

*"Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made by singing: —"Oh, how beautiful!" and sitting in the shade". Rudyard Kipling, 1865-1936, writer and poet "The Glory of the Garden"*

## News from the village

First of all the team would like to thank everyone who contributed to another successful plant sale on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>. A total of over £900 was raised from the combination of plants, greeting cards and Luddenden Bags sales, making it one of the best results we have had. Once again the money will be poured back into village for the summer and spring displays, along with other projects for the next year.

The second plant sale is on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> starting at 10am, again in the car park where we will have summer bedding for sale along with perennials, toms, herbs, greeting cards and Luddenden Bags. The bedding that comes from Kitsons usually proves very popular so best get down early to ensure you are not disappointed.



### The Mystery of the Compost Bin

Several years ago the team in an effort to help the environment and reduce costs, built a 3 bay compost bin. Over the last years all spent compost and plant matter from hayracks, planters and tubs has been deposited at the site and once well rotted down we have used the material to replace spent compost in all the village displays. Several weeks ago the team turned and sifted through the 3 bins and was left with one bay full of good compost to be used in this years planting. Imagine the surprise we had this week when we found this bay completely empty. We have no idea who has taken it but would like to point out that we will now have to spend around £40 at a garden centre to replace the missing compost.

## Other News

The old paper shop window has now been updated and the information displayed should last until the autumn when we will undertake another update. Thanks to Suki for once again allowing us to use this valuable asset to let villagers and visitors know what is happening in and around Luddenden.



*The Bee Friendly Village*

Britain in Bloom & Yorkshire in Bloom Village Gold Medal Winners

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**Gardening tips for June**

With the chance of a frost now remote, summer bedding can now be placed out doors ensuring that the compost used contains some water retaining gel in case of prolonged dry spells. They will need feeding and dead heading regularly to ensure a long flowering period. In the veg plot, earth up potatoes to get a bigger crop. Thin out carrot seedlings but beware of that pest the carrot root fly as its sense of smell enables it to home in on carrots from half a mile away. Protect you crop with fleece or plant companion plants alongside such as marigolds, spring onions and garlic. Sow French beans direct this month along with brassicas that have been raised in the greenhouse. Sow succession of salad seeds to ensure a regular supply. Keep up with hoeing to reduce weeds and watch out for pests. In the greenhouse support your cordon tomatoes and cucumbers with canes using old wine corks at their ends for safety. Start sowing perennial seeds for next year if you have space. Open doors and vents on hot days and always use water from cans that have been filled and left overnight inside the greenhouse. Nothing shocks tom's or cucumbers more than very cold water!



**Dates for the diary**

2<sup>nd</sup> Plant Sale (Toms, Veg, Perennials, Bedding)  
Midgley Open Gardens  
Conservation Heritage Day  
St Mary's Summer Fayre  
St Mary's WW 1 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service  
Ada Brooks Trophy Judging 2014  
Mayor Making Day

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May-Village Car park 10-2  
14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> June  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August  
August  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September



**Eric's View**

Derek's blog is once again proving very popular. Since his last update I have seen swallows and swifts from my window flying over the centre of the village. On several occasions early in the morning I have watched 3 herons flying up the valley and been disturbed late afternoon by one heron regularly flying overhead being mobbed by jackdaws. Red Mason Bees, whose larvae over wintered in my bughouse tomato cane ends, have hatched and are now busy with the next generation. They are solitary bees but several are fighting for places in the cane ends, so I have put up another house, which my friend Brenda bought me. Keep feeding your birds, as my feeders are still very busy with adult looking for a quick snack.

