

*"I appreciate the misunderstanding I have had with Nature over my perennial border. I think it is a flower garden; she thinks it is a meadow lacking grass, and tries to correct the error. A weed is a plant that is not only in the wrong place, but intends to stay"* Sara Stein 1936-2005 novelist and gardener



### News from the village

Spring judging took place on a snowy Wednesday on the 4<sup>th</sup> April. By the time the judges Christine and Steven arrived the streets were clear of the white stuff and, thanks to the council, villagers and bloom team the judging route looked great. We are now awaiting feedback from the judges in our spring report. The Halifax Courier printed an article about the day on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and photos of the walk around the village can be found on the website. The summer judging date has been set and is Friday July 20<sup>th</sup> which gives plenty of time for everyone to make Luddenden Bloom.

Luddenden officially kicked off its in Bloom campaign on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> with the local Brownie Group sowing annual wild flower seeds (donated by the environmental charity Landlife) on the riverbank. They then helped build a wormery to complement the Bug Hotel. A wormery is an easy to use and reliable all in one worm composter that can turn your kitchen waste into high quality natural compost and concentrated liquid feed. Once a wormery is established you simply place kitchen waste in the top on a daily basis (or as and when you have it) and the worms will digest it - producing both liquid feed, which is drained from the tap in the front, and compost. If you would like more information visit the web site [www.greengardener.co.uk](http://www.greengardener.co.uk).

After discussions with Calderdale Council about what happens to the spring bedding when the time comes to replant their sites, such as the village cenotaph, for summer, we have been granted permission to re-cycle all the primulas and re-site the plants around the churchyard. The Gardening Club will undertake this work from the 8<sup>th</sup> May. Once the primulas have been replanted they should provide welcome spring colour for years to come. Thanks goes to Mike Harrop at Calderdale for his help and support in this venture.

The plant sales take place in the car park on Saturday's 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May between 10 and 2. The team have been very busy over the last few months planning for this annual event. On making comparisons with local garden centres we know that we provide a good selection of perennial, annual, tomato and veg plants at reasonable prices. Due to the recent cold snap our toms and other veg plants have suffered but if you can't get what you want at the first then come again to the second sale and help support the village. There will also be a raffle and cards displaying local views and wildlife pictures for sale plus free advice on gardening.



### The ongoing problem of dog fouling

I hate going on about this problem but things show no sign of improving. Before the judges arrived the team had to remove two recently deposited dooggy doos on High Street that appeared overnight. So please clear up after your pet otherwise someone else has to or worse an adult or child will end up walking in it.



### Gardening tips for May

Leave the planting out of summer bedding until the first week of June when hopefully any threat of frost is past. That goes for tender veg such as runner bean and sweet corn. Plant strawberry plants in the ground, in planters or hanging baskets for a pretty and delicious crop this summer. Harvest your rhubarb and try making it into a "fool" with some of the liquid from a jar of stem ginger - delicious! Continue sowing crops from seed such as broad bean, pea, carrot, lettuce, spinach, salad leaves, leek and chard. Sow salads in short runs every fortnight to ensure a continuous crop. Plant out brassicas and grow short term crops such as lettuce and radish between them to maximise the space available. Vegetable plants are now available at garden centres and will be at our plant sales so for those who find growing from seed daunting, this is the ideal solution. To get ahead with the summer crops - sweet pepper, tomato, aubergine and salad can be planted in a greenhouse. Again, we sell many of these as 'teenage' plants.



### Dates for the diary

1 <sup>st</sup> Plant Sale in the Car Park	Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 10-2
2 <sup>nd</sup> Plant Sale in the Car Park	Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 10-2
St Mary's Church Fayre	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> June
Luddfest Music Festival	Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June
Heritage Day	Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> July
Yorkshire in Bloom Summer Judging	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July
Mayor Making	Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> September



### Eric's View

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> I spotted my first swallow of the year sat preening itself on a telephone wire. So with summer fast approaching hopefully more swallows and their cousins the swift will be seen flying over the village during the next few weeks. Keep your eyes peeled.