

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: 2 April 2013

Luddenden Valley Wines

Tel: 07748 090054

Luddenden main sponsor for 2013



First, April, she with mellow shower Opens the way for early flowers; Then after her comes smiling May, In a more rich and sweet array: Next enters June, and brings us more Jems, than those two, that went before: Then (lastly) July comes, and she More wealth brings in, than all those three – *Robert Herrick 1591-1674 – poet and clergyman - The succession of the four sweet months.*



News from the village

The launch of Britain in Bloom 2013 was reported on the BBC Breakfast time news programme on Monday 8th April. As mentioned last month the theme this year is “Edible Britain”. We had hoped that the BBC would include an item on the village’s entry whilst filming Countryfile but unfortunately their researchers, after making contact with the team, never got back to us. You can though see what they did film around Luddenden on Sunday April 21st so look out for the programme. The “in bloom” team are once again very disappointed with the lack of media coverage by the BBC, not just for this year’s national competition, but also from past experience locally in Yorkshire in Bloom. In any case who needs the BBC when we have such supportive villagers right here on our own doorstep!

The continuing cold weather has put back spring by several weeks. We have now received our seeds from the RHS to help promote the competition and we have decided to mark our launch by making Bug Homes with the local brownies. This is because wildlife will (due to extreme cold weather) need all the help it can get this year. Brenda, our coordinator, will be undertaking this very important task on Thursday 25th and we hope to have an article featured in local newspapers.

Recent snowfall has also delayed the sowing of the wild flower meadow on the riverbank. It is hoped the Met Office predictions that the weather is starting to warm up will mean this task will shortly be completed. As mentioned previously this is a twelve-month project so there will not be much to see until spring 2014, but once established, it will be a colourful asset not just to view but also benefit wildlife. There is still the issue of the bonfire site to resolve before July but we hope the pile will be visibly reduced before the judging.

The plant and produce table on High Street will, over the coming months, have various veg, salad, fruit and plants placed on it by the team to help supplement the income raised at our two plant sales. If anyone does have excess plants, please pot them up and label them along with a price and place them on the table. We now regularly check the table to ensure anything donated is watered and, if necessary, removed so only healthy items are available. So check the table out when passing.

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Gardening tips for May

Providing your soil is not waterlogged you can now start sowing potatoes and broad bean seeds direct into the soil. Dig out perennial weeds such as Dandelion and Herb Robert before they have time to set seed. If you have a lawn, now is the time to tidy and reshape the edges. Cut out any plain green shoots from variegated leaf shrubs to ensure they do not revert back. If you have planted any new fruit trees, bushes or shrubs along with outdoor containers, keep them watered so they do not dry out should we get a warm dry spell. Sweet peas should be pinched out to encourage bushier plants. Watch out for self-seeded plants in borders and paths such as Hellebore, Aquilegia, Foxglove and Alchemilla mollis (ladies mantle). Transplant them into small pots and grow on. Half-hardy herbs such as coriander and basil along with French and runner beans can now be started in your greenhouse or on a sunny windowsill.

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

1st Plant Sale in the car park
2nd Plant Sale in the car park
Open Gardens
Village Judging (date to be advised)
Mayor Making
Britain in Bloom Awards

Saturday 18th May
Saturday 1st June
Saturday 6th July
29/07- 09/08
Saturday 7th Sept
Saturday 12th Oct



Eric's View

With the ongoing cold spell, song thrushes have been visiting my bird feeders and scoffing all my fat pellets. Reports have come in that foxes have also been visiting gardens and eating scraps that have been put out for birds. Whether this is an indication on how desperate they are, or just being opportunists remains to be answered. This last week I've seen several bumblebees in the garden, the first of the year. I'm just hoping they use my bumblebee hive to nest in, as it is still available to rent. I've been woken from my catnaps by the rat-tat-tat of a woodpecker. This could possibly be a Great Spotted Woodpecker seen in the village on previous occasions.