

"What a desolate place would be a world without a flower! It would be a face without a smile, a feast without a welcome. Are not flowers the stars of the earth, and are not our stars the flowers of the heaven."- A.J. Balfour Politician & Philosopher 1848 - 1930



From the village

Once again on behalf of the team may we thank everyone for taking the time to support the second plant sale on Saturday 31st May. Again we did very well, and after paying Kitsons, who supplied the bedding at cost price on a sale and return basis, raised £448.80. Thanks also to all those members of the team who were able to be there on the day, along with everyone who donated plants. So with a combination of perennials, bedding, veg, Rhonda's very popular bags and Sue's village scene greeting cards we have raised over £1300, a record. This again will be used to keep our village blooming. If you missed out on buying either a bag or greeting cards these will be available again on Heritage Day.

With the sales completed, the team have now been round the village and replaced all the spring displays with summer plants. We have also undertaken weeding around the Memorial garden and Cenotaph and are attempting to keep control of the riverbank wildlife area. A decision was made in the spring to plant the hayracks on the old Methodist chapel for this year even though it is now being converted to private housing. This will discontinue from the autumn once the new owners have taken up residence and the hayracks will hopefully be reused elsewhere in the village.

Even though we carefully review our requirements each year, it was found that Kitsons had been very generous with our summer bedding order, plus the building work at the chapel meant we could not plant up our usual areas, so we were left with a surplus of plants. The team made the decision to donate the excess to Debbie and Geoff at the "Nellie" to help with their summer displays in view of how supportive they are of the village.

No news on who removed the compost, but we would like to advise against any further removal from the site as material there has not completed rotting down so will contain all manner of weed seeds.



Luddendenfoot Ward Calderdale Council Citizen Celebration Award

The Luddenden in Bloom team was taken by surprise last week to receive news that we had been nominated for this award in recognition of all our hard work in the village. Even though we were not put forward to represent the Luddendenfoot Ward, the team were thrilled to receive this nomination & certificate. Well done to all nominee's and good luck to Jade Smith who goes through to the final.



The Bee Friendly Village

Britain in Bloom & Yorkshire in Bloom Village Gold Medal Winners

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Gardening tips for July

Well fingers crossed that we are now well and truly into summer and that the weather remains good for the next few months. All tender plants should now be planted out and kept watered during dry spells along with tubs, pots, and hanging baskets. Ensure you regularly dead head and feed containers to prolong the flowering season. In the veg patch, thin out carrots, beetroot, parsnip seedlings and other root crops. Plant out leeks grown under cover. Start sowing winter veg such as chicory, kale and winter cabbage. Check broad beans to see if they are ready to harvest and pick young courgettes. Early potatoes should be ready this month and later varieties should be earthed up. Continue harvesting and sowing seed of summer salad. Your greenhouse cordon tomatoes will need side shooting and tying onto canes for support. Open doors and windows on hot sunny days and again water and feed your plants. In the flower border, check for pests and hoe to get rid of those persistent weeds. Prune whippy wisteria side shoots back to 20cm and tie in. Collect seed from your favourite perennials such as aquilegia and foxgloves. Again dead heading plants such as roses, dahlias and lupins will encourage further flowering. Ask family, friends and neighbours to water your plots if you go on holiday.



Dates for the diary

Conservation Heritage Day	Saturday 28 th June
St Mary's Summer Fayre	Saturday 5 th July
St Mary's WW 1 100 th Anniversary Service	Sunday 3 rd August
Ada Brooks Trophy Judging 2014	August
Mayor Making Day	Saturday 13 th September



Eric's View

Thanks to Derek for providing his blog of life around the village, especially as Springwatch on the BBC is proving so popular. It really great to know what wildlife can be seen around Luddenden. In my little patch various bumblebees are very busy and have been joined by Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies. The bird feeders are still proving very popular and are drawing in Great, Coal and Blue Tits on a regular basis. In the evening is wonderful to see Swifts, Swallows and House Martins skimming the trees and rooftops of the village. The resident Pipistrelle bats join them later. There appears to be an abundance of insect life so hopefully all the village creatures will have a successful breeding season.

