for a group just making their way in the Bloom Campaign, it was heartening to see many small businesses contributing to the floral effort. This is a good first time Yorkshire in Bloom entry which has got lots of potential to go much further in the competition.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Although very few houses appear to have gardens, there was evidence that some residents who have yards had tried to brighten them up with pots and containers. Also residents have started to put out boxes and containers by their doors. Continue to encourage this trend as it will make a difference to the street scene.
- Continue to encourage the businesses who are supporting the bloom campaign. They are making a big difference on the main street.
- The playground equipment at Up Park could, perhaps, do with some tender loving care and a coat of paint! The group may like to investigate how this could be achieved over the coming year and use it as a future project. Also, some of the street furniture throughout Lower Hopton is in need of attention. Perhaps the group could work with the town council and local authority to work out a rolling programme of maintenance.

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## **Millgate Bloomers**

## **Level 4 - Thriving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

It is clear that the community spirit of this group is inclusive of differing age groups and abilities with a majority contributing in some way to the improvements.

Residents and visitors must be delighted with the results of the work carried out with the painting and maintenance of barriers and handrails and the introduction of barrier baskets.

The creation of a semi enclosed public garden as a refuge for all including wildlife and inclusion of a birdbath which adds to the colour and vibrancy of the area.

Regular litter picking takes place.

Further advances by tidying of an unkempt area which is made challenging by the terrain and difficulty of access.

Individual properties contributing with floral displays often beyond their own property.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Reconsider choice of plants bearing in mind long term maintenance especially at the top of a high wall.
- A plaque to acknowledge that the area is cared for by Millgate Residents.
- Consider placement of further wildlife friendly residences.
- Continue working to introduce further conservation and recycling initiatives.

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## Mirfield Promenade

## Level 5 - Outstanding

### Areas of Achievement

A tremendous amount of very hard work has gone into making the 4 miles of Mirfield Promenade which run through the town into the delightful waterway with pocket parks which we found as we cruised along it past paths for walkers, wildlife areas, a sports field and seating areas.

Established 20 years ago for Mirfield Community Partnership, a Charity which aims to improve the environment and community life - it certainly fulfils it's that aim.

The In Bloom group provided and water 12 planters which were planted by contractors in the pocket parks with seats along the canal bank, grass is cut by the Canal and River Trust who also cut back weeds occasionally.

The Rotary Club sponsor a garden with bedding in summer and daffodils and purple Rotary crocuses in winter - all plants are either recycled or composted.

Funds are also raised from the Co-operative, Darren Smith Homes Ltd, John Cotton Ltd, Yorkshire Building Society,

Canal and River Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Kirklees council and many other small donations.

Great help is given by volunteers and partner organisations such as The Safe Anchor Trust and River Stewardship and young people who all give their time and skills for litter picks, graffiti removal, clearing brambles, tree pruning, new planting and putting up new fences.

There are sculptures, local history boards, notices for dog walkers, a Bug Hotel - voted the best by Trip Advisor - a lovely memorial garden and a new picnic area indeed a wonderful oasis of calm and local history for visitors - Congratulations to the many Volunteers and organisations.

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- Just continue with the ongoing plans for removing and replacing fencing, adding new seats and trying to deal with the problems litter, graffiti and residue left by flooding - and of course maintaining the wonderful support you have from so many groups, sponsors, partner organisations and especially your volunteers! Very well done

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## Mytholmroyd Station Partnership

## Level 3 - Advancing

### Areas of Achievement

The raised beds at the church with individual themes - herbaceous/annuals/roses are pleasing as is the sale of fruit from the orchard for local charities. The embankment is a difficult area but the volunteers work at this - the teasels are an interesting addition!! The Broken Straw bug hotel by the cubs and the posters designed by the children show the group involve children in their work. The new recycled planters on the platform were very

smart and give a very professional appearance to the planting. The area at Streamside Fold under the bridge is a difficult dry area and the group are to be commended in their efforts to improve this area. The park at Scout Road is an attractive feature and on the heritage aspect the Iron Man posters designed by the children show the link with Ted Hughes.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- The group's involvement with planting on the new car park area will be challenging but interesting having a blank canvas upon which to work. Maybe a local youth group (under supervision) could be an answer to tackling the embankment area if this is physically beyond the group.

## **Northallerton Secret Garden**

**Level 5 -  
Outstanding**

#### **Areas of Achievement**

The volunteer group have succeeded in creating a beautiful space from a neglected piece of ground into a garden with a definitive WOW factor which is well used for the benefit of many organisations. The produce from the vegetable / fruit section is shared amongst the group as well as the local food bank. School children use the space to nurture an interest in gardening and wildlife. The space is seen as having a positive benefit for the wellbeing, mental and spiritual, for the wide range of people who use the garden on a regular basis. An oasis in the centre of town, with a wide range of wildlife, bird song and environmental habitats. A pleasure to spend time here.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- A wild area of the garden is being considered by the group for some development. It was felt that in order to encourage the widest range of wild life this should be carried out with a light touch and an emphasis on native plant species. The clearing of the area presently housing the building materials will add space for the planned project. A more comprehensive interpretation information board, or leaflet with dispenser would enhance the visitor experience further.

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## **Owd Martha's Yard Community Garden.**

**Level 5 -  
Outstanding**

#### **Areas of Achievement**

Named after a clock in an old nearby demolished clock tower, the parcel of land near by once used for fly tipping and antisocial behaviour has been cleared and developed into an astonishing community area with children's play areas, raised flower and vegetable beds, a greenhouse made from plastic drinks bottles and an enchanted forest complete

with green man. The list of features goes on and on with unique areas for the public to use such as a quiet poets corner and a dementia area.

There is also a composting area tightly regulated by one of the volunteers, rainwater harvesting on an enormous scale, a beautifully made iron seat and other displays.

There are 16 people on the committee plus other volunteers. Bedding plant displays equal or outperform many local authority displays with innovative designs.

The group have achieved such a lot in the short time it has been established and the quality of design and build is astonishing. Plans for the future include a new open sided building for events for which funding is being sought.

Brownies Cubs and guides help out and parents and toddlers can use the small play area.

The whole area is a huge credit all those involved and is used by so many people even though the site is unfinished there is still room for everyone.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- There is still much to do on site including the new building, small equipment areas and more gardens but if the present work rate continues the work will soon be completed.
- Continue fund raising and working with community groups and volunteers and this small community area could be a model for other volunteer groups on their own plots of land.
- Very well done everyone.

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## **Pride in Linthwaite**

## **Level 4 - Thriving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

Establishing the group( of which bloom is one division) to work with all sections of the community to bring environmental improvements and community activity to the area.

The scale of some of the work undertaken and scale of the areas cleared of litter is impressive and a credit to all involved.

The use of re claimed timber to get started and producing the bee plant poster show true environmental considerations.

the work with young people on a number of projects.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- The area is wide spread and divided by a main road providing little space for greening. Consider the impact gained from each planter and location the ensure value is achieved without stretching volunteers too far.
- As funding allows the self watering planter would be of benefit in both saving water and giving a better plant display due to their scale.
- An issue that is of concern was the volume of highway and pavement weed some of which was well established. Discussions with the council on street sweeping and or weed control would be of benefit.
- Seasonal plant quality was variable.
- Given the nature of your area do contact Yorkshire in Bloom before you consider moving from the IYN category and we will discuss the matter with you.

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## **Rainbow Community Garden**

## **Level 5 - Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

On entering the garden it is almost like a tardis, a small space but so much in it. A well established garden, with allotment areas, wildlife areas with sculptures and a variety of pots and containers and a useful composting toilet. The garden has a regular selection of volunteers and visiting groups from an Old peoples home, nurseries (pre-school) and special schools. There are also some volunteers living with mental health issues and some on social prescription from the NHS. There are craft days during the summer to help to entertain the children in the holidays and a After school club every Monday during term time. There is a mud kitchen for the kids and a wormery as well as many bird baths. The garden is a real hub of activity and must give so many people a needed space in such a busy world a welcome oasis in people's busy lives. Keep up the wonderful work

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- It is difficult to offer any advice for areas of development to such an established site. There are so many different aspects to the garden there are few options that can be added.
- Maybe if you have time visit some other sites or community gardens Park View 4 U in Lytham might be an option, although much bigger has a range of activities.

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## **Ripon Museums Trust - Workhouse Gardens**

## **Level 5 - Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

Enter through the archway entrance of the red brick workhouse museum into the courtyard, facing you is the Master and Matron's house with its newly restored Victorian garden, complete with old black and white photo and information board. Behind the back of the Masters House and Workhouse buildings you find the amazing workhouse garden, run by a dedicated, enthusiastic and knowledgeable team of volunteers. This 10 year old restored garden, complete with cinder paths, veg and flower plots, wildflower area and fruit areas is a contemporary take on the Victorian garden. It is pleasing to see so many heritage vegetables grown along with period flowers, all looking splendid and in good health. With a wonderful head count of twenty volunteers assisting Catherine much help and wellbeing has been achieved by engaging in an inclusive manner in the group this has led to new friendships and social activities. For the recent introduction of the gardens two new tea blends, which are being sold by a local tearoom, and the work achieved when demonstrating at the Harlow Carr flower show the team have to be commended. (We can heartily recommend the Mint and Rhubarb as well as the Horn blower variety)

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- • Continue to nurture a new permanent outlet for the garden produce.
- • The veg boxes are a good idea but for the project to be sustaining need to be advertised more around the district
- • Continue with the heritage theme, and choice of plants when looking at replenishing around the garden – this helps by adding and developing further another dimension to the already excellent period feel.

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## **Robert Street Allotments**

## **Level 5 - Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

There are 43 plots on site with only one unoccupied which is a result of all the hard work that Mick in particular has put in over the last 13 years.

Mick and Lynne's own allotments which are a credit to them have high quality fresh produce,vegetables and flowers.It covers a large area and includes an orchard,pond,bird feeding area,a relaxation area ! ,and not forgetting the rabbit !. It also has a roadside shop where the surplus produce is given to families in return for a donation.

It is evident that there have been many hours of hard work by Mick and Lynne and it is a project they can be very proud of. The family of another holder who is unwell had rallied round to look after his allotment and tend his fantastic sweet peas.

The Community allotment has a number of raised beds,made from recycled bridge timbers,a polytunnel,seating area and is open all year round for visits by groups with 3 visits planned in the near future including the local school.There is ample room for groups to work and provides a good learning experience for them.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Continue to promote visits within the community.
- Consider renting out an allotment for health and wellbeing as a new project with a new organiser.
- Promote the allotments locally and encourage young people to take over smaller plots.
- Keep up the excellent work,Mick and Lynne.

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## **Royd Court Mirfield**

## **Level 4 - Thriving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

Royd Court is a hidden gem in the centre of Mirfield where the residents of this Pilgrims Friends Society Housing complex are working together to help maintain a wonderful courtyard garden. Rosemary and John were eager to show us the rockery project they had been working on and Ericâ's bible garden project is nearing completion. The residents clearly enjoy their garden surroundings and use every opportunity to get out into the fresh air both to work and to socialise. Royd Court is a little treasure and an oasis

of calm although situated only minutes away from Mirfield High Street. A lovely first time entry into Yorkshire in Bloom.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Continue to progress your search for the remaining bible plants you are looking for. This is a very unusual and thought provoking project and your booklet describes your endeavours very well.
- The rockery that Rosemary and John are working on is beautiful and the hard work of clearing is beginning to pay off. Perhaps you could work with Tim Grace and his gardening team to source some suitable rockery plants which would really show off this bed and make a lovely feature at the front door of the property.

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## **Royston in Bloom**

## **Level 5 - Outstanding**

#### **Areas of Achievement**

The preparation for my visit illustrated the commitment of the group and amount of work they undertake. This was well illustrated at a presentation. The main centre of activity is around the Well at the centre of Royston and a site of historic importance.

The group operates across Royston to great effect working with other groups to improve the environment, this includes the excellent work of Parkside Primary Academy who have established a gardening cub.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Encourage the Co-op to resolve the tree issue next to the shop
- At the same site consider how the floral beds can best be used to either plant meaning full displays , reduce the number of beds of use perennial planting.
- Continue work with the green spaces group to develop the green corridor

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## **Spofforth Millennium Garden**

## **Level 5 - Outstanding**

#### **Areas of Achievement**

On entering this garden there is an overwhelming feeling of peace and tranquillity created by the original garden design enhanced by the lovely planting.

The research and help in getting this project to where it is today demonstrates how projects should be set up and how funding can be obtained.

The colour theme of white blue and silver is maintained throughout and the planting is continually renewed to ensure the high standard is maintained with suitable additions

made eg the snowdrops. Good knowledge of horticulture and expertise is evident throughout.

The whole area was extremely very clean and well cared for.

The signage is good and it was pleasing to note that this lovely space is well used by residents of the village and people passing through.

The sundial adds an interesting feature to the garden

#### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- It is important to continue as it is to ensure this lovely space remains as this great asset to the village.

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## **St Mary's Neighbourhood**

## **Level 5 - Outstanding**

#### **Areas of Achievement**

Visiting St Mary's Neighbourhood was a great pleasure as it was a perfect example of residents all working together to make their community a wonderful place to live. The Island roundabout with a memorial seat and plaques is pleasant place with trees planted by the council and year round flower beds planted and maintained by neighbours and Ruth the chairman of the In Bloom Group - they also cut the grass. We saw no graffiti or litter on our visit.

The very well used Community Centre abounds with well maintained mangers, planters, hanging baskets and perennial borders - all started last year and planted and maintained by the group with many plants being grown in the poly-tunnel and cold-frames - these are in a large grassed area behind the Hall where the local council gave plum and apple trees for the natural wild borders, refurbishment of the compost heaps is under way and more Hydrangeas planned for the car parking area. The welcome to hall users is complete with the addition of a shale area at the entrance to the centre complete with a lovely birdhouse and picnic bench.

Moving on to St Mary's Church residents find an immaculately maintained Churchyard with a stunning newly replanted herbaceous border along the entire boundary railings and large planters of colourful hollyhocks outside the Church.

There are about 10 members of the Bloom Group who meet weekly and help to maintain the Church grounds - Church members cut the grass and are involved with St Mary's Community Heritage site which has War Graves, a War Memorial and signboards of the Church's local history - Archaeological digs, the stocks and the Tower which dates from about 1200. The bottom of the graveyard is a mainly wild area with bluebells and wildflowers, bird boxes attracting woodpeckers and bluetits amongst many more and a bird and butterfly identification board.

The paths linking the Church to the Kirklees Way for walkers make access to this wonderful area easy for all - Congratulations to the

Thank you to everyone involved for the warm welcome and wonderful hospitality - it was very much appreciated.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Very little can be done to improve the entry - as suggested leave the borders behind the Community Centre for wild life - just continue to recruit more members if possible to help maintain your In Bloom initiative. Very well done.

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## **St Swithuns Church Garden**

## **Level 2 - Improving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

The Church and group are working very hard to maintain this established area of the estate in Sheffield. The raised beds are an attraction as you enter the site and care has been given to maintaining these.

A number of new house builds around the church are encouraging as this may lead to new volunteers on the site, with the knowledge that with their help they can create a very special area in the community.

The community orchard is an excellent idea and one which possible new volunteers could embrace.

Continue to develop the site, just small changes required to get you to the next award. Well done to everyone involved.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Consider the planting of plants such as lavender and insect attracting plants on site as well as small shrubs which will not only give year round attraction but will create continuity on the site.
- Look at contacting the new residents and include them possibly in decision making for any plans for the gardens, this could be done at a small informal summer or harvest festival perhaps.
- Create small areas for cut and come again salad crops.

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## **Stonefall Park, Harrogate**

## **Level 5 - Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

This community group was set up 4 years ago to continue and expand on the work done by others in the past. This group HASAG (Hookstone and Stonefall Action Group) work with many organisations including councils to further develop these designated Green spaces for the benefit of the community.

The area is well used by the community as it provides a safe route to the supermarket, a lovely space for walking and a Sustrans Cycle Route.

Stonefall Park has a very interesting history in that it has gone from being a clay quarry for the adjacent brick works, then filled with water and later drained. In 1971 it became a landfill site before being capped and developed into the lovely community park that we

see today. The group have to work within the constraints caused by its previous uses which causes a few problems but they manage well.

All environmental issues are very well managed including a wild flower meadow and some tree planting. A tremendous amount of general maintenance is done help from various organisations and the community

There are very good information boards and communication is good. The recently erected brick information board is an excellent example of this demonstrating the heritage of the site.

The information folder given to the judges was lovely and highlighted many of the activities carried out by the group. It was beautifully presented.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Develop further information boards around the park relating to wildlife, birds and plants which can be found in Stonefall park.
- Notices on cycle route making cyclists aware of other park
- users, Particularly where Stonefall Park joins Panhandle Park.
- Continue to spread the word on Stonefall Park and make people aware of its history and importance to the local area.

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## **The Friends of Hell Wath**

## **Level 3 - Advancing**

#### **Areas of Achievement**

The relatively newly formed friends of Hell Wath group and coordinating committee are working well in protecting and maintaining this area of recreational community land. With the river Skell on one side, housing development on another, a safe and inclusive accessible path through the site has been achieved. Excellent work has taken place with the children at Moorside Primary School in engaging them in this worthwhile environmental development. Preserving the wild nature of the site helps to encourage wildlife, native species plants, animals and insect life. . The group's ethos in recognizing this is a great asset to Ripon has driven partnership working many groups and authorities. The working relationship with the local authority countryside ranger has been of great benefit to the group and the site, as has the partnerships developed with the other groups and authorities. The work done so far, as well as the portfolio of future plan of action, developing a management plan, and ecology survey through HLF phase 1 award has to be commended.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- • Continue with the Bioblitz days in keeping the Himalayan Balsam in check.
- • Look at developing a series of information boards to go round the site highlighting the differing interesting features / heritage / wildlife that is present.
- • The group has a very comprehensive development plan already in place. You are aware of your aims and how to achieve them. The judges wish the group all the best in these endeavours and would love to revisit in the future.

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# The Royal Apartments - Halifax

## Level 5 - Outstanding

### Areas of Achievement

A lovely inviting entrance leads to the Royal Apartments redeveloped on the footprint of the old Royal Halifax Infirmary Hospital in 2001.

The overall community feel and 'buy in' on the development ensures that any issues are dealt with quickly and efficiently by the management agents and the communication streams to improve the site are effective.

The residents gardens especially on the raised plateau were colourful and provided year round interest and the introduction of the residents glasshouse should prove beneficial in raising plants for the community.

Special mention has to go to the recycling initiatives on the development, the compost bays are well used and the positioning of water butts and watering cans around the development encourage residents to participate / upkeep the floral features.

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- Ensure actions included in plans are updated regularly and timescales achieved.
- Consider a systematic replacement of original shrub planting with more appropriate plants to add variety & interest.
- The rose bed contains some suckers which need removing and replanting/structuring of the bed could be considered in future to give a more uniform feel.
- Removal of dead ivy on walls around the development would be beneficial once sufficient die back has occurred.
- The communal herb bed is a great idea and continued planting coupled with publicity should see the resource being well used.
- Consider sowing a perennial wildflower seed mixture in autumn to ensure a good show in 2020, ensure a maintenance regime is put in place going forward to ensure the longevity of this new project.
- Consider using gravel /slate with appropriate planting in the small triangle beds instead of grass to cut down on maintenance and improve aesthetically.

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# Thornes Millennium Green Trust

## Level 4 - Thriving

### Areas of Achievement

It was great to see the continuation of support and work carried out by a few dedicated volunteers, well done!. The garden has evolved over the years and is now a clean, green, valued open space to the community. Well kept grassed areas and borders add to a place of rest and nature. Good to see funding had occurred to add the planned hornbeam in the autumn.

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- Refurbishment of the signage would enhance the cared for feeling to the area.
- The addition of a notice board as discussed would also be a great addition.
- Replenishing some of the hard cut back shrubs may need to take place as to not to leave open 'gaps'.
- Also the seat and litter bin would benefit from a further coat of paint to keep the great standard of work acheived and having that cared for look.

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## **Walden Post Office**

## **Level 4 - Thriving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

The re-soiling of the main raised beds and the hay racks certainly add eye-catching colour to a prominent corner alongside the main road. All hay racks are sponsored and the number of local businesses involved is to be commended. The year round use of the area with the Christmas tree, carol service and brass band concerts shows the community involvement with this project. The involvement of the local schools and the bee friendly aspect tick further boxes in the assessment.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- The additional hay racks and the notice board will increase its use and attraction and good luck with the face-lift of the telephone box. The expansion of works onto the opposite side of the road will further enhance the area.

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## **Wardsend Cemetery**

## **Level 4 - Thriving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

Wardsend Cemetery is located to the end of Livsey Street, off Penistone Road, Sheffield. Despite its hidden location, the friends group, driven by the enthusiasm of Howard Bayley have made remarkable progress in such a short period of time in raising awareness of this significant Historical asset within the community.

Over the past twelve months the group have continued to engage with the local community, in what is a deprived area, to make environmental improvements to the entrance of the Cemetery off Livsey Street to reduce anti-social behaviour and fly tipping issues. It is amazing how much progress the group have made in clearing and making this entrance a more welcoming place to visit.

One of the outstanding efforts the group have excelled at is the awareness raised and partners the group have collaborated with and established to develop the groups themes of Heritage, Nature and Arts and Performance, again in such a short period of time, the hard work carried out by the group has now started to pay great dividends.

Collaborations with the Don Catchment River Trust, The Wildlife Trust, Sea Cadets, Wates Living Space, Remedi, Hillsborough Primary School and the University of Sheffield

to name a few and the excellent development of the Facebook Page, which has over 1200 members and Twitter with over 570 followers.

With the groups inclusion in the master plan as a northern gateway for Parkwood Springs 'Country Park in the City' this hidden gem will go from strength to strength with the determination from Howard and the group. There is so much potential through the guided tours and wildlife habitat within Wardsend to make this an important asset to the city of Sheffield and the local community.

The judging day was a pleasure and to see Howards and the group's determination just shows how important these groups are to keep alive our wonderful assets we have on our door step.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Continue to explore the use of interpretation boards on the site, one suggestion would be an interpretation board to the side of the old chapel site showing an old photo of the chapel and History of what was there.
- Continue the good work already undertaken to further enhance the entrance with frequent maintenance programmes each year with the help of partners. Possibly explore the use of media outlets asking for volunteer gardeners or Landscape Companies that can help with strimming to help with maintenance.
- Continue to progress the idea the group has of developing a path around the site for improved walks and access.
- Although the group has only been established little over three years they continue to thrive and with the continued awareness they have created and improving maintenance and signage they will reach outstanding within a very short period of time.

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## **Weaponness Valley Community Group**

## **Level 2 - Improving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

The community orchard is beginning to establish itself on the bank and makes a feature of the entrance into Weaponness.

You are beginning to form partnerships with various organisations such as the local authority, Coventry University and The University Technical College. This will bring benefits for the group and local residents.

It's nice to see the importance you place on environmental issues and the placement of bird and bat boxes and hedgehog houses can only enhance this.

The mosaic project is excellent for promoting your local heritage.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Continue to work with local councillors who may be able to advise and help the group with matters relating to the local authority.
- Wherever possible look at removing grass from around newly planted trees to reduce competition.
- Progress plans for partnership working with various organisations in the immediate area and in the town.

## Woodlands Community Garden

**Level 5 -  
Outstanding**

### Areas of Achievement

This community garden has been developed over 5 years under the leadership of Catherine with amazing results.

She is an extremely capable and well informed person who has obtained additional knowledge, advice, support and funding from many sources to enable this project to develop into what it is today. She spends so much of her time there that one little boy thought she lived there!

It started as 'A Mess' and two beds. Since then it has developed into a fully productive garden growing fruit, vegetables and flowers all of which are fully utilised. There is enough open space for children to play and also a wonderful little den area.

The water feature and the mosaics are lovely addition to this garden.

It is extremely well used by very many community groups of all ages including children with disabilities. The children have been involved in choosing some of the fruit varieties and other items in the garden and of course help with the growing and maintenance.

The environment is very well considered including bird feeders.

Many activities and events take place eg litter picks, mixing the generations, a breakfast club etc, making this a real hub for the community.

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- Develop the wildflower mounds and den. May be worth developing a willow arch through mounds and into den.
- Prune and shape fruit trees for the future.
- Keep what open space you have as it is for events.
- Develop and improve fruit and vegetable gardens.

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## Woodside Flats Community Garden

**Level 5 -  
Outstanding**

### Areas of Achievement

In the middle of a standard residential terraced street in Halifax an outstanding example of horticultural excellence and community ownership greeted the judges.

The garden is solely maintained by Dougie to a very high standard with lawned areas striped and borders bursting with variety and colour. The effort and commitment shown by Dougie was awe inspiring and he clearly enjoyed maintaining & evolving the garden for the benefit of the residents.

The recycled glasshouse/potting shed made from a variety of re-useable materials was innovative and coupled with the well used compost bays and water butts clearly evidenced a 'green' mentality.

The one thing that stood out in the judges mind was the obvious benefit the garden is having to the local community as other householders/tenants were now making an effort to improve/enhance their gardens/frontages, all thanks to Dougie's hard work and coupled with his many years fundraising for various projects makes him a true community champion.

Well done Dougie

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- A selective weedkiller could eliminate weeds growing in lawned areas.
- Replace any old /dying plant /specimens in borders to uphold standards.
- Try to introduce bird feeders/ boxes/bug habitats around the garden to increase bio-diversity.

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## **Wortley Hall Walled Garden**

## **Level 5 - Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

Wortley Hall Walled Garden was built in around 1790 to supply food and flowers to the nearby hall.

Today the garden is run by a leader and approximately 20 volunteers who run the garden entirely organically growing a wide range of crops which include rare fruit trees a wide range of organic vegetables and salad crops which are sold to local customers and markets. They also produce organic seed for re distribution. The garden covers a huge area, nearly all the garden is under cultivation due to the hard work of the team. Compost is made on site, rain water is harvested and everything that can be recycled is. There is enough space for a six-year crop rotation which produces much higher yields. There are bee friendly flower borders which are visited by bees from their ten onsite hives and companion planting is used instead of chemicals. Organic gardening on this site is a fascinating subject and valuable lessons can be learned from those who run the garden.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- There is so much to do to keep the garden running smoothly and the volunteers are doing a wonderful job. Perhaps more volunteers would be able to lighten the load.
- The ancient Brickwork of the walls is beginning to crumble and will need a lot of work in the near future. It may be possible to obtain grants to assist in this matter.
- If there is time organic gardening classes could be run where participants pay a fee for each class.
- A charge for history leaflets could also raise funds.

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