

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

Britain in Bloom Silver Medallist 2005 **ISSUE: 6. July 2011**

*"If you tickle the earth with a hoe she laughs with a harvest" –
Douglas Jerrold – 19th century English dramatist*



News from the village

On Saturday 25th June Luddenden Open Gardens Day took place. Although the weather was somewhat inclement visitor numbers to the village, from far and wide, were impressive. Some of the "in Bloom" team opened their plots to the public and a good time was had. A further £150 was raised by selling cakes, tea and plants which is an added bonus and will help swell the coffers for next years spring and summer planting. Several of our neighbours from Midgley visited the gardens and, as it is their turn to hold the event next year, they will inform us of the date so we can include it in the newsletter next year. A big thanks goes to Rodney Collinge of the Conservation Society whose organization of this biennial event makes it such a great success.

Since then the team have been busy around the village, watering, weeding and litter picking amongst other things to ensure the village looks its best as, by the time this newsletter is delivered, there will be just a few days to go before the RHS judges visit. Calderdale Council has been contacted to ask for the road sweepers and grass mowers to visit prior to the judging day. Everyone though can help by collecting and disposing of any litter they see when walking around.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the judges will be touring the village on Thursday August 4th between 8.45 am and 10.30 am. There is still time to help support our entry in Britain in Bloom by planting up your plot. Many local garden centres, at this time of year, hold sales of both annual and perennial plants - so it's still not too late to add a bit of colour to your house frontage.

Every year, prior to judging, the team has to supply a portfolio. This document includes photographs and descriptions of areas in the village, that, due to time constraints, we cannot visit on judging day. This was supplied to the RHS several weeks ago and the feedback we have had is that it is one of the best they have received. As a result they are now sending an official RHS representative to photograph the village for promotional purposes. A further surprise was the unexpected visit by a photographer from the "Dalesman" magazine and they have advised that pictures of the village will appear in their September edition.

**Luddenden In Bloom Contacts: Brenda (bmca070548@aol.com)
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check out the village web site www.luddenden.com**

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Gardening tips for July

Continue to deadhead and feed containers, hanging baskets and tubs with a high potash fertiliser to encourage more blooms. Remove side shoots and tie in cordon tomatoes as they grow and give them a weekly feed. Keep your greenhouse well ventilated on hot days. Save water by recycling what is known as "grey" water from the kitchen and bathroom. It's safe to use around your plants as long as it does not contain harmful chemicals. Now is the time to prune wisteria and *Clematis montana*. Take cuttings from non-flowering shoots of your favourite perennials. Plant out your remaining pot grown leeks and sow cabbage, spring greens and endive. This month is also your last chance to sow fast maturing peas for an autumn crop. Watch out for garden pests such as green fly, vine weevil, cabbage root fly and of course slugs and snails. Finally, don't forget to arrange for someone to water your garden if you are going away for your holidays.



Dates for the diary

Village Judging Day
Ada Brooks Trophy
Mayor Making

Thursday 4th August 8.45 am -10.30 am
Judging in August
Saturday 10th September (not as previously
advertised)
Sunday 25th September

Britain in Bloom Results



Eric's View

There is still plenty of activity over the village by swifts and swallows. Juvenile magpies have been making a lot of noise in the garden and disturbing my sleep under the catmint (*Nepeta*), which I have to protect from the neighbours. Gold finches are busy feeding on seed heads in the fields around the village and have started visiting my feeders again. Whilst on my patrol I've noticed a lot of spiders in the undergrowth and the devils have started to invade the house. Ants also appear to be on the increase, which may mean the colonies are about to launch their winged male and females. Young hedgehogs are active now and will be crossing roads around the village. Please help by watching out for them and reducing your speed when driving.

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