

*"Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made. By singing: -"Oh, how beautiful!" and sitting in the shade". - Rudyard Kipling writer 1865-1936, "The Glory of the Garden"*



## News from the village

Another month has passed since the last newsletter and still we are waiting for the rain to abate and the sun to shine. The village itself is looking green and lush but perennials and annuals alike really do need the sun's rays to bring out the best in them. Slugs and snails are still the only things that are benefiting from this prolonged wet season and, at the time of writing, the forecast shows no sign of improvement.

Prior to the judging the team had been hard at work adding the final touches to the village. In general, and considering the weather that all entrants have had to contend with, it could not have looked better. The old shop window has been updated and all areas such as the Jubilee Car Park, Winding Wheel garden, Brigitte's and the Substation weeded and swept. Work has been undertaken on the riverbank to control some of the invasive plants such as the dreaded Japanese Knotweed. Excess bedding along with several bee friendly perennials have been planted at the entrance to the church. Due to the poor quality of the plants and slug damage a decision was taken to remove all the petunias from the two sloping beds at the cenotaph. If the plants had been left we would be marked down. Unfortunately this area is now just bare soil but the team is now considering several planting schemes for next year.

Judgment day dawned once again to showers on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Thankfully at 3pm when the team met our judges, Christine and Steven, the weather had improved. Several other villagers had been asked to meet the judges on the day, such as Barry Dyson who is organising a team to undertake work in the cemetery, Keith Rowe, who has recently undertaken a nature walk with the guides, Fran Rushworth Luddenden Brown Owl of the Brownie group, Graham Pugh and Steve Edwards who both have allotments in the village. Along with Nigel (a representative of the Green Business Network and our main sponsor of 2012), the judges met a good cross section of the village who all have helped in different ways and making our entry into Yorkshire in Bloom so successful over the years.

The judges were taken on a slightly different route from spring, which included (at their request) a walk through the cemetery and allotments and finished for the first time in several years on Riding Head Lane. Everywhere we went evidence of the villager's commitment to the 'in bloom' ethos could be seen, so a big thank you goes to everyone. We also have to thank Mike Harrop and his team at Calderdale for all their help in what has been a difficult time for them with all the recent flooding. We now have to wait till September to see how the village fared.



## Gardening tips for August

Continue to dead head your plants and feed them on a regular basis. If you have planted peas and runner beans keep picking the pods, as this will encourage the plants to keep flowering and producing a crop throughout the remainder of the summer. Maintenance is the key now but you can still introduce new bedding plants to keep your garden looking bright and beautiful. Fill gaps with argyranthemums, fuchsias and pelargoniums. There are plenty of bargains to be bought at your local garden centres as well as supermarkets. In the veg plot remove the tops of the broad beans to prevent black fly attack. Feed tomatoes regularly using a high potash tomato fertiliser. Continue to pinch out any side shoots and tie the leader to its support. Cucumbers, tomatoes and courgettes like beans and peas need to be picked regularly to encourage further cropping. Until the end of August you can still sow lettuce and radish outside which you will be able to crop into autumn. Start to think about next year and sow seeds of spring cabbage, endive, kohlrabi, and winter spinach. Biennials such as Foxgloves, Sweet Williams, Canterbury bells and Forget-me knots should also be sown this month. Pot up your favourite herbs and bring them into the kitchen for use later in the year.



## Dates for the diary

Ada Brooks Trophy Judging  
An Evening with Joe Maiden at St Mary's  
Mayor Making  
Last Night of the Proms

August  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 7.30pm  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September



## Eric's View

With birds having a plentiful supply of natural food, now is a good time to wash and clean all bird feeders before putting more food out. This helps to prevent certain diseases being passed on. Continue to supply a variety of food at your feeding stations as this will help attract different species to your garden throughout the year. If you walk through the cemetery watch out for the call of the several jays that have made it their home this year. Tawny owls are once again making the presence known with their calls at dawn and dusk. Dippers can still be seen on the river but mainly when the flow is low. Bees are busy on flowers when the weather permits, but how they are faring in all this wet weather we will have to wait and

# LUDDENDEN IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

Horticultural Achievement  
Environmental Responsibility  
Community Participation

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

*Britain in Bloom Silver Medallist 2005 & Gold Medallist & Category Winner 2011* ISSUE: 6 July 2012



see. Butterflies are few and far between in the garden but small tortoiseshells have laid eggs on the nettles on the riverside and their caterpillars are thriving.