

Yorkshire in Bloom Village Gold Medal Winners 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2012

Britain in Bloom Silver Medallist 2005 & Gold Medallist & Category Winner 2011 **ISSUE: 1 March 2013**

Luddenden Valley Wines

Tel: 07748 090054

Luddenden main sponsor for 2013



When Cuckoo fanfares pageants start, brassy trumpets thaw the heart,
Clouds burst silver streamers till mercurial rivers brim and spill,
Borders steam in afterglow, blackbird's solo, time to hoe,
Sapphire bells ring noble oak, greeting frogs embrace and croak,
Guests arrive on seasoned wing, on that regal day in spring. . *Andrew Fox, That Regal Day*



News from the village

So much has happened since we were last in print; so without further ado let me update everyone with all the latest "bloom" news in the first of our newsletters.

As announced in the Conservation newsletter the village has once again been invited into the Britain in Bloom competition. This is the third time we have entered this event having won gold and village category in 2011. It would of course be great to achieve the same again but with pressure on everyone's purse strings and not being able to rely on the summer weather, all we are asking is for villagers to do their best for our entry.

The theme this year is "Edible Britain" and the RHS have donated seeds to each entrant containing chives, parsley, coriander, dill, garlic chives, sage, thyme, marigolds, nasturtiums, radishes, carrots, fennel, spring onions, spinach and red frills mustard all of which can be sown direct into the ground during April. The official RHS launch takes place over the weekend of the 13th and 14th April and we are hoping at the time of going to print that ours might be included in the BBC Countryfile visit to the valley. Once again we are seeking support from the local guides and brownie groups to become involved by using the donated seeds to grow their own crops.

The team are also currently involved in a major wild flower re-seeding on the riverbank with a locally sourced wetland mix. This is a 12-month project and the results will not be seen until 2014. Due to the amount of garden waste that had been placed at the site the team have had no option but to burn the material. Apologies to the villagers, whom this has affected, but it was a necessary evil, as we do not have the resources to either transport the waste away or compost it and the size of the pile was becoming an eyesore. Now this has been done can we ask that no more material is placed there until the next fireworks event in the autumn, and even then that only dry woody material is used and placed in the marked out area. As mentioned in previous newsletters garden material can be taken to the local Calderdale re-cycling centres if you are unable to compost it yourselves.

Dates have been set for our 2 annual plant sales and with the theme of Edible Britain in mind we are growing salad and vegetable crops suitable for small spaces along with our normal fare. Kitsons will once again be supplying the village with summer bedding and we will as usual have some available at the second plant sale. Luddenden Valley Wine has also agreed to sponsor the village this year so thanks to Gwyn Evans for his kind offer.

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Gardening tips for April

Clean your greenhouse glazing inside and out to ensure as much light as possible can get in. Start sowing greenhouse crops such as peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers. Now is the time to sow annuals flower seeds in trays under a propagator cover or if using pots place them inside a sealed clear plastic bag to aid germination. Using the inner cardboard tube of toilet and kitchen rolls, start off pea, French and runner bean seeds. Then when the time is right the whole thing can be planted in the veg plot without disturbing the roots and the tube will compost down. Finish digging over your veg plot and sow direct broad bean seeds, onion sets, shallots and early potatoes. Apply high-potash feed to fruit trees and bushes. Watch out for slugs and other pests that will start to become more evident as the weather warms up.

Volunteers

With spring here perhaps you have a few hours to volunteer a month. 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 Garden

Saturday 18th May
Saturday 1st June
Saturday 6th July

Village Judging (date to be advised)

29/07- 09/08

Mayor Making
Britain in Bloom Awards

Saturday 7th Sept
Saturday 12th Oct



Eric's View

A Badger have been spotted in a villagers garden and some photos of this lovely creature have been added to the website along with Mr & Mrs Roe Deer who have been making their presence known by eating vegetation in other gardens. The bird population appear to be busy pairing up and rooks, jays and magpies will possibly already be on eggs. I have a pair of robins busy in the garden and several long tail tits having started visiting the feeders again. That's why it is still very important to carry on topping up your feeders to help breeding bird get off to a good start especially after the damage caused to their populations by last years inclement weather.