

LUDDENDEN IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

Horticultural Achievement
Environmental Responsibility
Community Participation

Yorkshire in Bloom Village Gold Medal Winners 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2012

Britain in Bloom Silver Medallist 2005 & Gold Medallist & Category Winner 2011 ISSUE: 5 July 2013

Luddenden Valley Wines

Tel: 07748 090054

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The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning. The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy spring, and those that follow a drop to the chill of autumn, but the first week of August is motionless, and hot. It is curiously silent, too, with blank white dawns and glaring noon's, and sunsets smeared with too much colour." – Natalie Babbitt, children's author - Tuck Everlasting



News from the village

The Britain in Bloom judges have, due to unforeseen circumstances, changed our judging date to Friday 9th August. They will be arriving in the village at 09.15 am. Contact has been made to arrange a photo shoot with the Mayor of Calderdale along with local newspapers before the village is judged. Mick Harrop, our contact at the council has been asked to re-arrange the road sweepers visit to the Thursday to help ensure the village looks as good as possible.

As you may be aware the retaining wall on High Street is being rebuilt and the pathway to the church is being re-laid. It's not ideal having this type of work taking place at the time of judging but these things have to be done and the team will just have to try and work around the mess caused to ensure the village looks as good as possible.

Once again can we ask all villagers to keep their house frontages as tidy as possible, pick up any litter they see and clear up after their dogs as fouling is yet again becoming an issue especially on High Street and the riverside walk.

Chris Beard, who once again was appointed our Britain in Bloom mentor, has visited the village and went around with team members providing valued tips as to where we could undertake some enhancements. The team are now busy applying this advice. In general Chris made fewer comments than when we were in the competition in 2011 so we must be improving!

As a result of summer finally arriving the team is also undertaking as much watering as possible and many thanks goes to all the volunteers who have come forward to help along with thanks to our spring water supply that has been made available for use on High Street.

The maintenance plan drawn up for the wild flower meadow on the riverbank has fallen behind, but as a result various annual wildflowers such as poppies are now in flower and attracting bees and butterflies. Therefore only some minor work will take place until after the judging but the bughouse is receiving a makeover.

Two of the bloom team took part in the Open Gardens event and helped raise some extra funds by selling plants on the day. The event was a great success with many favourable comments from visitors from far and near. So thanks to everyone for taking part and to Rodney Collinge whose organisation and skills of persuasion makes this biennial event so successful.

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Gardening tips for August

Well summer has finally arrived and with it the problem of watering. As mentioned before, it is best to water early morning and in the evening to ensure that water does not just evaporate. We all need to save water as much as possible so don't leave sprinklers running and where possible use "greywater" eg from the bath, shower and kitchen sink for use around your perennial plants once it is cool but don't use on edible crops. All plants whether they are in the flowerbed, veg plot, or tubs and containers now need to be fed on a regular basis and tomatoes at least twice a week. Regularly harvest peas, french and runner beans to encourage further flowering. Check tomatoes for side shoots and remove. Start lifting your onions, shallots and garlic and allow them to dry off before storing. Harvest main crop potatoes and pot up a few second-crop seed potatoes now for Christmas. Dead heading on a regular basis will encourage your bedding to make more growth and also extend the flowering season. Increase your perennials by taking cuttings of fuchsias, salvias and pelargoniums and other tender plants.

Volunteers

Both the Bloom Group and Barry Dyson (mobile 0777 199 7405) of the cemetery group are still looking for extra pairs of hands to help with ongoing work.



Dates for the diary

Village Judging
Mayor Making
Ada Brook Trophy Judging
Britain in Bloom Awards

Friday 9th August
to be advised
August
Saturday 12th Oct



Eric's View

Derek has been busy checking on what is happening around the village and this months report is now on the website www.luddenden.com on my Eric's View link. Grey Wagtails and Greater Spotted Woodpeckers have been seen visiting gardens with their young. Swifts and Swallows are busy flying over the village catching insects for their nestlings. Enjoy the Swifts while you can as they will probably have left the village by the middle of August once their young have fledged. Badgers have been seen visiting gardens but you will have to be up early morning to have any chance of spotting them. Look out for butterflies such as Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Orange Tips, Red Admirals, Green-veined Whites and the very rare Blue. Also beware of the Large White butterfly (aka the Cabbage White), as they will be on the look out for your brassicas. Finally the answer to last months question as to what is plugging up the holes in my bughouse is Mason Bees. Thanks Derek.