

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

Britain in Bloom Silver Medallist 2005 **ISSUE: 3. April 2011**

" Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity". ~Lindley Karstens Artist and Gardener.



Luddenden launches its RHS Britain in Bloom Campaign

On Sunday 27th March the "in Bloom" team marked the official launch of the RHS Britain in Bloom 2011 competition sponsored by Anglian Home Improvements with the planting of 420 tree whips donated to participants by the Woodland Trust at two sites in the village. Local actor Paul Opacic, who plays Carl Costello in Hollyoaks kindly, gave his time to launch the campaign. The Luddenden Brownies, leader Fran Rishworth and Guides, leader Sue Dodd, along with their groups help plant the whips that consisted of Hazel, Blackthorn, Crab Apple, Elder, Dog Rose and Cherry Plum at two sites, one along a bridal path the other on the riverbank by the St Mary's church. Once the whips have established themselves they will provide both interest for villagers and food for the local wildlife. The team on completing the tree planting then went on to plant 200 wild flowers which will also help the local insect life especially bees and butterflies. Many thanks to Paul, the guides and brownies for their help with this task which will go a long way in supporting the villages 2011 campaign.



News from the village

The final 2 planters for the steps to nowhere at the Cornmill have received sponsorship from Andrew Coote of High Street Court. So many thanks to him for his support. The entrance to Bluebell Walk will shortly be planted up with an assortment of shrubs and perennials. Brigitte's Garden and the sub-station have had a spring clean. The team has also been cracking on with growing things for the forth-coming plant sales. The first is on the 21st May and there will be a variety of perennials available that have been grown in the village along with varieties of tomato's ideal for all sorts of growing conditions plus various vegetable packs such as runner beans and peas along with chillies and peppers.

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Gardening tips for April

Beware of slugs and snails. Use environmentally means to exterminate them. Late frosts are still a danger so keep vulnerable plants and new shoots protected at night if frost is forecast. Deadhead daffodils and narcissi and give them a feed Don't cut off their leaves as they are necessary to replenish the bulb for next year. Hoe your borders, getting rid of weeds before they take hold. Mulch your herbaceous borders using your own garden compost, leaf mould, well rotted manure, the contents of out-of-date grow bags or ready-made soil conditioner. Erect supports using hazel or birch twigs for herbaceous plants such as peonies, delphiniums and oriental poppies that would otherwise flop. Finish pruning your roses and start spraying them with fungicide to ward against black spot and mildew. Most lawns are looking far from pristine at this time of year. When the weather improves, feed with a spring lawn feed to encourage new growth. mow regularly (start with the blades high for the first couple of cuts), overseed bare patches and apply weed and moss killer. Carry on lifting and dividing overgrown clumps of perennials. Plant summer bulbs and dahlia tubers. Sow hardy annuals such as nasturtium and calendula in drifts but remember to plant taller plants behind shorter ones. Vegetable such as carrots, lettuces, spinach, salad leaves, leeks and chard can be sown directly into your veg patch now and are just a few ideas to get your healthy, cheap and home-grown food underway. If you have a frost-free greenhouse, sow seed of sweet peppers, tomatoes, aubergines and cucumbers.



Dates for the diary

1 st Plant Sale in the Car Park	Saturday 21 st May
2 nd Plant Sale in the Car Park	Saturday 28 th May
Open Gardens Day	Saturday 25 th June
Mayor Making	Sunday 11 th September

LUDDENDEN IN
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Horticultural Achievement
Environmental Responsibility
Community Participation

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Eric's View

Birds are now busy either nesting or feeding young. This is when bird feeders are important so the adults can get a quick meal. Swallows and Swifts should be arriving in the village this month and reports have come in that they are as far north as Derbyshire. Have seen the following butterflies species in the garden : Red Admirals, Commas, Peacocks and the dreaded Cabbage White.