

*"Weather is a great metaphor for life - sometimes it's good, sometimes it's bad, and there's nothing much you can do about it but carry an umbrella". ~Terri Guillemets (born 1973) quotations anthologist.*



## News from the village

Having now passed the Summer solstice on the 21<sup>st</sup> and Midsummer's day on the 24<sup>th</sup> we are still waiting for the arrival of Summer! On the plus side everything is growing very well but on the negative, some plants are just rotting off with all this wet weather. Pests are also thriving with plenty of slugs and snails attacking everything they can. With less than a month to the Summer judging which takes place on Friday July 20<sup>th</sup>; the village is looking good despite the rain although several days of sunshine would be very welcome to bring everything out in flower.

Even Calderdale Council have been delayed with their summer bedding, but hopefully by now the Cenotaph should have been planted up. As mentioned in previous newsletters this is the last year that the main bed will be planted this way, as, from autumn, perennials and spring bulbs will replace bedding. Although we will have to pay for this to happen the Royal Horticultural Society see this as the way forward for public gardens and spaces. It is more sustainable and better for the environment and encourages wildlife. It is also more cost effective for local councils who, due to budget cuts, have had to tighten their belts.

Calderdale is no exception having also lost manpower on top of financial restraints. Mike Harrop at Calderdale Council (who helps the village by arranging road sweepers and grass mowers prior to judging) is also supporting the team in this venture by organising the autumn planting. He will shortly provide the team (when time permits) with a plant list that will be very insect friendly particularly for bees and other nectar searching pollinators. This, we feel, is a fitting tribute around the cenotaph to the men and women who gave their lives in two World Wars and later conflicts in order for us all to have a better life.

We would also like to thank the Luddenden Conservation Society who have continued to support the Bloom team efforts by financing sustainable permanent planting around the village on the major sites such as the Jubilee Car Park and Winding Wheel garden. This gesture allows the team to use the funds raised at the plants sales for spring and summer displays.

Finally the team are busy adding the final touches to the village before judging. All villagers can help in this by putting out plants, picking up litter and generally keeping Luddenden spic and span not just for the people who live here but for visitors as well.



## Gardening tips for July

Deadhead floribunda and hybrid tea roses to prompt repeat flowering. Divide and replant congested flag iris clumps and cut back faded delphinium and lupin flower spikes. Trim back your wisteria's whippy side shoots to about 20cm from their base and feed the plant with a high potash feed to ensure a good display next year. Once we get some sun, prolong your summer displays of fuchsias, petunia and other bedding by picking off faded flowers so they don't set seed. In the veg plot if you can feel broad beans in the pod then they are ready to eat. Pick young courgettes regularly so they produce even more fruit. Plant out your leeks and protect your soft fruits from birds with taunt netting. Restrict outdoor toms to just three or four trusses by pinching out the main shoot. In the greenhouse as tomato trusses grow heavier they will need extra support so tie in cordons each week. Don't forget to pinch out any side shoots. Keep grow bags moist by regular watering to avoid blossom end rot. Watch out for other pests apart from slugs and snails such as sawfly on gooseberries, cabbage white caterpillars on brassicas and white fly in the green house.



## Dates for the diary

Heritage Day  
Yorkshire in Bloom Summer Judging  
Ada Brooks Trophy Judging  
An Evening with Joe Maiden at St Mary's  
Mayor Making  
Last Night of the Proms

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July  
August  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 7.30pm  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September



## Eric's View

Continue to supply food at your feeding stations, as this will help fledglings to thrive and build up reserves before the winter. Watch out when walking that you don't disturb young deer fawns, as their mothers can be very protective. Enjoy the flying displays of swifts over the village. Once their young have fledged they will, very shortly after, make their way back south. Swallows, on the other hand, will be with us until autumn. When driving along country roads at night try to reduce your speed as the abundance of slugs, snails and worms will mean that hedgehogs will be on the move and they need our help to avoid them ending up as road fatalities.