

Love Luddenden Newsletter

LUDDENDEN IN
BLOOM

Britain in Bloom & Yorkshire in Bloom Village Gold Medal Winners

The  *Friendly Village*
ISSUE: March 2017



Village News

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2017. Once again we will offer tips on gardening, what the “In Bloom” team are up to around the village and events taking place in Luddenden. With spring just around the corner, it appears that the racks, planters and tubs and other containers have survived the winter very well. The Firecracker polyanthus have since they were planted continued to flower no matter what the weather, and are now being enhanced with the spring bulbs. The team are already planning for the summer and this year’s colour scheme and design has already been decided. More on this in next month’s newsletter.

Nigel and his team of River bankers have continued working throughout winter to clear debris, saplings and other obstructions. All this work has greatly improved the flow of the river and opened up the view along the footpath towards Brooke Terrace. Wildlife have also benefited as one heron in particular has taken up residence throughout the winter. With the spring breeding season starting, look out for dippers and wagtails, as they like to use the exposed rocks as a base to hunt insects.

The Luddenden in Bloom Facebook page has proved popular and is being used to promote local businesses such as “The Nellie”, Neighbourhood Watch meetings, Conservation Society Meetings, Missing Pets, Dog Fouling, Events in the Village and traffic and travel problems. All you have to do to join is search on facebook and send a request. The main rule for members is not to use it in a way that can cause controversy.

With the success over the past few years of fund raising for the village, we will once again be holding a plant sale in the car park on Saturday 20th May from 10am to 1pm. As usual we will have a selection of perennials, toms, herbs, veg and summer bedding from Kitsons all at competitive prices. We are always looking for perennial plant donations, so if you have any excess from splitting your plants up and remembered to label them, then please contact the team or bring them down to the sale early on the day.

As mentioned over the past few years, due to an ageing team (sorry bloomers!) we will not be able to enter any competitions again this year. It is sad that this has happened and unfortunately despite our best efforts we have had to curtail our work around the village. So if anyone is interested in becoming involved, and maybe taking Luddenden back into Bloom competitions, then once again please contact the team. We are though looking into possibly entering the Cenotaph and Memorial Garden nearby into a discretionary category within the Yorkshire in Bloom Competition. We will let you know next month if this is the case.



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Dates for the diary

Plant Sale 2017 in the Car park
Luddenden Village Open Gardens

Saturday 20th May 10am to 1pm
Saturday 1st July



Gardening tips for April

Two very important tips at this time of the year are not to work the veg patch if it is still waterlogged and not to be tempted to plant out anything that is tender until all chances of frost are over despite what is being sold in garden centres. You can though start weeding the borders, plant perennials, shrubs and roses. Potatoes, onion sets, broad beans and peas can be sown direct in the veg patch if your soil is dry enough. If your lawns needs a trim and the ground is firm enough, set the blades high and go over it once a week for the next month until the growing season really takes off at which point lower the blades. Clean out and disinfect your greenhouses and then plan what seeds you want to grow. Remember at our plant sale we will be selling tomatoes and cucumbers, so if you only want a few plants, various varieties will be available. Annuals can be sown this month in trays and then grown on in cold frames before final planting out in the borders.



Eric's View

Despite the wet winter the temperatures have in general been quite good during the season. As a result my bird feeders haven't been visited as much as in the past. This though changed at the end of January after a cold snap and they have become very busy, partly as a result of the spring breeding season. I now have flocks of Goldfinches and Long Tail tits constantly feeding throughout the day. In addition, Great, Blue, and Coal Tits, Dunnocks, Blackbirds, Thrushes, Robins, Starlings, Nuthatches, Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Collared Doves and Jackdaws are also regularly visitors to the garden. All the birds like the sunflower hearts and the various types of fat pellets I provide and there is just enough that drop from the feeders to keep ground-feeding birds happy. I've even had a noisy male pheasant visit! Tawny Owls are very vocal at the moment and the dawn chorus is improving with every passing day. Any wildlife photographers out there please feel free to post pic's on the Facebook site.



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