

*Yorkshire in Bloom Village Gold Medal
Winners 2004, 2007 and 2010*

Britain in Bloom Silver Medallist 2005 **ISSUE: 4. May 2011**

"I plant a lot of trees. I am a great believer in planting things for future generations. I loathe the now culture where you just live for today".

- Penelope Keith, Actress.



News from the village

The plant sales will have taken place by the time this newsletter goes out so a full report on how they went will be in the June newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my co-founder of these sales, who stepped down after the first event, for all her help and support over the last few years. The money raised from these events, which have been well supported by villagers, buys all the spring and summer bulbs and bedding that are placed in the various pots, tubs, hayracks and planters around the village. This has gone a long way in contributing to the village's success in Yorkshire and Britain in Bloom.

In the Conservation Society newsletter last month a request for sponsorship was made to raise funds to buy perennial plants for the Jubilee Car Park, Bluebell Walk entrance and the Wheel Garden. Some residents of Bluebell Walk came forward and plans are now afoot to plant up the entrance garden. Thanks to everyone on 'The Walk' for their support. Further sponsorship for the other areas is still required so if you can help please contact Trevor.

Plant and Produce Charity Table – Many thanks to Barry Dyson and Barry the Brush for making a display table, along with an enclosed notice board, to sell surplus plants and produce in aid of Luddenden in Bloom. This is now situated on High Street near to the chapel. An honesty box will shortly be placed there and we hope villagers will use it as they have in the past. We would also like to thank Rodney and the Methodist Congregation for allowing us to continue with something that was first set up to support their chapel.

Judging for the Ada Brooks Trophy will again take place in August. So while you are helping the village by planting up your house frontage you can also compete and get your name on this prestigious award.

It's sad to report yet again that dog fouling is still taking place around the village the bridle path being one of the worst affected areas. We would appeal to that small minority of dog owners to clean up after their pet. It has also been brought to our attention that garden waste is being dumped in the river. If you are unable to compost your waste please take it to a council-recycling depot.

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Gardening tips for May

You can encourage hedgehogs into your garden, to help keep down the slug and snail population, by leaving a small part untidy. Hedgehogs like thick dense undergrowth and a variety of lengths of grass along with piles of leaves, compost heaps and wood piles to hide in. Always check these before burning, cutting, strimming, mowing, putting a fork into or disposing of them. If you have a garden fence leave some access holes along the bottom so hedgehogs can commute between gardens. Increase your stock of fuchsias, hydrangeas and penstemons by taking cuttings from new shoots. Check for bright red lily beetles and destroy them before they eat your lilies and fritillaries. Keep hoeing to keep weeds down. Plant tagetes and other companion plants amongst your fruit and veg to encourage hoverflies that will eat the pests. Providing no more frosts are forecast plant out summer bedding and tender crops such as marrows, courgettes, runner beans and outdoor tomatoes. Continue to sow salad seeds at regular intervals to provide crops for the table through to autumn.



Dates for the diary

Open Gardens Day

Saturday 25th June – No stall in the car park but some plants available at various gardens

Village Judging Day
Ada Brooks Trophy
Mayor Making

To be announced
Judging in August

Sunday 11th September



Eric's View

Swifts have now joined their cousins, the swallows, in the village and a right noise they make when they shoot across the sky playing chase. They wake me up from my favourite sleeping spot in the garden. What with all the blue tit's, chaffinches and gold finches coming to the bird feeders and telling one another I'm there it's enough to make a good cat go in the house and find the nearest bed. The buzz on the street is that some of the humans on the road have bees in the masonry. My friend Steve is going mad, as they are too high up in the gable ends for him to catch. Check the Luddenden website for all the latest news, photos etc from around the village.