



Jubilee Car Park Official Opening 2002 by the Mayor and Mayor of Calderdale and the Mayor of Luddenden

The car park was planted with a natural theme to blend in with the countryside, using plants that could be drought tolerant. It has a composting area in the far corner and an information board on local walks in the area on the toilet block. There is also an 'honesty box' for people who use the car park. Currently we are under planting the older shrubs with smaller shrubs – the old shrubs will be removed in the autumn.



Spring 2011

The future for the car park is a revamp and upgrading of some old and tired shrubs that now need replacing. We are extremely grateful to Anglian Home Improvements for granting us additional funding for this so that we can have the car park ready for the Diamond Jubilee in 2012

Lampposts, Railings and Bins

Street furniture has always been something the in Bloom Team has been aware of. Over the years many of the old cast iron lampposts were removed and replaced by concrete and/or metal ones.

In 2005, as a result of Luddenden's entry into Britain in Bloom the team started to work closely with Calderdale Council and the Conservation Society to arrange for the replacement of many concrete lampposts and to purchase enhancement kits for the metal lampposts and arrange for the old iron lampposts to be painted.

This work has continued and in 2010 and 2011 we were extremely grateful for our stalwart painter and member of the team 'Barry the Brush' who single-handedly repainted lampposts, the cast iron railings and bins. Along with the Conservation Society we are still aiming to replace more of the old concrete lampposts.

Wildlife

The in Bloom Team have been responsible for providing bird, bat and insect boxes which have been purchased and sponsored over a number of years and some of which are sponsored by local residents. The boxes can be found around the village i.e., in the memorial garden, cemetery, and car park and in many private gardens. The increase in perennial and herbaceous planting has seen a marked rise in the number of species that can be seen in the village. We are particularly proud of the number of bees in the area.

Some of the bird and bat boxes are currently inhabited – some with surprising guests – wasps - but the majority with their rightful inhabitants.

We have encouraged the Guides and Brownies to become involved with this drive. Last year Keith took a group of Brownies on a wildlife walk around the village, explaining all the flora and fauna. This was such a successful event that it is being repeated with the Guides this year.

Wildlife information is promoted through the newsletter, Shop window notice board and web page under Eric's View.



July 2010

In a further bid to increase the wildlife population, the in Bloom Team have continued to work on the riverbank at the side of the church creating a nectar bar, wildlife corridor and breeding ground. With the help of the Brownies we have just installed a bug hotel at the site.

This is a communal area so we are somewhat hand tied with some of the work that we would like to do. The Church has an area that is used for the annual bonfire. We have attempted to have this stopped, explaining the environmental harm it may cause. Unfortunately we have not been able to persuade them but we have reached an agreement that the bonfire is contained in a small area that is ringed by stones.

However, due to a problem with Japanese Knotweed and the restrictions on transporting, the bonfire site has proved useful in the safe disposal of this invasive weed. So whilst we realise this is not an ideal situation we feel this is a working compromise.

The area now consists of:

- Wildlife area, wild flower planting that encourages bees, butterflies, birds and many insects.
- A bug hotel
- The bonfire site
- Courtesy of the Woodlands Trust a jam and chutney shrub bed
- Compost bins.

Environmental issues

Wherever possible we aim to ensure that anything we do supports environmental issues. We have used peat free compost, however have found that this did not suit the plants and have moved back to having a small amount of peat in our compost. Therefore our compost is a mix of our own produced compost, green compost from the local authority and bought compost with low levels of peat from environmentally sustainable sources.

- Our planters have been made by a local from recycled wood
- They are lined with scarified moss from local gardens
- We then place newspaper in them to help with water conservation
- We use, wherever possible, our own compost
- The beds are a mix of recycled compost and mulch from the local authority
- Many plants have been created from either seed or from dividing plants
- We have a number of composting areas in the village
- We have a number of water butts around the village
- We have access to a local spring for watering

We have a number of composting bins in the village and have encouraged residents to recycle and compost whenever possible. (see www.luddenden.com for newsletter information) We have been extremely successful in creating our own compost and in 2010 every basket and planter contained our own compost. We intend to increase our composting sites and rather than use the current green and black plastic bins, build composting areas in Brigitte's and at the side of the church.

Calderdale Council, and in particular the Upper Calder Valley (where we are), have been a leader in the recycling of household waste. For the past 6 - 7 years we have had recycling of paper, plastic bottles, cans, glass and food waste. Calderdale gave away massive quantities of heavy duty green gardening bags so that residents can take all garden waste to their recycling depots which is then processed to create the green compost that they give free of charge to the community.

Making a difference – Lloyds Bank Volunteers

As part of being involved in the community Lloyds Bank employees volunteer for the 'Making a Difference' work which is involved with the Business in the Communities organisation.

- Geoff Dardis is the landlord of the Lord Nelson and also this year's Luddenden Mayor. Geoff arranged for the Lloyds volunteers to spend a day in the village.
- Geoff arranged a meeting with the in Bloom Team and Keith from St. Mary's Church, to determine what work was to be done.
- It was agreed that the volunteers would sweep the streets of all the leaf fall and that the majority of the other work would centre on the church area.
- Keith liaised with the team and was available on the day to show the team what areas needed attention. The leaf waste and cuttings were placed at the side of the church on the bonfire area. The in Bloom Team later disposed of the waste.
- Calderdale Council donated a large number of sweeping brushes and other equipment on the day. The brushes have subsequently been donated to the in Bloom Team.
- Discussed with Keith about the church having further compost bins and about clearing up at the side of the church, which is the nursery entrance. Keith was keen to arrange this as the entrance is going to be used much more now that the church is letting out its upper room to community groups.
- Keith also agreed to work with the local brownies and guides and offered to undertake a further nature walk in the summer.

New Projects for 2011 and 2012

Bluebell Walk

The builder of Bluebell Walk originally planted this area. It is recognised by the bloom group that this was a show bed originally set up at the entrance to the estate as part of its appeal for new buyers. The planting therefore is relatively formal and in blocks of odd numbers to catch the eye of people as they enter.

The original planting had become very tired and dominated by one or two specimens - one a Buddleia that needed replacing, a Yucca, which had died, and a *cotoneaster* that has been retained along with the English bluebells that were planted by the in Bloom Team a number of years ago. After two excessively cold winters the area was looking much worse for wear and had taken a considerable battering.

At the start of 2011 the residents were consulted on whether they would allow the in Bloom Team to replant the area. The consultation brought about a generous donation from a resident who works for a local estate agent.

The site was cleared in April. Removal of the plants exposed the original carving of the street name in the wall which we feel should not be obscured by new planting. Therefore we are attempting to choose plants that will not grow too high or be too vigorous in that part of the bed. Plants also need to be able to cope with the exposed south-facing site that has a tendency to dryness. Like Brigitte's, this is a shallow soil area as it is on the river bridge.

We recognise that the new planting undertaken so far, although providing good late spring and summer colour, will not provide enough of a skeleton structure to provide winter interest so it is intended at some point to introduce some more architectural plants that will provide that interest by means of evergreen leaf shape or variegation. We expect also to be retrieving some such plants from the lower garden of the Methodist Chapel during the autumn, as the Chapel is put up for sale, which may be of use in this setting.

The spring interest will be enhanced in the autumn planting (in small drifts) of low growing bulbs. We are also sourcing locally grown English Bluebells to reflect the name of the estate and have kept to a pink/blue theme to further this.

Steps at the site of the Corn Mill

A small project this year was to place wooden planters on the steps at the side of the old Corn Mill. We refer to these steps as 'the steps to nowhere'. We have always had a planter at the top of the steps and tried numerous other ways of planting on the steps but found using pots was not the solution.

Wooden planters have been purchased – through sponsorship and made by a local craftsman from recycled wood. Having been securely fixed it was decided to plant these with nasturtiums so that it would add trailing colour. The in Bloom Team has grown the nasturtiums from seed.

Bridleway and Church with support from the Woodlands Trust

The in Bloom Team applied for 420 whips via the RHS from the Woodlands Trust. We debated the type of shrub we wanted to plant – we agreed the village didn't really have space for further trees but we could look at either fruit shrubs or wildlife attracting shrubs. We felt the fruit shrubs would probably attract wildlife so the decision was to go for the jams, jellies, chutneys and cordials (grow a wild harvest) pack that consisted of hazel, blackthorn, crab apple, elder and dog rose.

The whips were divided so that they could be used on two sites – in the same area. One site was at the side of the church on the riverbank (see section on Wildlife above). The other site chosen was the Bridleway, which runs from the centre of the village and along the riverside on the opposite side of the church.

In the past the bloom team have attempted to populate this area with wildflowers, some have taken whilst others have failed. The team felt the offer of the shrubs might be an opportunity to try again in this area, although due to established tree canopy we expect that some of the whips may fail.

The lead up to planting took almost a full month of preparation. On the day there were a large turnout including the Guides who were very keen to get 'dug in'. The local actor and resident Paul Opac joined us and we were really pleased to see that he didn't just turn up for the photographs he also got 'dug in' and planted a number of the whips for us.

Planting Day



10 Halifax Courier, Thursday, April 7, 2011

Village flower power

By Juliette Bains

LUDDENDEN Brownies and Girl Guides donned their gardening gloves and planted more than 400 saplings.

The planting session marked the launch of Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom competition.

Local actor Paul Opacic, who plays Carl Costello in Hollyoaks, also joined in with the team, who worked at two sites near the riverbank at St Mary's Church, Luddenden.

Digging deep: Lauren McCrudden, 10, Hannah Wilson-Radcliffe, 11, and Sue Dodd, assistant guide with Luddenden Guides, plant saplings



Over 200 wild flower plants were also planted, including Hazel, Blackthorn, Crab Apple, Elder, Dog Rose and Cherry Plum.

Brenda McArdle of the Bloom Group said: "This is tremendous for the village."

"The 420 hedgerow saplings are free as we are participants of Britain in Bloom 2011 and will provide nectar for insects and habitat for birds."

"We are very pleased that the Girl Guides and Brownies helped us with the planting."



Sowing the seeds for success: Girl Guides and Brownies with members of Luddenden in Bloom planting hedge rows with tree saplings donated by Britain in Bloom near St Marv's Church, Luddenden

It is our hope to create a wildlife corridor that runs from the side of the church round the back of it and on to the bridleway.

The Bug Hotel

Last year the Brownies helped the in Bloom Team plant more wildflowers at the riverbank. This year they helped build the Bug Hotel that has been placed in the wildlife area.



Composting

The in Bloom Team has numerous composting bins in the village and in particular in Brigitte's, the Car Park, Sub Station and at the side of the church. Currently the bins are the large plastic green and black ones. It is our intension to create a purpose built – from wood – composting area at the back of Brigitte's and hopefully a second one at the side of the Church. The current bins have been successful and have enabled us to use our own compost but it takes much longer for the waste to breakdown and is ready to reuse.



Conclusion

In conclusion, being involved with Yorkshire in Bloom and Britain in Bloom has helped us drive the environmental message forward.

Our whole view of in Bloom is taken from a holistic approach – it isn't just about putting up hanging baskets and filling planters. It is about sustainability and how we can reduce harmful impacts on the environment, how we can encourage others to consider this, how we can demonstrate by what we do that others can copy us.

Wherever you go in the village you will find happy bees, butterflies and bugs – this is a testament to the work we have carried out over the years. The village is now an area where wildlife and people are living together in harmony.

Luddenden is a historic settlement made up predominantly of terrace cottages. We count ourselves lucky to live in this beautiful and historic village. We have worked at enhancing and not changing it.

We are proud of our industrial heritage and how we have incorporated that heritage into the in Bloom work. The in Bloom Team's goal has always been to improve and conserve our village by way of planting, heritage and communications.

Our future plans are to consolidate the additional work we have taken on this year. Review our work and maintain and improve where necessary. We will be working on upgrading the Jubilee Car Park, thanks to Anglian Home Improvements, in time for the Queens Diamond Jubilee.

We will be working with the Gardening Club advising them on the best way to improve the side of the church, again with thanks to Anglian Home Improvements, so that it can connect in with the nectar bar and wildlife corridor we have started to create in this area.

With respect to fundraising; we have, over the years achieved everything on a very tight budget. We have started the work required for next years plant sales, we are testing out the popularity of our greetings cards and will hold further raffles at the village fete and Mayor's day.

We acknowledge that in the current economical climate it will be difficult to raise funds from sponsorships and donations – though we will keep trying. We also accept that our local authority is going to struggle to give us any further support. Therefore with keen planning and a very tight eye on the budget we feel we will need to work harder to find new funding streams and perhaps we need to accept that we may need to reign back on some of our plans until we are able to totally self fund them.

It is only when you put documents such as this together do you reflect and realise exactly how far we have come from our very first Yorkshire in Bloom entry in 1998 when the team worked on a zero budget and very little support from the local authority.

- We have built good links with the community.
- We have raised funding
- On a wider scale we have an excellent relationship with our local authority and wherever possible they have supported all our in Bloom initiatives.
- Heritage and conservation are at the heart of all our endeavours
- Communicating the sustainable and environmental message
- We have learnt that in Bloom is about community and what communities can do for themselves rather than expect from their local authorities.
- Importantly, we have learned to have fun and enjoy our work in the village.

There have been times when stress levels have risen and bubbled over – however by acknowledging why we are doing this has brought us back to reality. We love our village, we love what we have been able to work at and have created therefore we are successful.

Whatever the outcome of our judging day, we know we have put our hearts and soul into improving the local environment, not only for ourselves but for all residents, visitors and wildlife which chose to come here. We have laid solid foundations for future years.



Appendix 1

Communication and PR

There are a number of ways in which we communicate;

- Monthly newsletters
- Old Shop window – update each season
- Notice boards in the cemetery, at the produce table and by the Lord Nelson
- Website www.luddenden.com with a dedicated Luddenden in Bloom section
- Local newspapers i.e., Halifax Evening Courier and Hebden Bridge Times
- Stalls at local events such as the Summer Fair and Mayor Making
- Plant stalls – these have now become an annual event in the village
- Open Gardens and Heritage Days
- The Ada Brooks Trophy
- The Christmas wreath Competition

This year the website has been upgraded and we now have a dedicated area that holds our pictures, newsletters and any other information that may be useful to residents.

We have an excellent relationship with our local newspapers and wherever possible they do support our initiative.

The Ada Brooks Trophy

- The Ada Brooks trophy was donated many years ago to the Conservation Society by the family of Ada who had lived in the village most of her life.
- The Society suggested the In Bloom Team may wish to use the trophy in some way and 12 years ago the then team agreed that we would judge house frontages. After the first year the team spoke to Calderdale Council who kindly agreed to judge the competition for us.
- We do not charge an entry fee.

We award a plaque and certificate to the winner and certificates to a number of other householders based on the Yorkshire in Bloom Gold, Silver Gilt, Silver and Bronze system.

Christmas Wreath

Three years ago the newsletter contained a 'how to guide' on making a natural Christmas wreath, this was received so well that it was decided to create a Christmas wreath competition with the winner being the householder who has created the best wreath from as much natural products as possible. The Conservation Society donates a Fairtrade Hamper to the lucky winner.

The competitions help communicate further our in bloom message

Some before and after pictures



2004



2011



Calderdale Council Stone Depot



Jubilee Car Park



Side of the Methodist Chapel



Side of St. Mary's Church



2006

Riverside Walk leading to Brigitte's Garden



2011



2005

Composting area at the rear of Brigitte's Garden



2011

Christmas Wreath Competition Winner 2010

