

Yorkshire in Bloom

2010 Judges Comments Categories 6 - 12

Category 6

PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND CHARITABLE ESTABLISHMENTS: Hospitals, Hospices, HM Prisons, Public Buildings, Residential Homes, Churches etc.

Abbeydale Residential Home, Ilkley Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The grounds of Abbeydale project a caring image for those who wish to be a resident. It is a well cared for mature garden with five trees, lawns, sitting areas and many areas dedicated to bedding plants.

Areas of Achievement

The gardens and seating areas are a pleasure for the residents and their families to enjoy. We liked the use of Busy Lizzies in the shade to brighten up the area. Very tidy.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

May be look at some herbaceous planting to reduce cost of bedding and labour involved.

All Saints Church, Barwick in Elmet Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The Church stands proud on the road junction in the village, with a well maintained and colourful entrance greeting you. The grounds and gardens are a credit to the hardworking group that meet each week and their enthusiasm and commitment are evident.

Areas of Achievement

The quality of the maintenance throughout and the well kept lawned areas around the church and grave yard. The mixed planting adjacent to the church and the remembrance garden. The plans for a more natural area on the north side of the church and future links with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

To continue to pursue the ideas around creating a wildlife area, maybe consider encouraging the children from the village to get involved. The future plans to incorporate/extend the path to comply with DDA regulations in to the far burial area.

Alfred Bean Hospital, Driffield Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The combined efforts of the nursing staff, relatives, in Bloom Group and contract maintenance team, greatly improve the grounds giving patients and visitors much pleasure during their stay.

Areas of Achievement

The quiet sensory garden was impressive. Efforts given by groups of people was very much in evidence.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

The general parking area planting needs attention to details.

Barnsley Hospice Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The dedicated volunteers and the management team are to be commended for their enthusiasm and attention to detail. The overall floral displays and landscaping features are a credit to all concerned and are maintained to a very high standard. It was also gratifying to see the ongoing development of the hospice which clearly gives unquantifiable peace and tranquillity for its patients and visitors.

Areas of Achievement

Sustained dedication of the volunteers is outstanding. The planning that has gone into making the site what it is. The implementation of the management plan creating new and exciting landscape/facilities. Overall standard of the hospice was excellent.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Consider implementing a wild flower area as oppose to a wildlife area to blend in with the overall landscaping. Consider the introduction of tasteful outdoor lighting and water feature to enhance the landscape. Consider introducing bird/wildlife feeding station.

Barwick Methodist Church Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The Methodist chapel is maintained to the highest standards and is a credit to the hard work of George Wright. The mature planting is enhanced by the colourful seasonal bedding at the front of the Chapel.

Areas of Achievement

The good mix of permanent shrub planting. The simple design and the quality of the seasonal bedding sets off the building. The clean and well kept hard surfaces and surrounds.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Consider the planter in front of the vestry door – to create a more colourful splash

Combe Hay, Scarborough Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Combe Hay is a residential home which is a charity and was built in 1958 has considerable and extensive grounds which is maintained to a very good standard with only two staff.

Areas of Achievement:

There are islands of considerable planting with oasis of colour and structure produce features. The plant share and plant swaps, which are at the moment, the main stay of the site have been put together imaginatively and compliment well. The pond the summerhouses and the initial features are all well maintained. The veg grown on site is great with composting of all local material utilised.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Further development is already underway with Mr Storry having many good idea's to utilise the large open grass spaces to provide more features and interest for the residents. A good idea he has is to create a cutting area so as to be able to allow the residents to take flowers in doors.

Donisthorpe Hall, Leeds Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A remarkably well maintained outdoor area for residents carried out by an enthusiastic gardener, supported by his manager, who has made the best use of available resources and has visions for the future.

Areas of Achievement

Replanted fountain area was an oasis of calm. The new entrance feature was attractive and calm.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Take care with the details such as coloured paintwork. Visit other similar sites for ideas, use of plants and plant species to help reach the potential you aspire to.

Ecclesfield St. Mary's Churchyard Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

To say Ecclesfield Church and its churchyard is so close the main road, it is a very peaceful place to be. The walkways from Priory Lane are well planned and maintained with lavenders softening the walkways. The planting at the side of the church creates an impact and is appropriately planted for such an imposing building.

Areas of Achievement

The appropriate use of plants in the churchyard. The high standard of cultivation, the area was weed free, very neat and tidy. Plants grown from seed. The habitat piles. The Jeffcock Memorial and the pansies in the water fountain.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Consider placing some bird and bat boxes in the grounds. Consider some wildlife supporting shrubs to add to the shrubs already in situ. Consider creating a corner that you do not strim creating further habitats for wildlife. Some of the seats may benefit from some attention.

Grimston Court, York Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A good colourful entry with livestock welcomed, including peacocks, peahen, rabbits and squirrels! Neatly edged borders and mature trees add to the surround area of lawns.

Areas of Achievement

Emphasis on clearing walkways through the wood of brambles, nettles etc., to make it more user friendly – especially for wheelchairs. Making use of shady places for residents to enjoy being outside. Hanging baskets are very colourful. The re-planting of some shrubs and hostas in a more appropriate place.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

There are plans for a day centre in the grounds. A water feature, sensory garden and herb garden are planned and raised beds. Consider screening for the bins. Consider re-thinking about the roses into a new bed away from the shade of the trees.

Henshaws Arts and Crafts Centre, Knaresborough Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Pleasant and attractive approach to the centre. A distinct feel of a very 'special place' catering for the people with special needs.

Areas of Achievement

Shop open to the public selling gifts etc., made on site. Vegetables and fruit grown made into pickles and chutneys for sale. Nice selection of hardy plants for sale. Well maintained woodland garden, mosaic edging to woodland paths. Use of re-cycled materials i.e., car tyres for growing vegetables.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Understand that it is planned to prove and extend the vegetable growing area including polytunnels. Care planning with vegetable growing rotation, this helps with pest and disease control and better use of plant materials.

Holden Hall, Keighley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A small group takes responsibility for the area around the village hall. The impact of the work is immediate with a flower bed, at the front of the building and hanging baskets. To the rear an area that could easily be forgotten provides a fine garden area, well used by the play group. Composting water recycling and the use of bark mulch assist with the environmental agenda.

Areas of Achievement

Introducing recycled crates as planters for the paved area. Re cycling in general at every opportunity. Working with groups such as the play group to extend use of the area. Supporting the in Bloom group

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Resolve difficulties with the hanging basket water system. Look at maintenance and condition of the hanging baskets as getting these to their full potential would have a positive effect on the marks allocated. Continue the high standards already achieved.

Holy Trinity Church, Skipton Gold Rose Award

Introduction

A real Yorkshire gem! The commitment by the team who look after the Church garden is evident. Led by Enid Powell, a dedicated band creates a colourful border which gives much pleasure to everyone who visits the church. The fine mixture of planting in the border gives colour throughout the year and is a stunning addition to the church architecture

Areas of Achievement

Good structure planting creates interest all year round and a exceptional variety of plants adds colour throughout the year and gives continuity. The planting works in sympathy to encourage wildlife. The border is complimented by well maintained lawns. The commitment of the team to keep up the high level of maintenance

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Possibly consider a water butt to ease the watering problems. Good to hear the plans to renovate the rose bed

Hoticap Bluecoat Wood Nursery, Harrogate Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Established over 25 years ago this nursery allows you to buy special plants and meet the special people who produce them. The gardens to the rear are a real treat and there are

plenty willing to take you round them. Situated near to RHS Harlow Carr call in for a different perspective on horticulture and see the commitment the students at Horticap have.

Areas of Achievement

The extensive native tree planting. The drive towards self sufficiency. The new bird hide, with a huge variety of woodland and garden species. The quality of the plants produced and the skills of the students.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Give the students an opportunity to tell the tale more.

Newton Grange, Stocksbridge Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

This fairly modest set of buildings is enhanced at the entrance by some magnificent hanging baskets. The theme continues inside with planting to both improve the visual effect and meet the needs of service users. Fruit trees, current bushes and a vegetable garden provide for the establishments grow it cook it eat it project. The secret garden provides tranquillity and the planting of an England flag and 11 sunflowers to represent the team illustrates the level of skill and imagination used in the garden.

Areas of Achievement

The secret garden and its range of planting. The grow to eat project. The external hanging baskets.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Continue to work with service users to make the site of use to them. Continue to work on the grow to eat project. Consider planting the lower area of the internal baskets.

Northern Rail Bradford Interchange Gold Rose Award

Introduction

A real welcome to travellers arriving and leaving Bradford is shown by the pride of the staff in taking care of the whole station, which was maintained in an immaculate condition despite being a public inner city thoroughfare.

Areas of Achievement

A fantastic and vibrant floral display of hanging baskets and tubs. A great community involvement from all staff and a litter free clean and welcoming environment, including the plant display in the ticket office.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

We look forward to future initiatives such as the waiting room and troughs on the windowsill. Well done to everyone.

Oddfellows Hall, Skipton Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The floral display at Oddfellows Hall is a joy to behold. It has created a wow factor on a road that is otherwise short of horticultural interest. The eye catching bedding display brightens up the frontage and creates a welcoming entrance to the building. It is reassuring to know that even in this tough economic climate this type of effort on a limited budget is still being made. Well done to Les and the team.

Areas of Achievement

Very attractive summer bedding display at the front of the hall. A nice mix of perennials down the roadside edge of the building. An attractive a well-kept beech hedge along the boundary. A good use of mulch to retain moisture in the soil on the permanent beds. Nice support from the local in Bloom group who supplied several hanging baskets

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Some pruning and dead-heading needed on several rhododendrons. There is scope for extending the floral impact to the car park side of the building through use of baskets or containers. Consider staining your tubs and containers so they match to further enhance their overall appearance. Liaise with the In Bloom to ensure the colour scheme of their hanging baskets blends in with your own colour scheme.

Railway Station and Garden, Driffield Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A very pleasant and extremely tidy entry, covering almost everything. Nice permanently planted areas, platform planted barrels and archway troughs. A lovely platform memorial garden for a dedicated passed member of staff. Joining us on our visit was a member from the railway partnership who wished to acknowledge the huge support from the local in Bloom Group which was very much appreciated. The donated Church Clock on the platform also shows gratitude.

Areas of Achievement

The very high standard attained is excellent for visitors and passengers to enjoy.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

The surrounding hostelry and now established station yard gardens really do compliment this well used facility.

Riverhead Hall, Driffield Bronze Rose Award

Introduction

An entry going through a transformation which will improve it tremendously. A very pleasant location for everything to be worthwhile. Future rewards can be assured.

Areas of Achievement

Much evidence of a great clean up in a relatively short space of time. Allowing new projects to proceed successfully.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Potential developments will greatly improve the site.

St. Catherines Care Home, York Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Wonderful hanging baskets, brightly coloured which will appeal to the residents. Small enclosed areas for seating, with tubs and sunflowers. Grass well tended with curved borders.

Areas of Achievement

Curved flower borders with geraniums and busy lizzies. Many spring bulbs planted. Compost heap screened – but how about growing something up it?

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

You may like to consider;

- putting in a raised bed for residents.
- Remembrance and sensory garden.
- Fig tree on wall – or 2 or 3 espadier trees for spring such as; plum, pear, apple which will give blossom and colour.
- Developing a herb garden.

St. Gemma's Hospice, Leeds Gold Rose Award - Category Winner

Introduction

A superb example of a sensitive, colourful, peaceful garden that invites users to explore, enjoy and reflect.

Areas of Achievement

The small play area was a thoughtful addition. The variety of planting moods that link together to form an harmonious whole. Good composting area

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

The entrance via the car park and building are not an indication of what lies beyond and improvement to these areas would help first impressions

St. John's Church, Deepcar Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The church is sited in a raised position with extensive grounds. Whilst it is now six years since the major clean up and planting some improvements are still being made. These include the wonderful fern garden located on a difficult site. The quality of the plants was very good and the imaginative landscaping with timber was excellent. Taking the point from last years judges some tree planting has taken place on the large area of grass. The maintenance and plant condition is a credit to all those involved.

Areas of Achievement

The fern garden. The condition and quality of the bedding plants in containers which must have been a challenge to keep watered this year. The new tree planting.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Continue the already extensive bulb areas when possible. The willow at the side of the church will need to be removed and some restoration to the local planting carried out.

Stepping Stones 2 Project, Skipton Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Stepping Stones II is a North Yorkshire County Council funded scheme to engage with vulnerable adults in the Craven area. The group has a wonderful base where fruit and vegetables along with flowers are grown by the service users. The scheme which can lead to Skills for Work and life qualification is run in harmony with nature. There is a keen emphasis on wildlife and recycling. The group also engages within the wider community where possible, working with local schools and a residential housing association. This project is a finer example of the benefits of horticulture to society as a whole. Well done to all.

Areas of Achievement

Attractive formal box hedging in the front garden, combined with tasteful splashes of perennial colour and interest throughout the site. Very impressive that 150 hanging baskets have been planted and sold by the service users. Fantastic well kept vegetable garden. The overall quality of the plants and the design element of the various different gardens are generally very good. Good to see that composting is a key element of the garden. The scheme is important to area and has a tremendously positive impact for service users. The local community benefits in different ways from Stepping Stones II involvement around town.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

The site will be further enhanced when the new garden is designed and planted out. Consider a greater use for one of the polytunnels over winter, with a greater range of crops. It would be nice to hide the pond liner with more plants and establish the wildflower area around it. There is scope for more water butts around the garage area.

Study Court, Kirkbymoorside Gold Rose Award

Introduction

This is a complex of Warden Controlled flats for retired people. Our visit was a real pleasure and we were able to chat to the residents, even the shy ones, and we got a real feeling of community spirit.

Areas of Achievement

The gardens are the result of the residents' efforts. They do the planting and most of the weeding. The annuals displays are colourful and dead headed regularly. The permanent planting is a mix of perennials and small shrubs that flower well throughout the summer. Produce grown in containers include potatoes, tomatoes and strawberries. There are 3 compost bins and several bird feeders.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Keep enjoying your gardens - it obviously suits you!! Gardening tip – cut perennial geraniums down to the ground after flowering. You will get new fresh growth and a second flowering. It also stops them swamping neighbouring plants

Swan Court Flats, Harrogate Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

This friendly community all lend a hand to keep the flats in tip top condition. A lovely mixture of seasonal planting and established shrubs provides a warm welcome for all who approach. The rose garden to the front is a real gem with healthy bloom abundant. The borrowed landscape from the Old Swan Hotel provides a great backdrop, and no doubt great views for the flats on the higher floors.

Areas of Achievement

The small but manicured lawned areas. The seasonal planting at the approaches. Resident's balcony planting.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

The planned addition of new roses should be completed.

The Oaks Day Centre, Keighley Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Enhancing the lives at this day centre by the use of plants and gardening demonstrates the value of such activities. Shirley and Hillary are enthusiastic promoters of the garden programme as they skilfully match abilities to tasks. The results enhance the lives of service users and enhance the site. The range of plants covers vegetables and ornamental plants. All planting has to consider how they can be used and what skills they will promote. In addition to this it is provided in a cost effective manner through a variety of fund raising schemes. The collage in the entrance must be mentioned, a large IN Bloom piece constructed by service users was a quality display replacing a world cup flag!

Areas of Achievement

A very inclusive garden area. The quality of cultivation is high and offers a wide variety of planting types. The imaginative use of gardening in such a positive way.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Continue to develop the irrigation project. Be prepared to grasp gardening opportunities should any re development take place

Undercliffe Cemetary, Bardford Silver Rose Award

Introduction

This magnificent Cemetery located in a prominent position overlooking Bradford has fallen into a state of disrepair in recent years. However with the commitment and dedication of two part-time officers and the hard work of numerous volunteer groups, sections are now being brought back to their former glory. The site is managed by the Undercliffe Cemetery Charity in partnership with Bradford Metropolitan District Council. With future funding uncertain it is to be hoped that this important heritage site with its potential for conservation and biodiversity initiatives can be preserved for future generations.

Areas of Achievement

The standard of Restoration undertaken on plot Q. The development of a heritage trail. The absence of litter in the cemetery. The quality of the display boards and publicity material. The wide range of friends and volunteer groups affiliated to the cemetery.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Consider further partnership working with local schools and colleges to develop nature conservation projects or provide assistance with the web design. Develop a program of maintenance with Bradford Metropolitan District Council to eradicate the Japanese Knotweed. Seek corporate sponsorship to assist with the development of the Cemetery projects. Arrange for a wildlife survey of the Cemetery. Continue to develop plans for a Memorial Garden

Wheelhouse Square Trust, Scarborough Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The Wheelhouse is a residential complex that must be a pleasure to be apart of. Built around a central grassed area open at one end, each resident has numerous pots and planters that give a wonderful splash of colour to the site, and provide for their own individual garden. Not satisfied with this, vegetables are being grown among the flowers with a new greenhouse providing tomatoes for all.

Areas of Achievement

The work that has gone on in the last six months is a credit to the staff and residents. The mixed planting of flowers and veg., which are being used by all, is to be applauded. We look forward to see how this site develops, well-done and good luck.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

The entrance area we felt could be some how more floral. The amount of pots and planters around the whole site was not reflected in the entrance area. We realise that there needs to be car parking however it seemed that the railings and large tarmac area could be softened somehow. I am sure you will be blooming everywhere very soon.

Category 7A

PUBLIC HOUSE AND RESTAURANTS

Napiers Restaurant, Skipton Bronze Rose Award

Introduction

It was a pleasure to visit this first time entry, situated close to Skipton Castle. Ian and Julia have adopted a theme of growing herbs such as rosemary, bay and chives and salad plants at the front of their premises. This is a good idea, nicely in keeping with the theme of the restaurant. Some of the herbs and produce are used in the kitchen. With the addition of a little more colour and more attention to detail, this entry can go further within the category.

Areas of Achievement

The clematis looked great in full flower near to the entrance. A lovely idea to grow some edible plants at the front and use them in the kitchen. The entrance arch with gourds growing on top is a nice touch. The garden is terraced and the seating at the front, complemented the frontage. It was nice to hear about the good working relationships, that businesses have in this part of the town.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Although it is difficult with time constraints, extra weeding would be beneficial to the overall appearance of the frontage. The garden would benefit from subtle extra splashes of colour to increase impact. Low maintenance evergreen perennials such as heuchera, phormium and hebe are examples. To reduce water dependency, consider mulching where appropriate. Consider the promotion of your Yorkshire in bloom award on one of the notice boards.

New Inn, Barwick in Elmet Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Situated on a main junction within the village the pub offers a warm welcome to visitors and residents.

Areas of Achievement

Colourful baskets and planters enhance the frontage. Good efforts are being made to lift this tight road side space. The frontage is clean and well presented and the seating area well maintained. The continued support of the Landlord, to the Barwick in Bloom campaign.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

To continue to improve on the quality of the spring and summer floral displays in future years.

The Cottage Inn, Hunmanby Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The displays all round The Cottage Inn have been well thought out. A lot of hard work and dedication has been put into creating the lovely floral display. This public house in the centre of the village will give good support to Hunmanby in Bloom in the National Britain in Bloom campaign this year.

Areas of Achievement

A very well-designed display creating enormous impact. All the plants are very healthy and well-maintained. The premises were very clean and tidy and litter free. The furniture was clean and well maintained.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

It would have been good to see more evidence of the 'Bloom' campaign and the judging day displayed on the premises. Some form of irrigation system installed would benefit and save time on watering.

The Farmers Arms, Holmfirth Silver Rose Award

Introduction

A public house situated on the outskirts of Holmfirth off the main road but adjoining a side road, an old building with a small car park joining up with an outside seating area with a garden.

Areas of Achievement

The current landlords have only been in the premises for three months and have achieved a great deal in this time with a large number of hanging baskets and planted areas.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Given time more work could be done to the outside seating areas. Signs to the car park may be helpful to visiting customers.

The Old Bridge Inn, Ripponden Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The Old Bridge Inn is set in a picturesque location. It has an attractive and immaculate frontage, awash with strong floral colours. There has been a nice attempt to add colour to the car park area as well. A worthy entry with the possibility of going further in the competition in future years.

Areas of Achievement

High quality summer bedding in tubs and window boxes at the front of the pub. Clean sitting area next to the river, particularly impressive with some customers often dropping litter etc. The bank next to the river and the river itself, both adjacent to the pub was particularly clean.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Consider planting some small perennial shrubs / herbs in pots. Consider establishing some shade loving perennials in pockets of the car park area to encourage wildlife.

The Railway Tavern, Hunmanby Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The owners clearly recognise the impact of colourful flower displays which were evident all round the premises. Despite some problems this year, the landlady has worked very hard to carry on with the colourful displays and credit must be given for all the hard work. Well done!

Areas of Achievement

The number of different displays. The seating area and decking was very clean and tidy. Very large grassed area had been well cared for, with no signs of any litter.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

No visible recognition of Yorkshire in Bloom entry or Judging Day. Try drought resistant plants next year to help with the watering. Irrigation system could be installed for the hanging baskets.

The Stocks, Ecclesfield Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The Stocks is a very clean, tidy and presentable public house. The landlady has taken care with the displays using the small outside space to great effect providing a colourful and inviting area for her customers to sit in.

Areas of Achievement

Well planted baskets for both spring and summer. The water irrigation system in place. Extremely clean and tidy area.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

This is a small site and would be difficult to develop further however, you may wish to consider using butterfly attracting plants in you displays or incorporating some sustainable plants for year round interest.

The Three Horse Shoes, Oulton Gold Rose Award - Category Winner

Introduction

A breathtaking floral extravaganza! The situation of the pub, next to the main road makes the impact all the more stunning. A credit to all concerned.

Areas of Achievement

The numerous, baskets and troughs are stunning. The high quality of the plants throughout the display. The hard work involved in the up-keep of the floral displays.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Consider the addition of more permanent planting to areas around the car park. The judges could actually see bare walls in places, so maybe just a few more baskets in future!!!

Category 7B

GUEST HOUSES, HOLIDAY COTTAGES AND SMALL HOTELS (up to 20 bed spaces)

Clow Beck House Gold Rose Award - Category Winner

Introduction

The gardens at Clow Beck House give the impression of being much larger because of the number of features which are incorporated but which all sit comfortably in their setting. Imaginative use of space, play equipment and provision of seating areas creates a wonderful facility for guests young and older. A well stocked fruit and vegetable garden is available for the guests to help themselves and also for restaurant use, and flowers are used for indoor arrangements. The tidy and well kept grounds are enhanced by crafted signage, altogether a welcoming and delightful entry. Guests are well catered for.

Areas of Achievement

High standard of maintenance throughout grounds with careful consideration to presenting vistas and surprises. Good use of different hedging and boundaries allowing inclusion of surrounding countryside. Wide variety of seating, carefully placed, and appropriate pruning to ensure interesting lines of sight or privacy. Wide variety of floral display with something of interest year round, sustainable planting supported by some annual bedding. Introduction of shredding and composting with new insect hotel shows commitment to consideration of environmental issues. Birdlife encouraged year round. Reception area decorated with fresh displays of sweet peas from garden, clean, inviting with the addition of table puzzles for guest's amusement. Consideration for comfort and delight of visitors is shown throughout.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Rebuild edging circular bed in car park area and replant. The addition of later flowering climbers to tree and lavender walk would extend interest. If possible a bird bath or water feature in sight of restaurant may be considered.

Cold Coates Guest Accommodation and Event Centre Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Hidden down a long drive lies this friendly and welcoming place. Instantly the owners and staff are keen to show off the garden and its latest developments. The new plant sales area looks like a great spot for some bargains! The garden runs along the side and the rear of the accommodation and has many differing themes but all to a very high standard. Try not to fall in the pond, little children have been known to get stuck there for hours.

Areas of Achievement

The vast areas covered by the dedicated team. The pond and its development over the years. The shelter belts created to allow the garden to develop. The warmth of welcome.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Mulching, while important should not be done to excess, consider reviewing this. Consider giving passing motorists a taste of the garden that lies at the end of the drive with a perennial display.

Four Gables Guest House, Boston Spa Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A peaceful, enchanting, well thought out garden made up of many different areas. The grounds contain some excellent plants and features.

Areas of Achievement

The high standard of maintenance. The many different features throughout the garden. The fruit and vegetable garden. The composting area.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Consider removal of the large Cedar at the front of the house. Consider thinning out the shrubs alongside the drive.

Hob Green Hotel, Markingham Silver Rose Award

Introduction

This long established hotel lies through a dense woodland approach. The site has long established vegetable gardens now being used as perennial planting areas and newly established orchards. The changes are massive but are progressing well under the guidance of Adrian and Bob who have huge amounts of enthusiasm for the project. Keep up the hard work as the site changes into one that will be more manageable in the future.

Areas of Achievement

The golden orchard. The time consuming sweet peas towers. The developing lavenders at the entrance. The way the front lawn blends into the stunning surrounding countryside.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Additional manpower would speed the process considerably. Produce crops, flowers, herbs or vegetables that are wanted and used. A sensible programme of tree works would open up the site and show the trees off to their very best.

Lower Heugh Cottage, Eastby Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Lower Heugh cottage is an outstanding example of a Japanese garden. Part of the National Gardens Scheme, this garden oozes creative skill and clever planning. Designed over a twelve year period, Lower Heugh Cottage is also a fine example of a permanent garden, with barely a bedding plant to be seen. A must see for any lover of sustainable gardening.

Areas of Achievement

A fine example of how to use foliage in a garden, providing year round interest. The garden has many interesting features, in keeping with the Japanese philosophy. The quality of the plants and high standard of maintenance throughout the garden is to be commended. The meadow grass that is used to walk on is coping very well with quite heavy footfall and the recent dry spell. It is pleasing to see the use of waterbutts, compost bins and a vast array of bird and bats boxes in the garden.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

The entrance area would benefit from a “wow factor” to match the rest of the garden. Consider a greater horticultural impact around the reception area to make it an extension of the garden. Consider a dedicated website promoting the garden in its entirety. Continue as you are with the rest of the garden, as it is incredibly successful. Well done.

Sycamore Farm Cottages Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Sycamore Farm Cottages is a row of cottages which have been converted from former farm buildings into holiday lets. There is a car park to the rear and garden to the side and front all set in an attractive landscape.

Areas of Achievement

Improvements to the entrance and car park have made the area attractive and inviting to the visitors and the addition of the water harvesting for the garden is to be commended.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

The large grassed area to the side of the building could have some recreational facilities added to it for the enjoyment of the visitors.

The Bridge Inn Hotel, Whitwood Gold Rose Award

Introduction

It was a pleasure to judge the Bridge Inn Hotel, which is maintaining the high standards, previously achieved. The mass of colour from the extensive range of containers on the frontage provides an immediate and lasting impact on visitors entering the car park. The quality of the plantings and high standard of maintenance are achieved by the continued enthusiasm and dedication of the management and staff of this outstanding entry.

Areas of Achievement

The extent and range of floral containers including baskets, wallracks, windowboxes, tubs, troughs and permanent beds. The high quality, choice and colour co-ordination of the annual plantings grown on in-house from plugs. The use of mixed plantings in permanent beds to provide structure and further variety and colour throughout the year.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Consider provision of further tubs and wall troughs where space allows. Although the clipped evergreen shrubs either side the main entrance are acceptable and provide a sense of scale and some screening to the extensive car parking area, consider replacement permanent planting to add more variety and colour at an appropriate time i.e. when over mature.

Wolds Village Manor Farm Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A very popular venue which is riding the economic crisis, much to the success of the proprietors. A very commendable interesting entry with lots of old charm and well planned attractions.

Areas of Achievement

Delightful gardens for customers, residents and visitors to enjoy. A well cared for establishment after many years in the same ownership. Re-cycling very evident.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

The proposed landscape developments should add to the charm.

Category 7C

LARGE HOTELS (over 20 bed spaces)

Best Western Ripon Spa Hotel Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A family run hotel with car park to the front and gardens and croquet lawns to the rear, located a short distance from the centre of Ripon.

Areas of Achievement

The entrance to the hotel has attractively planted bedding but the hotel's claim to fame must be the competition croquet lawns to the rear.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

A move from spring and summer bedding out to a more sustainable planting could be considered.

De Veres Oulton Hall Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The hotel is situated in a stunning location, which is greatly enhanced by the immaculate grounds and gardens which surround it. The bedding displays and permanent planting are maintained to the highest standard. Visitors cannot fail to be impressed by the quality of the grounds.

Areas of Achievement

The impressive formal bedding schemes. The planting of the box hedge lettering in front of the club house. The improvement work on the ornamental pond.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

Consider the addition of a fern garden. The restoration of the fountain to its former glory will further enhance all the hard work undertaken by Judith.

Forest Pines Hotel and Golf Resort, Beverley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Due to its diverse underlying soil types, Forest Pines boasts a variety of habitats from acid to alkaline. Formed on a layer of sand presents benefits and drawbacks, a major consideration being the upkeep of watering. However, even after the recent low rainfall in the area the high standard of this entry has been well managed and the impact is striking.

Areas of Achievement

In order to create a feeling of tranquillity and getting away from it all, this entry has used a clever combination of screen planting and layering. Every growing space that this entry has to offer has been thoughtfully considered and planted appropriately. The different beds flow effortlessly into each other offering the observer not only colours, but textures, smell and even tastes, and it is clear to see that it provides year round interest. The recent publication of a nature guide book for the golf course is a great way to open visitors eyes to the different and specialised habitats on the site. The car park was neat and tidy, free of litter and the staged planting framing the name sign was a fitting indication of what was to be found inside. The grounds staff also maintains the highway verges that lead up to the premises to make sure that they are of sufficient standard! Whether the striking bold colours of the fire garden, or the more subtle tranquil wedding gardens, this entry has placed each feature in just the right place.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

This really is an entry to be proud of. Would it be possible to share your success with guests in the publicity material for the hotel, golf or conference centre? With commercial premises competition for space is always tight; however it would be beneficial for this entry to explore possibilities for large scale water harvesting.

Middlethorpe Hall and Spa Gold Rose Award - Category Winner

Introduction

A gem of a garden hidden besides the impressive building and grounds of the Hotel now a National Trust property. With such a diverse range of planting in the grounds of shrubs and trees, makes this entry a plant-a-holics playground. The residents and guests of Middlethorpe would not fail to be impressed with the high standard of grounds, gardens, woodland walk and lake.

Areas of Achievement

The different garden, each with its own theme and atmosphere, all planted and maintained to a high standard. Landscaping within the grounds all in keeping with the surrounding environment.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

To enhance the entry further, more evidence and attention to environmental issues will be an asset to this National Trust property

Midland Hotel, Bradford Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The Midland Hotel is a small gem in the centre of Bradford, catering for many conferences and events. The well maintained listed building was decorated with superb interior planters and with a little more care with the exterior green areas has the potential to reach a higher award.

Areas of Achievement:

First impressions of the hotel from the outside were good due to the colourful well maintained hanging baskets and planters. Inside floral displays were attractive. The car park was clean of litter and weeds

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

The standard of maintenance of the outside areas could be improved by defining the grass edging round the planted areas. More sustainable shrub planting in the grass areas by the entrance would create an impact and be easier to maintain.

Tankersley Manor Hotel, Barnsley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Tankersley Manor Hotel is set in large grounds very close to the main highway. However, once you are in the grounds it is very easy to forget how close the road is as the noise is dulled by the hedging in place. The whole outdoor area is very clean and tidy. The hotel and grounds has a very welcoming feel.

The Green Team, Hoyland Scout Group, is involved with tree planting and creating a herb garden at the hotel. The competition to find a logo for the Green Team had some excellent entries. It is good to see businesses working with local groups in this way.

Areas of Achievement:

The condition of the grassed areas and the lack of weeds. The whole outdoor area was very clean, tidy and welcoming. The introduction of bird boxes to encourage wildlife was good to see. The hotel also has three water butts and a composter which are used by the Gardeners and Green Team. The work involving the Green Team can only go from strength to strength. The lowering of the hedging in the car park has created a safer area for parking vehicles.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

The area may benefit from some of the hedges being removed to open up the planting areas. Consider using box hedges or lavender to create boundaries. Mark has some good ideas for future planting which will enhance the outside space.

Consider placing more plants in your planters and baskets to create impact, and using sustainable planting, supplemented with annuals within your displays. Also, remove baskets when they are not being used.

Category 8A

VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

East Riddlesden Hall, Keighley Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The garden and grounds at East Riddlesden Hall are delightful and very serene. All areas are well maintained and visitors are given plenty of information. The new children's play area is excellent and obviously very well used.

Areas of Achievement:

The gardens were clean, tidy and well maintained. The composting area and all the related educational activities are to be commended. The new interpretation boards in the Herb Garden are informative and useful.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

A touch of seasonal colour, in an appropriate planter, may be appreciated by visitors at the entrance. Consider some interpretation boards to highlight the variety of wildlife in the gardens.

Keighley and Worth Valley Light Railway, Haworth Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The railway is a complete branch line as constructed in 1866, to move goods to the main line at Keighley. The main purpose of course is to operate the railway; this includes steam trains as well as diesel ones. The operation works with volunteers carrying out the necessary duties. On my visit to the six stations one found many enthusiastic volunteers operating the station and taking responsibility for the garden areas. At Keighley this includes a large picnic area, planters and hanging baskets. The co-location with the main line sets a high standard for the national operator to achieve. Congratulations to all involved in operating the railway, and bringing around 100,000 visitors in.

Areas of Achievement:

The involvement with young people at each station when possible for example the Guides at Oxenhope. The high standards of maintenance on all the stations. The professional operation of the railway.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

To reduce the work it may be worth considering more permanent planting in the garden areas leaving the baskets and platform planters for bedding plants.

Knaresborough Castle Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A historical site with a museum to one side, a bowling green in the centre, putting green on the grassed area all set in a formerly planted out area.

Areas of Achievement:

The large rectangular bed adjacent to the bowling green which was designed by a primary school child from the area.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Consideration could be given to the addition of more interpretive material of the history and views of the site.

Knaresborough House Silver Rose Award Introduction

Knaresborough House is a public building located on the top of a hill surrounded by both formal and informal gardens. There is a small car park within the grounds. The house is located near to the town centre.

Areas of Achievement:

The bedding out to the front of the building was worth of note as was the carpet bedding celebrating 100 years of the Girl Guides.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Some of the pathways to the rear of the house are in need of attention.

Manor Heath and Jungle Experience, Halifax Gold Rose Award Introduction

Manor Heath Park boasts a traditional parkland setting, a glasshouse jungle experience for visitors supported by a newly established and expanding café, together with a unique kitchen garden setting which provides a real mix of developing garden styles. There are perhaps not many local authority parks within the country that has so much to offer and this is no doubt a major attraction in the locality?

Areas of Achievement:

This Green Flag Award park provides a range of services and activities including a newly developed 'Flutterbites' café managed through Calderdale's Support Services, new toilet facilities, and an unusual jungle visitor experience. The site is welcoming and is clearly popular with residents and visitors from far a field with interpretation panels and signage in evidence providing an appropriate level of information. The sunken garden feature provides a mix of seasonal bedding and surrounding permanent landscape planting on the former rose bed areas which were all providing good colour and interesting form. The walled garden provided a range of examples of garden styles from the use of wild flowers through to more exotic raised planting through to areas still under further development. The jungle experience itself is set within the local authorities glasshouse and provides an interesting attraction not found in many public parks. There was strong evidence of all year round activities within the park and commitment from staff and management.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Keep the good works going with the developments in the walled garden. This is very positive work that will further enhance the entry. The new entrance works planned for the reception area of the jungle experience will certainly enhance the visits in future. A continued programme of tree planting within the parkland is recommended together with further introduction of wild flower areas where appropriate.

Oakworth Park, Keighley Silver Rose Award Introduction

The park is the former grounds of a mill owner's house, with the house being burnt down many years ago. The caves Grottos and petrified trees provide a park that is very different

and special to Oakworth. The friends group are as well as being concerned with the maintenance and planting in the park, promoting its use. They hold a number of events through out the year this in its self is good. However as importantly it ensures that the local park has a place in the community and gains community support.

Areas of Achievement

Continue the promotion of the park and the provision of events in it. To work with other community and Bloom groups to the mutual benefit of the village. Work within the historic context of the park and except its restrictions. Continue the excellent fund raising programme.

Further development – constructive/ helpful remarks:

When possible consider planting styles and plant selection, it is accepted that generally this is dependant on what is available. Keep photo records to demonstrate your achievements and serve as a record for the group. Continue the ongoing projects such as the wet land area and nature area. Possibly see if the council has a management plan for the park and form a wish list for restoration/development this could include large works such as the quarry. In this way should any opportunities occur for funding you will be well prepared?

Oakworth Station Gold Rose Award

Introduction

This fine example of a preservation project that provides us with a true view of a 1905 station. Reminders of the Railway Children are inevitable and in this the 40th year since the film was made, is a special year for the station. The standard of maintenance is very high for all parts of the station, especially the floral displays.

The station has been entering its floral displays since the line was operated by British rail, and they have an impressive collection of awards to match the entries.

Areas of Achievement

Maintaining the station to such a high standard is a credit to all involved, and working with the school involves the wider community.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

It is difficult to suggest improvements, if a further challenge was considered using plants available in 1905 would provide one.

Ripon Racecourse - Medal Awarded Gold Rose Award - Joint Category Winner

Introduction

A privately owned racecourse situated on the boundary of Ripon set in an attractive area of countryside.

Areas of Achievement:

The exceptionally high standard of horticulture and maintenance and the proposals for consideration of water harvesting from buildings and the waste recycling.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Keep up the good work and more cut flowers for inside the building.

Ryedale Folk Museum, York Gold Rose Award - Joint Category Winner

Introduction

Ryedale Folk Museum is inspirational. It has enthusiastic, knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers who have a thirst for research. An excellent open air working museum of local life from the Iron Age to the 18th century.

Areas of Achievement:

Gives excellent practical experience to many age groups about rural life through the ages. Volunteers have practical expertise. Good mix of neat mown areas, excellent wetland with walkway, wild flower meadow and heritage vegetable plot (the produce is used in the cookery demonstrations). The latest addition is the wide variety of fruits in the newly planted orchard. These old varieties have been sourced through a local family-owned garden centre. Hens and pigs were of old breeds. The buildings/houses are original having been moved to the museum from the surrounding locality and faithfully reconstructed thus preserving the local heritage. Work is continually on-going and an Iron Age roundhouse has been authentically constructed with the help of supervised young offenders.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

The museum is about to receive a private collection of artefacts. The proposed building to house it will be designed to fit into its surroundings and we are sure that the sympathetic expansion of the museum is in very capable hands.

Yorkshire Lavendar, Terrington Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The time for looking round is far too short – 30 minutes. We spent 1 ½ hours in a beautiful setting, perfumed air, friend and welcoming staff.

Areas of Achievement:

There are many areas of achievement; the lavender maze, wibbly wobbly way, snakes and ladders, which children love. Notices in a polite and friendly format. Well labelled and good quality plants reasonably priced. Sculpture of cricketers, most attractive. Throughout – in the café and shop everything was pristine.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

The owner is already constructing an amphitheatre and pond – full of ideas. Consider some native trees such as; rowan and silver birch and more seating.

Yorkshire Waterways Museum, Goole Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The Yorkshire Waterways Museum is an excellent example of partnership working with its many and varied facets reaching out to all sectors of the community. This commitment to local people is most unusual for a visitor attraction and brings enormous challenges but fantastic benefits. A good entry demonstrating true community commitment, not just a museum but a facility for the whole Town touching many peoples lives.

Areas of Achievement:

The community involvement working with all agencies to provide an effective service to the community. The outreach allotment was an ingenious yet unusual development for a tourist attraction and adds another dimension to the museum.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

The development of the reception area making it more welcoming would enhance the visitor experience and create a better first impression for the visitor. Greater emphasis should be placed on the conservation of the maritime themed exhibits.

Although it is recognised the museum is still developing its grounds the floral impact at the entrance was a little disappointing as was the waterside planting. Try to incorporate more mature plants into the summer displays.

Category 8B – BUSINESS PREMISES

Barkers Arcade. Northallerton Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Even on a damp blustery day, this is a good entry. 11 huge well-watered suspended hanging baskets dominate the Arcade. Both the Arcade and the department store's frontage are commendably clean and free from litter. Barkers have placed 4 YIB promotional and tasteful floral features, clearly visible – in 2 of the Arcade shop windows and 2 of the frontage windows. The many planters above the frontage shop windows are colourful and well watered.

Areas of Achievement:

To maintain a clean and tidy frontage in such a busy location on the High Street, is to be commended. The YIB promotional floral features in the 4 shop windows were tasteful and clearly visible.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

As so many now come into the rear entrance to Barkers from the big and well-used car-park, it might be advantageous to display similar YIB floral features in the rear shop windows.

Bettys and Taylors of Harrogate Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

What a great place to work, and great people to work with and for. The spirits are lifted in the central area just next to the staff restaurant, quality planting and maintenance despite setbacks caused by the elevation and climate. The whole site reflects a quality and commitment to the environment and with the many and varied initiatives running I am sure we'd like to see all businesses run this way.

Areas of Achievement:

The attempts to establish a tea plantation in Yorkshire. The Rainforest Project. The swift response to damage from the harsh winter. Captain Rummage and his crews efforts. Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks. Consider more colourful seasonal displays within the constraints of the food manufacturing regulations.

Castlegate Café, Helmsley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

For such a busy small cafe, Castlegate Cafe is an excellent entry. Both the front aspect and the sitting out area in the shadow of Helmsley Castle are commendable. The under-gravelled beech hedge and the low wooden fence are well maintained, as were the small lawns. Floral features are good and the care given to all the hanging baskets and to the tubs at the front is most apparent. Well done.

Areas of Achievement:

To run a small family business and to be able to present such a good entry into YIB is an achievement, as was commented on by passers by. Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks. The discussed plans in the future, for improving the path to the sitting area makes sense. Visible posters advertising both YIB and their judging date should be considered.

Country Fayre, Hunmanby Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Well done for entering Yorkshire in Bloom. This should encourage other commercial premises to follow this example of a bright and colourful shop front. Country Fayre will be a good addition to the Hunmanby in Bloom National Britain in Bloom campaign this year.

Areas of Achievement:

Bright and colourful shop front using flowers and vegetables. Despite very limited space many different varieties of fruit, vegetables and flowers are displayed. The shop area was clean and tidy.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Display more posters to promote the Yorkshire in Bloom campaign

Country Style Foods, Leeds Gold Rose Award

Introduction

We were greeted by a spectacular presentation of hanging baskets; a wall of flowers and planters using recycled jam buckets giving the reception area a wow factor.

Areas of Achievement:

The plants were in perfusion of colour and at the height of condition for a wonderful display which surrounded the whole reception area making use of every available space. Both the owner and the gardener were enthusiastic about their project. The work on the old chapel next door is a project which will need much enthusiasm and lots of effort to reach fruition but already a sympathetic restoration is beginning to take shape.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Further development on Section 5 of the sheet as there was no evidence of community involvement or environmental issues.

Knaresborough Railway Station Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

An unmanned mainline railway station with most of its original building in use and in good condition with many floral and historic features on display. The station is used by a large number of tourists.

Areas of Achievement:

The partnership between all the parties involved to maintain and take the station forward.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

To spread the involvement through an even wider community and may be form a Friends group.

Lloyds Banking Group Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A very impressive entry, on a difficult sloping landscape with many interesting features.

Areas of Achievement:

Tastefully designed areas in a wonderful setting. Impressive recycling figures and staff involvement in upkeep.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Continued dedication to an excellent entry.

Prestons of Potto Gold Rose Award - Category Winner

Introduction

Good impact on arrival at this impressive transport depot. The front of the main offices and the planting opposite are a mass of colour, with hanging baskets, mangers, tubs and long floral beds. Everywhere is cared for to a high standard. All plants are grown from seed or plugs, and reflect the care and expertise of Preston's gardener/driver. Participation in YIB is clearly evident, not only at the reception but on the clear and well-painted outside signage. A new feature is the colourful Potto porter's barrow. Tubs and a hanging basket adorn the Drivers' Rest-room.

Areas of Achievement:

Despite the long period without rain, and the continual passing of heavy high-sided lorries, this is a most creditable entry. Overall cleanliness is obvious.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Preston's are proud of their entry, and are clearly looking to continue this impressive standard of planting. Perhaps one or two YIB posters close to the entrance to the offices, highlighting the judging date, and for visitors to see, could be considered in the future.

Sheffield Forgemasters Gold Rose Award

Introduction

It is hard to believe that on either side of Brightside Lane horticultural and environmental features flourish on this heavy engineering site. Last year's judge ably described the site as a "brutal landscape." The continuing work by "the team" is remarkable and has greatly helped to soften the harsh surroundings. All employees (800 approx) must appreciate the efforts made to provide these various green oasis. The continuing commitment of the company to improve its industrial image is very commendable and the main No1 & No2 entrances provide an impressive "welcome" for visitors and employees alike.

Areas of Achievement:

Since last year's judging the gravel paths in the "Forge Garden" have now been replaced with paving to a very high standard along with footpath lighting. The garden was bursting with wild flora and most of the planting is well established. The dead pines referred to last year have been replaced with clusters of Alders. Interpretive boards have also been added at various locations around the footpath describing the plants in that area. The close working links with Tinsley Tree Project (who visit the site 3 – 4 times per annum under the guidance of Rodney Heslop) and Sheffield & Rotherham Wild Life Trust. The floral planters provided by SCC, at a cost to the company, are very effective.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Consideration be given to improving the barrel planters adjacent to the War Memorial by the introduction of some structure planting and bolder seasonal planting to give "some lift" to this area. The promotion of the Forge Garden and encouraging more organised visits if at all practical. Little more attention to unwanted herbage around the pathways etc. It is hoped that through Dr Graham Honeyman, CEO, and his colleagues further improvements can be implemented. A most encouraging entry ... very well done !

Skipton Auto Services Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The magnificent floral display around the forecourt of this garage certainly brightened up what would otherwise have been a rather drab corner of Skipton. It clearly demonstrated real enthusiasm and support for the "In Bloom" which was also demonstrated by the previous awards on display

Areas of Achievement:

The very good variety of plants, many of which were self propagated, or sustainable, which together with some good quality standard annual plants made up this excellent display. It was interesting to see how the planting had been positioned in different corners, containers and staging with the very successful watering system. The judges were pleased to hear that many plants had been donated by customers, thus demonstrating community support and interest.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

The Judges felt this was an excellent entry and would only recommend the standard is maintained in the future. Keep on producing the display with an interesting variety of plants and containers.

Skipton Building Society Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The entrance to the site is impressive with well maintained lawns and the planting of roses and shrubs many of which had been there since the building was opened 20 years ago. The landscaped areas are well used by the staff creating a better atmosphere for working in. George Smith has lovingly maintained these gardens for many years and has obviously contributed to the overall effect.

Areas of Achievement:

There were many areas of sustained planting which created a pleasing environment which is enjoyed by staff and visitors. There was a good variety of plants which produced some good displays. A wonderful scheme for the Rotary Club to use the car parking area over the weekend provides a great source of income.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

In view potential staffing issues and to reduce the problems of mowing slopes it may be necessary to look for more low maintenance areas which will also be environmentally friendly e.g., a wild flower meadow on the steep banking. Some areas seemed to require more general care e.g., weed control. Some shrub areas are in need of renovation and maybe a 5 year programme of replacement could be considered and mulching the areas to reduce the weed and conserve moisture. Maybe the site could become more environmentally friendly by considering bird or bat boxes and looking into ways to conserve natural resources such as using the grey water from the building to water the gardens. Maybe an area could be set aside for use by the restaurant maybe some herbs or even vegetables and maybe some of the staff could help tend the area

Sowerby Bridge Station Jubilee Refreshment Rooms Silver Rose Award

Introduction

A very exceptional entry in spite of many difficulties.

Areas of Achievement:

The Jubilee Refreshment Tearooms were of a very high standard and sets a good example.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Continue with the good work and dedication.

The Limes Golf Course, Barnsley Silver Gilt Rose Award**Introduction**

There is a bright and colourful entrance to the club house with planted areas, hanging baskets and a five tier planter. It was a pleasure to meet the team and some of the members of this Golf Course; they were able to describe how the course has improved over the years and how it is now attracting visitors and many more new members.

Over the last few years there has been an improvement plan in place, the benefits of which are clear to see. There has been a continued tree planting programme, the grounds are kept to a very high standard and have benefited from the automated sprinkler system that has been connected to the newly established bore hole. However, the real benefit to this course is the team and in particular the grounds men who have worked on this site for a considerable number of years and are dedicated to making this Golf Course the best in the area, if not the country.

Areas of Achievement:

The ongoing planting of new trees, the 'rough' areas which attract wildlife as well as the bird boxes which has increased the number and diversity of wildlife that can be seen around the course. The Memorial Garden is peaceful and well planted. The bright and inviting displays at the Club House and entrance. The recycling of plants at the end of the season. The creation of a number of ponds in boggy areas has increased biodiversity. The bore hole and the use of the sprinkler system. The continual improvement programme in place to ensure this course increases and maintains a high standard.

Further Development – constructive/helpful remarks

It may be worth considering increasing the number of bird boxes and adding bat and butterfly boxes. Continue with the tree replacement programme.

Category 8C – SHOPPING CENTRES AND RETAIL PARKS

Crystal Peaks Shopping Mall and Retail Park, Sheffield Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Covering an enormous area – 40 acres, the shopping mall is surrounded by green spaces many allocated to benefiting the environment. Shoppers are greeted by a wide selection of floral containers and hanging baskets.

Areas of Achievement:

The creation of wildlife areas, encouragement of insects particularly bees – includes hives. Great support all round for International Year of Bio-diversity. Many huge colourful containers and hanging baskets in strategic areas. Sustainable planting is evident throughout.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Introduction into the island shrubberies of variegated foliage species etc., Lonicera 'Natida'. Creation of one or two special floral features – giving a certain “wow” factor for visitors.

Princes Quay Shopping Centre Hull Silver Rose Award

Introduction

An innovative shopping centre built on stilts in the former Princes Dock in the centre of Kingston upon Hull. The centre can be accessed via a café culture promenade which is overseen by the Princes Quay's management. The quality of water in the dock is monitored to ensure the safety of participants in the various water events which are staged. There is an abundance of hanging baskets along the waterside which are well maintained along with a tidy frontage to Myton Street giving access to the marina.

Areas of Achievement:

The quayside is extremely popular with shoppers and visitors in general.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

More thought for original features and colour at other entrances to the centre.

St. Stephens Shopping Centre, Hull Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The latest shopping experience to open in Kingston upon Hull is conveniently located adjacent to the transport interchange. An unremarkable frontage was offset by the use of 'real' trees and shrubs in well lit areas within the centre. At the rear of the centre was a very large sloped plaza made up of paved and grassed areas with seating and large blocks of single species planting including grasses, achillea and box.

Areas of Achievement:

The public space to the rear of the centre.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

The incorporation of additional colour to offset the blocks of existing planting.

The Coppergate Shopping Centre Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Coppergate Centre, in the hub of the City centre, is such a busy and well visited pedestrianised area, housing the world famous Jorvik Centre. Considering the very heavy footfall within the centre, the area is maintained to a good standard and totally free from litter.

Areas of Achievement:

65 hanging baskets, well maintained and all watered by hand. The refurbished seating and lighting.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Re-development under the large chestnut tree, maybe difficult, but will enhance the square. The proposed new signage will create more character and fell to the entrance.

White Rose Shopping Centre, Leeds Gold Rose Award - Category Winner

Introduction

The White Rose shopping centre is situated on the outskirts of Leeds and consists of 76 acres built on sloping ground. It is an impressive site with its manicured lawns and hedges and is spotlessly clean, with no visible litter or graffiti. There are car parks surrounding the shopping mall which has entrances at two levels, front and back. The lakes and surrounding woodland add a new dimension to this already impressive shopping centre.

Areas of Achievement:

The whole ethos of the White Rose centre is to have a positive impact on the environment, whilst providing a relaxed business area. The judges were extremely impressed with the centre, particularly with its magnificent achievement of 100% recycling of all waste goods and water. The completion of the allotment area on the site for the use of local schools shows foresight and exhibits an interest in the local community and the development of environmental projects for young people. Wildlife is encouraged to flourish amongst the shrubs around the site. The entrances are inviting, with hanging baskets and well planted borders.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Be aware of Himalayan Balsam on the site and ensure its removal as soon as possible. At the moment it can be contained, but if left it will become a problem. The avenues of trees in the car park require careful monitoring in dry weather. It may be useful to explore the use of salt tolerant plants for the edge of the borders. The children's allotment area is a wonderful project which would benefit from more light by thinning the trees around the area and wild flower planting around the raised beds.

Woolshops Shopping Centre, Halifax Gold Rose Award

Introduction

This compact shopping area represents a significant asset to Halifax with a wide range of well known retail outlets. The layout and condition of the building structure is excellent with new elements blending in well with much older and original buildings. Its car park and public areas are very clean and tidy with maintenance to a very high standard. Floral displays were in abundance with a mix of hanging baskets throughout with areas of raised planting and seating. Apart from this being a functional retail area it also provides a positive experience for visitors.

Areas of Achievement:

The public areas were spotless and there was a general feeling of cleanliness, complimented by the large number of quality hanging baskets and other features. There is significant, high quality local authority planting which greatly enhances the surrounds to the entrance and car park areas and maintenance throughout was exceptionally good. The work behind the scenes working with retailers with the recycling of waste is very positive. The general support to Halifax in Bloom was in clear evidence through the use of banners and the use of vacant retail window space. Well done!

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Difficult to suggest where improvements can be made. Please take on board comments in the spring judging of Halifax and consider if further spring material could be used in the shopping area. Consider if investment of further seating and supporting landscape features can be introduced where practical.

Category 8D – CARAVAN, CAMPING AND CHALET PARKS

Longbeach Leisure Park, South Cliff, Hornsea Gold Rose Award - Joint Category Winner

Introduction

From the site entrance way leading to the reception area you are greeted by a colourful display of annuals and sustainable planting. Throughout the tour we were met by enthusiastic residents that had some stunning gardens around their holiday homes. It was also good to see the excellent and interesting variations of biodiversity within the site, that added value to the conservation minded visitor.

Areas of Achievement:

The bedding plants to the main circulation areas were of a very good quality and the planting displays colours well varied. The number of residents growing plants from seed and developing formal displays around their static houses. The judges were impressed by the holiday parks internal gardening competition. The general biodiversity of the site was excellent and it was good to see that it has been recognised for a national award.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

The large grass area to the west of the site could be developed into a wild flower meadow with paths and pockets cut out for picnicking purposes. Try to encourage infrequent residents to plant more sustainable planting around their holiday homes or encourage a holiday village residents watering scheme. It would be a good idea to introduce recycling bins for residents as people expect this level of service and can save the park management on sending its waste to landfill. Think about replacing some of the annual bedding with sustainable planting which will offer the same colour general impact to the entrance of the park in summer but would be less labour intensive.

Naburn Lock Caravan Park, York Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

This campsite is well signed from the road. There is an attractive reception area, plus a dog park.

Areas of Achievement:

A wildflower meadow has been planted. The bins have been screened and some hedges replanted with hawthorn.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

The bin area may benefit from climbing shrubs surrounding them. We would suggest more sub division using hedges between caravans to help noise reduction. Consider planting native trees such as rowan, buckthorn or a small fruit tree. We didn't see any posters advertising judging and Yorkshire in Bloom.

Orchard Farm Holiday Village, Hunmanby Silver Rose Award

Introduction

On entry to the caravan park you cannot fail to be impressed with the mixture of sustainable and annual planting around the reception area. The lawns were well maintained around the site as were the boundary hedges around the entrances. The miniature railway area/playground/game fishing pond was an attraction that you would not expect within a caravan park of this size.

Areas of Achievement:

The recycling policy of the site was very good and clearly signed for site users. The good floral features around the site communal areas were to be commended.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Consider taking the judges into the static house part of the site, which from a distance seemed to have some good floral features. More care to be taken within the judging route as some of the sustainable features had weed content evident. The signage around the site needs improving to better inform new visitors of the sites facilities. Continue the painting program that has been started around the railway station.

Overbrook Caravan Park, Thornton-le-Dale Gold Rose Award - Joint Category Winner

Introduction

The first impression on visiting the site is one of knowing that this location is a little special. The under planting of the conifers with hosta which are set off by a blue slate mulch is very striking. This thoughtfulness is carried on through out the site, working well with resident pitchers who have been allowed / encouraged to contribute to the overall demeanour of the park.

Areas of Achievement:

The use of an old tree to create a border was good use of unwanted material; this is recycling of the best kind creating a feature out of something that may have just been consigned to the bonfire. The numerous signs indicating that the site supports and endorses the “In Bloom” ethos makes everyone aware of the couples commitment and the visitors responsibilities to the park. Both judges felt if they where campers this is the sort of site they would choose.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

What can we say the site is run with empathy for the surrounding area, as well as floral interest that is complimentary. We would only suggest more of the same.

Patrington Haven Leisure Park, Patrington, Hull Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Developed on a former RAF camp of 40 acres with 486 mobile homes which is now managed by Guy Sparks, the son of the founder. Each resident is encouraged to develop their own garden and there are some outstanding examples, in particular we would commend 46 Sherringham Way and 31, 41 and 49 Buckingham Drive. The park’s reception area both inside and out was exceptional.

Areas of Achievement:

The fishing lake and surrounds with new beds of hardy perennials.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

To continue to encourage ‘all residents’ to contribute to the entry.

Category 8E – COUNTRY HOUSES, ESTATES AND PARKS AND GARDENS

Cannon Hall, Barnsley Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Cannon Hall is an imposing structure developed in phases from a family home that dates back to the 13th Century. Local materials of red brick and stone are its main materials and as with most stately homes developed through the Victorian period and benefited from several additions and include pleasure grounds and walled garden.

Remarkably well preserved this site is now in the ownership of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, and functions as a museum, gardens and open parkland.

The gardens and grounds are very well maintained and the walled garden is home to an exceptional collection of trained fruit. Floral displays and garden features are fine examples of period horticulture and are creatively maintained by the gardening staff.

Areas of Achievement:

The high standards of maintenance and development informed by a clear plan for the restoration of key features is a credit to the staff and are achieved with help from over 30 volunteers. The continued restoration of the 'Fairyland' garden is revealing some classical Victorian garden features and design. In the walled garden restoration of the glass houses has allowed traditional cultivation techniques to be reintroduced including protected fruit, and trained wall fruit, with an extensive collection of Pear cultivars.

Educational activities and events make a visit to Cannon Hall a rich and exciting one, for families and school children.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

The walled garden continues to develop with the introduction of new and varied garden features. A lean to glasshouse is in a poor condition and is currently not used, it would good to restore this to its former glory providing an additional resource to this rich experience.

East Park Estate, Hull Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Following significant investment from the Local Authority and Heritage Lottery Fund the Friends' Group and the City Council are able to provide first class facilities for its residents and visitors to the city. The many varied events throughout the year, animal, catering, educational and recreational facilities are exceptional. The introduction of adult fitness equipment along with a new disabled bike facility are to be commended.

Areas of Achievement:

Dedicated team of staff greatly supported by the Friends' Group. The grant-seeking efforts have and are paying off (may they long continue!!). The wide ranging youth, adult and young children's facilities are exceptional, especially the new water feature

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

A little bit more attention to detail would enhance the entry. Consider introducing appropriate interpretation information – advising the visitor of plans for development. Hope the water feature concept within the café area comes to fruition.

Elsecar Park, Barnsley Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Elsecar Park is a traditional community park developed in the 1930's to provide a recreational space where local residents could spend their free time relaxing and enjoying life. Like all Victorian influenced parks it has developed into a very valuable asset for the community with very well maintained gardens, beautiful natural areas, play facilities and a café. It is clear that the site staff have a passion for the park working closely with a very active Friends Group to raise funds and provide events and activities which enhance the opportunities for visitors and locals. The natural areas are managed in a similar manner attracting groups and schools to engage with nature.

Areas of Achievement:

The relationship between site staff and the friends group are clearly in evidence and the fruits of their efforts in fundraising can be seen and enjoyed by visitors, and include new planting around the bandstand, completion of a new bird hide adjacent to the lake, new playground facilities and improved access. All the staff involved in Elsecar Park are keen and enthusiastic and this is clearly in evidence with a high standard of maintenance.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

The main car park is a shared space but would benefit from improved signage and interpretation

Harewood House, Leeds Gold Rose Award - Category Winner

Introduction

This fine stately home really does provide something to interest all visitors. The large play area has been complemented this year, with the in door domes being used for children's activities. The house and art gallery speak for themselves, in terms of quality and interest. The landscape and setting of the house with the large lake provide the opportunity to explore in scenic surroundings. The Himalayan garden is a remarkable collection of plants. Whilst many are rare in cultivation they are grown in a natural way to simulate the native habitat of the Himalayan area of China/Tibet. The development this year of the walled garden to produce vegetables for the catering department and shop. This provides a further element to the estate and is being used for educational purposes. Hops are grown for the in house beer and everything is carried out to a very high standard. In addition to all this the estate hosts a wide range of special events, conferences and weddings. Congratulations to the whole team.

Areas of Achievement:

The development of the walled garden for vegetables. The new signs and information boards. Working with groups such as the Harrogate bee keepers and Northern Fruit group. The whole estate is well presented and a joy to visit.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Continue to promote and develop the leaflets for the Himalayan garden, encouraging people to appreciate this collection and garden.

Helmsley Walled Garden Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A quiet contemplative 5 acres walled garden in the shadow of Helmsley Castle is the aim. To the 20,000 visitors a year, this aim is being achieved, thanks to a small team of resident and

voluntary gardeners. A comprehensive explanatory tour highlighted the current achievements and the plans and ideas for the coming year. The depth and the length of the well tended perennial borders with a backcloth of recently built greenhouses are impressive, as are the Rainbow borders now in their second year. Reference should be made to the Victorian collection of vines, and to the raised vegetable beds to be hired out to the local community. The Walled Garden is now self-funding, though future grants are being looked for.

Areas of Achievement:

Areas of Achievement: The extensive vegetable gardens provide both produce for the cafe and for sale. The big composting area supported by North Yorkshire Rotters is to be commended. Also the little use of chemicals and the belief in organic and therapeutic agriculture.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

There seems no shortage of future plans such as a monthly scheme to attract visitors – a scarecrow month being one thought. Suitable posters in prominent positions to recognise their entry in YIB, should be considered.

Lister Park, Bradford Gold Rose Award

Introduction

A much frequented park with many admirable features and facilities. Visitors are understandably impressed by the magnificent formal gardens, the water features and the grandeur of the trees and open spaces. The high overall standard is maintained throughout the huge area of park.

Areas of Achievement:

The outstanding colour and quality of the flower beds. The floral clock. The display boards are informative and interesting. They help understand the background of all the botanical features. High standard of maintenance including seats, paths and parkland.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

On going consultation with park users for any further improvements and facilities. To promote wildlife with more bird and bat boxes.

Newby Hall and Gardens , Ripon Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The judges appreciated the warm welcome and the extensive tour of the gardens and the Sculpture Park. We were impressed by the overall design and upkeep of the grounds and the ethos of communicating with the visitors.

Areas of Achievement:

The setting of the grounds in the landscape. The awareness of the estate to the need to move ahead and to link the gardens developmental ideas to the visitors needs. The future plans for hydroelectricity production from the river. Conservation of the fruit trees. The seasonal contrast of the different areas, especially the herbaceous boarder, the laburnum walk and the rose arbour

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Encouragement of biodiversity and allowing the grass to grow longer, by raising the mowers by ½ inch on the areas of formal grass.

Normanby Hall Museum and Country Park, Scunthorpe Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The judges were very impressed with the extensive range of facilities within the 300 acre estate. (The Deer Park and Woodland walks & exploration) Normanby Hall has a national reputation which includes RHS training days. The whole site has a relaxed and informal appeal which offers the whole family a great day out. There was a total absence of litter.

Areas of Achievement:

The walled garden with its extensive range of Victorian fruit and vegetables and associated working areas of the era. The minimal use of chemicals and the strong emphasis on organic practices. The very popular Farm Museum and the recently introduced "back pack" for kids to keep them further entertained.

Further development – constructive/ helpful remarks:

We look forward to the replacement of the walled garden plant signage. Accepting the sandy soil conditions and recent drought conditions the possibility of incorporating more organic matter heavy loam to the terrace garden beds for sustained moisture retention. Possible funding for harvesting surface water from the Hall to irrigate the sunken garden borders. A most commendable entry

Northend Park and Memorial Gardens, Driffield Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The feeling of tranquillity, planting and memorials give the correct atmosphere. It was nice to see the latest new Lockington train crash memorial. A very well kept park.

Areas of Achievement:

A very well organised area covering a dual roll in its planning.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

The shelter and seating needs maintenance. Hearing of the Rotary's intention to celebrate worldwide demise of polio myelitis with purple crocus planting can only improve an already delightful area.

Oakwell Hall and Country Park, Birstall Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Oakwell Hall and Country Park is a 110 acre country park with a 1583 Hall, a period walled garden, orchard, café, garden and faith garden located on the edge of Leeds and Bradford but in Kirklees.

Areas of Achievement:

The reinstatement to an authentic time period of the walled garden and the development of the faith garden, but most of all the enthusiasm of the people involved.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Keep up the good work in the same direction of travel.

Sewerby Hall and Gardens, Bridlington Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The entrance and car park of Sewerby Hall and Gardens does not reflect the splendour of the rolling woodlands, vast open space areas and formal gardens that greet you within the

estate. The stunning formal gardens and the outreach project working together with the estate staff, have to be commended as a beacon of partnership working. The breath taking views across the Bridlington bay and the many attractions that this site offers only add to the 78 acre site

Areas of Achievement:

The zoo area and enclosures were well maintained with good information on each caged area. The new bonded gravel path leading to the Bowling Green was sympathetic to the park. The ongoing seat painting program with the youth offending scheme has to be commended. The walled garden had some good colour co-ordinated annuals, supplemented with fine herbaceous borders, roses and topiary structural plants. The partnership work within the walled garden area involving the outreach team has to be highly commended, to caring on the development of the Gardening staffs horticultural skills. The staggering amount of events which include sport, musical evenings, community events, concerts and environmental workshops make this site a true asset for Bridlington.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Look at further projects for outreach to undertake within the wider park area. To further increase the wildflower area within the estate to increase the biodiversity of the site and add visitor interest via some interpretation. Carry on with plans to revamp the court yard area which is to include new toilets and new Zoo entrance/visitors area. Look into some better signage for the outreach sales area to increase footfall.

Sheffield Botanical Gardens Gold Rose Award Introduction

Immediately you set foot in these gardens you are aware of the magical world of horticulture in its widest form. Throughout the gardens there are many varied areas offering the visitor interesting aspects of plant collections from various continents. Over 300K people visit the gardens each year of which 13% are from overseas. The “comments book” has many complimentary references. The major restoration work completed in 2005 has brought the gardens back to their former glory and provides the City with a very important visitor attraction. No one can fail to appreciate the sheer scale of these gardens providing enjoyment for all ages with mature trees, water features, seasonal bedding and the wonderful restored pavilions to name but a few.

Areas of Achievement:

The number involved in the Friends Group (25-30) who manage the National collection and herbaceous border meet every Wednesday from 10-12. The formation of the Sheffield Botanic Trust which was formed to seek funding for ongoing improvements / restoration work consisting of 6 members 2 of which are from the Friends Group. The very successful promotion of corporate type events, civil weddings, concerts and art exhibitions. The adjacent cafe and associated facilities providing a high quality service.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

The current updating of the visitors leaflet will provide more detailed information. More effective screening of the storage compound near the Thompson Road entrance. Continue to build on the very successful links with Schools and Voluntary groups along with the staging of the seasonal events possibly extending the Christmas illuminations to a week. It is hoped that with the impending restrictions in expenditure the Botanic Gardens budget will be flexible enough to “cushion” any reductions.

Sledmere House, Driffield Gold Rose Award

Introduction

This is a fine example of a country house and estate providing interest to visitors. The house sits in a fine landscape looking across the estate land to the deer park. The property retains its air of being a family home which enhances the visit. The eight sided walled garden is different and now provides space for a range of planting and landscape types. A well presented attraction with plans in hand for further planting and development to retain the high standards that have been set.

Areas of Achievement:

The external borders to the walled garden provide variety and colour within a narrow border. The spring bulb planting programme to enhance the spring offer. The parterre planting.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Continue the park land programme of restoration work around the mature trees. Encourage more visitors to come to see this hidden gem.

Stewarts Burnby Hall, Gardens and Museum Trust Gold Rose Award

Introduction

I am sure there may not be a more tranquil garden to sit and watch the water. The two lakes which house the National hardy water lily collection form the centre piece to the grounds, surrounded by wonderful gardens, woodland walk, children tracker trail and an excellent museum. Peaceful and strategically placed seating and shelters make Burnby Hall Gardens an ideal place to visit,

Areas of Achievement:

The Victorian style garden with an impressive pergola and lavender walkway. The quality of the two lakes with Monet-esque vista. The encouragement of schools to be involved in the redevelopment and design of the woodland area.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

The proposed new signage to the entrance of the Gardens will aid visitors. The redevelopment of the woodland as planned and the revamping of the 'old hebe' flower bed will enhance the entry.

Sutton Park Silver Rose Award

Introduction

For a House and Park built in the 18th century, it is hard to believe that much of the garden was sympathetically built in the 1960's. The quite tranquil gardens have a back bone of, impressive and diverse mature trees, all giving year round interest.

Areas of Achievement:

Terraced garden with mixed herbaceous planting, to give season long colour and interest. Well maintained tree and parkland. Re-juvenation of older flower beds, by clearing and replanting from fresh.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Consider encouraging aspects of wildlife within the garden: - e.g. log piles in woodland walk, insect houses, and bird/bat boxes. Encourage children and parents to be more active within the grounds, e.g. by a printed nature trail with questions and clues to follow. Paving on the patio at the back of the house may need attention. Removal of trees, shrubs and plants lost last winter and replant where appropriate.

Wortley Hall and Gardens Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The Wortley estate has a fascinating history, with evidence dating back to the Ice Age, although the current occupants, The Trade Union, Labour and Co-operative Movement, have only been in residence since 1950. The hall is a grand structure and sits beautifully in the landscape, flanked by beautifully maintained gardens and interesting features. The walled gardens are an annex of Heeley City Farm, encouraging volunteers to engage and learn food production skills.

Areas of Achievement:

Wortley Hall Gardens has a very active Friends Group who work tirelessly with the site staff and Heeley City Farm to ensure that the site is maintained and improved to a very high standard. A range of events and activities provide opportunities to promote the site and attract visitors both local and from farther afield.

Garden developments and improvements are carefully guided by the Head Gardener to ensure that they complement the Hall providing a rich and interesting experience.

The site staff and Friends Group have been very successful in securing funding for development projects in the gardens and are to be commended for their continued support, producing newsletters and supporting events.

Further Development – constructive / helpful remarks

Continue the work on improving the gardens and exploring grant funding opportunities. A garden plan showing visitors the key features and plant lists would be helpful for those interested in the gardens collections.

Category 10

It's Your Neighbourhood

Barkisland in Bloom Level Achieved : Developing

Areas of achievement:

The group gets funding from a variety of sources including the Parish Council, local cricket club, fairs and donations. This is to be commended. Good links with the cricket club offering mutual benefits. The use of ox eye daisies at the entrance sign is a nice touch. Nice simple colour scheme at the memorial. The maintenance of the grass verges over quite a large area is impressive. Lots of on going projects in the pipeline.

Areas for development:

Given time and a few more volunteers to share the workload better, the projects that are ongoing will begin to look even better. Keep up the links with other nearby established in bloom groups to share resources and ideas.

Castle Close, Northallerton Level Achieved : Developing

Areas of achievement:

Most properties have done some displays, some with neighbourly help. The community have taken over difficult and neglected areas to add to overall wellbeing. Wide variety of colour and planting including sustainable. Good work in consulting with local authorities and housing association on a number of issues. Properties had water butts and recycling is encouraged utilising local authority collections. Green spaces well maintained and edged. Good efforts made to improve and manage problem areas

Areas for development:

Dead and dying shrubs by common room need to be removed and replaced in consultation with residents. Some consideration may be given to sensory planting. Seating needs maintenance. Area of planting near flats needs redeveloping, perhaps including community with some fun element may bring in additional help. Be aware of eventual height and spread of young plants to avoid overcrowding or potential overshadowing problems in future.

Chapelton Level Achieved : Developing

Areas of achievement:

Getting a good range of volunteers to start an in bloom programme for Chapelton. The Friends of the park group and the playground development. The initial survey of residents and businesses to establish what local needs and desires are. Developing future plans for in Bloom. Attempting to get the main property developer to allow planters on the property. The creation of the glade in the park.

Areas for development:

Concentrate on a project that will give impact and really launch the project and show the community what impact in bloom can have. Develop plans for the peace garden possibly as a medium term project and to look at a full revamp to set the garden up for many years ahead. Small developments to the garden may not have the best effect. Record progress and projects in a way that helps the group to see what they have achieved. Develop the work with local schools as the opportunity arises. In planning for the development of the group try to concentrate effort to achieve the best outcomes and always consider issues of after maintenance. The foundations are in place and we are sure that positive developments will now follow on.

Copley in Bloom Level Achieved : Outstanding

Areas of achievement:

Copley Village Residents Action Group is now an established hard working group who are well organised. The make up of the team comes from a varied section of the community and it is their aim to be inclusive. They have excellent working relationships with the local authority, the police, local schools and businesses. Support for this group and the work it undertakes continues to grow. The whole village was very clean and tidy. Planted areas have been carefully thought out, the housing association and residential gardens are attractive and in keeping with the area. The new bed, which has just been planted, has the potential to have quite an impact. The wildlife area by the sub station is also developing well. This team have raised funds through various means such as; sponsorship, grants and fund raising events.

Areas for development:

Continue to impress on Yorkshire Water the damage their trucks have made to the central island and suggest they work with you to come up with a solution to this problem. It may be worth suggesting to them they sponsor the island. Consider involving the local school in creating a poster to stop dog fouling.

Earswick Scented Garden Project, York Level Achieved : Thriving

Areas of achievement:

Fantastic team of volunteers. An exciting mix of perennials giving good structure and colour throughout the year. Inspiration and forethought to transform what was a bowling green into an horticultural oasis. Good range of fund-raising activities throughout the year to sustain the project.

Areas for development:

Consider introducing some interpretation. Identify tasteful screening initiatives for the water tank and storage shed. Give attention to care and maintenance of grassed areas around the site.

Eastgate Flats Residents Association, Goole Level Achieved : Developing

Areas of achievement:

The residents, with support from the local Council Housing Department, have managed to get the scheme off the ground within this challenging town centre location. The earlier environmental improvements have greatly enhanced the residents perception of the area and made it into a more welcoming living space. The presence of a resident caretaker/groundsman is a major contributor to the areas continued improvement. Bird boxes and feeding tables have been provided and there is no evidence of vandalism. The site is free from litter and graffiti and recycling facilities are available. Composting is shortly to be introduced. Residents now help each other with garden maintenance and the gardens around the perimeter are well tended and colourful. Neighbourhood Watch scheme in operation.

Areas for development:

Need to involve more residents in the management and development of the site. This is quite a challenge due to the relatively high turnover of tenants. Encourage residents to "own" the public landscaped areas between the tower blocks. Gap up planted areas regularly where necessary with robust flowering shrubs such as Berberis and Pyracantha.

First Start Community Allotment, Firth Park, Sheffield Level Achieved : Thriving

Areas of achievement:

Plants selected from around the world to reflect the make up of the local community. The number and variety of training courses offered at the site. The toddlers and parents garden class. The use of the allotment as a resource for community development. The enthusiasm and knowledge of Helen.

Areas for development:

Continue to develop the more informative plant labels to improve the understanding of visitors. Complete changes to the composting area. Develop the next allotment in accordance with your plans.

Greenwood Terrace, Barnsley Level Awarded: Outstanding

Areas of achievement:

It is hard to believe that Greenwood Terrace is so close to the city centre as the minute you walk into its area you feel transported to a quieter place. This is now a place that many people would now like to live and where it is rare to find a house on the market. Over the last five years this small community has transformed the area. The pictures of how it was before the residents decided to make a difference leave you speechless. Transforming what was a dumping ground for old cars, washing machines and litter into the peaceful and well planted area that today is nothing short of being excellent. The community have worked really hard and created much used communal areas, there are raised beds that are flourishing with vegetables and fruits, an irrigation system is in place, there has been some imaginative use of recycled containers for planting vegetables complimented with hanging baskets full of tomatoes. The community has raised funds in a number of ways such as; car boot sales, coffee mornings and applying for grants. The majority of the plants have been donated or grown from cuttings/seeds. The community notice board advises of local events. They even make their own garden feed from comfrey. Just about every item in this area has been recycled from other places, revived and reused.

Areas for development:

Whilst there is always improvement that can be found within a garden, it would be hard to identity what else this community could do. However, they are considering working with the Council to try clean up an area adjacent too them.

Hall Cliffe Community Gardens, Baildon Level Achieved : Outstanding

Areas of achievement:

It is wonderful to see what has been achieved in such a short time. They have done well in obtaining funding and grants from various sources. The areas for the children to play in are very good and also the areas for the parents to sit and watch. Propagating plants and selling them to raise funds. Himalayan Silver Birch in the centre is very good.

Areas for development:

More work is required on producing plants from seed to obtain more suitable materials for the wild flower area.

Highfield Court, Oakworth Level Achieved - Thriving

Areas of achievement:

Taking control and developing a green space to provide an ornamental area to the benefit of the local residents. The planting has worked well and is establishing well

Areas for development:

The project has worked and now relies on maintenance with little opportunity to increase or alter the garden.

Hunshelf Park Community Group, Stocksbridge Level Achieved : Thriving

Areas of achievement:

Whilst there is a lot of work in progress a lot has been achieved and we are confident that work will continue to great effect. The challenges of the site would put many off even starting the steep slopes and limited access makes all work difficult. Re doing the access road was a large undertaking by the residents but to mutual benefit. Residents who have never grown or gardened before are now enthusiastic growers.

Areas for development:

Continue the work; take care not to over extend the volume of work to be undertaken. Use success as an example to the less committed residents.

Laburnam Grove Community Gardens, Stocksbridge Level Achieved : Thirving

Areas of achievement:

A fine example of a community working to improve their quality of life for residents. A lot of work has been undertaken from hedge cutting to the construction of planting beds. The effect has spread to residents gardens again improving the area.

Areas for development:

Continue to set a good example in the hope that the effects spread to the areas that are not yet committed to the project. Attempt to improve/find alternative use for the grass land around the flats.

Mytholmroyd Station Partnership Level Achieved : Thriving

Areas of achievement:

The judges were impressed with the enthusiasm of the many people they met and a wide spread of differing groups involved in the partnership scheme and the close working relationship between the varying groups that the scheme seemed to have achieved.

Areas for development:

Area where most improvement could be made is in the environmental responsibilities, recycling, water harvesting and sharing knowledge and skills, which is not to say that the group is not already doing good work in these areas.

Old Mill Grove, Halifax Level Achieved : Outstanding

Areas of achievement:

Old Mill Grove Gardening Club members range from the young children to the more mature residents of the community from differing cultural backgrounds and all are equally enthusiastic about the project. Formed in May 2009, they have made a fantastic impact in horticultural and community projects which include some innovative use of recycled material. The "Living Room" at the entrance to the Grove is another example of their innovation using a redundant fireplace as centrepiece. When an elderly resident could no longer tend her back garden, it has been transformed into a community allotment growing fruit and vegetables for use in both English and Asian kitchens. The grove has seats recycled from the local school which are ideal for celebrating the many community events. The beds have been planted to encourage wild life with ponds and feeders and to be colourful at the same time. They have expanded their parameters to include assisting with tasks in West View Park

Areas for development:

Projects have already been proposed for the future and these involve broadening the Club's outreach to the Local cemetery (which is no longer in use) and to West View Park. West View park is a project well worth pursuing to restore this Victorian park to its former glory and reduce the anti social behaviour associated with it. Consider using a local Community Payback Team to assist them eliminate the graffiti and plant further beds. The club have a vision of converting the derelict lodge to a Community Centre.

Residents and Friends of Trafalgar Square, Scarborough Level Achieved : Thriving

Areas of achievement:

The team has built a real community that works and looks out for the square. Fly tipping and anti social behaviour are now a thing of the past. The new street furniture street lighting and re instatement of the railings has given this part of Scarborough back its dignity. A user-friendly design within the grassed area encourages the use of this green lung. It was a joy to visit.

Areas for development:

A great deal has been under taken to restore the physical structure of the square. As I am sure it will flourish, more colour for an all year round benefit for all will be something we will look forward to see blossoming. Spring bulbs in the right locations, woodland plants as the mature trees will cast shade, splashes of vibrant colour in the raised beds etc

Rishworth Environmental Group Level Achieved : Developing

Areas of achievement:

In a short space of time the Group has helped create new interest in their local area and helped to instigate an impressive number of exciting new projects including: the Brownies bed on Birch Ave, and the bus turning circle. The Group is making a difference to their local community. Good work. The group has a refreshing attitude to tackling difficult areas such as the “phone box bed” and the end of Godly Lane. The Group are very adept at gaining funding and support from a variety of sources.

Areas for development:

The selection of plants in certain areas needs looking at to further enhance the quality of the projects. The bus turning area beds are quite large and may in the future be weed prone, particularly in the first few years, so please look out for this to aid establishment of the bed. Take care not to overstretch yourselves in future years with the number of projects , spread quite far apart.

Scarborough Old Town - Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of achievement:

The spirit within the old town area of Scarborough was nice to be a part of for an hour or so of our visit. The community has pulled together and is still doing so to make an historical part of Scarborough vibrant for both residents and visitor alike. Many different interest groups we met under lined the feeling of inclusion on our visit. There are many colourful gems as we toured the area which must make living in the old town more pleasant and is a credit to those participating. Some of the floral displays along the front are very good, the valley road bed by the children are just as good. The ropery was a great example of what can be done if one wants to “make a difference”

Areas for development:

If more colour can be encouraged from more residents, and more of the businesses encouraged to enter the “in bloom” competition, this could be a real winner.

Shaw Lodge, Halifax Level Achieved : Thriving

Areas of achievement:

Shaw Lodge is a very good example of the way members of a community can improve their environment. Working over several years, Mr and Mrs Sharp have taken on aspects of the grounds to their flats in conjunction with neighbours and the rewards of that can be seen. The location is very attractive but the shade from the beautiful mature trees creates challenges. The achievements include;

- The beds which the residents have developed with their own style and with their gardening skills
- The colour [including green] in the perennial and annual beds,

- The participation of residents who have taken ownership of the window boxes and smaller beds
- The good communication and support between residents who seem to appreciate what each other does
- The consideration given to the views from the flats of each resident
- The partnership with Pennine Housing which seems to be beneficial to all parties in terms of maintenance and quality of environment

Areas for development:

All activities for such projects as Shaw Lodge are dependent on the energy of a few people. In our discussion, we talked about the use of perennial planting mixed with annuals to reduce the amount of work.

If people had the time to pursue it, there might be;

- small herb beds on the paved areas
- small vegetable growing beds

Meanwhile, the important thing is to enjoy everything that has been achieved and continue to encourage partners to help with practical tasks and donations for plants. Congratulations.

Sowerby Bridge Canal Wharf Level Achieved : Developing

Areas of achievement:

The entrance to the canal wharf was pleasing as was the number of flower baskets, the information signs were good and the 'poop and scoop' scheme seemed to be working.

Areas for development:

Wider community participation may improve this scheme as may improved communication between various groups within the community involved.

St Malachy's Roman Catholic School, Halifax Level Achieved : Developing

Areas of achievement:

This is a relatively new project which has made great strides since it started. The effects of the gardening group and Mr Kendall could be seen all over the site. The children I met were very enthusiastic and showed a lot of pride in their work in the school grounds. The main achievements I saw on this visit were;

- The vegetable garden with lots of produce
- The decorative boxes in the school grounds
- The nature trail
- Restored Grotto

It was good to hear of the involvement of parents in the after school club and other practical tasks. Reclaiming the area beyond the school grounds hopefully will have an impact on the whole community and make them proud of their environment. What really impressed me was the attitude of the children and Mr Kendall, who were determined to deal with set backs to improve their surroundings. Lots of plans were in the pipeline. Well done.

Areas for development:

I think that the Neighbourhood project was managing very well with the resources currently available. It has great potential given the space surrounding the school and might benefit from

- partnerships with local firms in the town for materials or donations
- stronger links with local authority garden services who have expertise and contacts
- connections with the school curriculum
- small, low key events to share skills with parents and locals and raise money e.g., how to grow your own vegetables . This might help to raise the profile of the gardening club

It would be good to see the development photos and meet other adults next time. I hope with extra support this very good group continue to move forward.

Streetwise, Barnsley Level Awarded: Thriving

Areas of achievement:

The first impression of Streetwise is one of neat, tidy and colourful terraced areas with a large number of hanging baskets and window boxes making the area look welcoming. Chris and Ave described how, the number of baskets and boxes, have increased year on year. This small community team has encouraged their neighbours to keep the areas in front of their properties clean and tidy. The community fund raise; with the monies being put towards the purchase of baskets, window boxes and plant materials. It is a credit to the community how they have improved this area.

Areas for development:

Continue encouraging the residents, it was good to hear how this initiative had spread to neighbouring residents who are now becoming involved. It was interesting to hear that there may be the opportunity to work with another community group in the growing of plants.

The Holy Nativity Church, Mixenden Level Achieved : Thriving

Areas of achievement:

The Holy Trinity Church Community centre has been going for several years and Mr and Mrs Barker have long experience in developing and maintaining lots of activities over the years. They have been recognised previously by Yorkshire In Bloom. It was really helpful to be able to look at the photographs of the year round involvement by the local community.

The highlights of the group's achievement I saw were:

- The whole area was very tidy and there was little litter to be seen
- The church grounds were well kept and planted with bulbs in spring
- The communal herb beds within the ground of the church
- The Reflection garden which was like an oasis planted with both annuals and perennials
- The colourful private gardens which showed great individuality and joy of gardening
- The area designated to be used for allotments

It was very encouraging to hear of links with Pennine Housing, the local authority and healthy life projects and the future plans for the allotments with a waiting list already.

Areas for development:

I think that community group's plans to advance step by step will ensure that the Holy Nativity project will develop even further.

- The maintenance of the current provision and the raised bed development should keep the group busy for the next year. I expect that there will be lots of skill sharing and the opportunity to cook produce, to be eaten on one of the social occasions held by the centre.
- It might be useful to consider growing soft fruit bushes – relatively low maintenance and would be a good use for a corner of the grounds.

The group members will know how to pace themselves and access funding. I hope new people join to support the work of the core group. It would be lovely to see where the project is a year from now and meet others who are involved.

Congratulations to everyone concerned.

The Railway Heritage Project, Thornton Level Achieved : Outstanding

Areas of achievement:

The concept of restoring a section of Thornton's Railway Heritage. The high quality of the workmanship throughout. The choice of sustainable plant material to give both colour and structure. The quality, content and layout of the interpretation material. The commitment and hard work of all those involved.

Areas for development:

Ensure that the current high standard of maintenance continues. Continue to work towards restoring a further section of the railway.

The Ruswarp Garden Society, Whitby Level Achieved : Thriving**Areas of achievement:**

A very enthusiastic entry with good examples of floral displays and sustainable planting. The floral tubs of flowers and parsley demonstrate a good example of growing flowers and vegetables/herbs together. The Memorial Garden was a credit to all concerned. The care and attention to detail made this a delightful area in the centre of the village.

Areas for development:

Some flower tubs require staining and the metal bands painting black. Some flower beds require organic matter to improve the soil texture and help to retain moisture. The entry has developed the foundation for a future Yorkshire in Bloom village entry, but a wider community commitment would need to be achieved. Well done!

The Landing of the White Butterfly, Whitby Level Achieved : Thriving**Areas of achievement:**

The community are to be commended on the development of their project which is led by Kadir, who is only 12 years old. The recently developed 'butterfly' on the embankment is a credit to Kadir for his design and creation in a very difficult area. The whole project area was very clean and tidy and all the grass had been cut to a very high standard. This is a good example of a community project led by a young person.

Areas for development:

Ask the local council to provide a much larger compost bin for the green waste. Be selective which plants you purchase in the future for the very exposed areas. Work in more organic matter into the flower beds to improve the soil texture and retain moisture.

Tinsley in Bloom Level Achieved : Developing**Areas of achievement:**

The continuation of the tree project building on the initial and impressive succeeds of planting to shield the M1 from the community. The community allotment, the use of recycled timber and the composting system. The quality of maintenance at Tinsley green. Development plans for the canal walk and obtaining grants for this work. The plantings undertaken in high density housing areas to bring green areas to the community.

Areas for development:

Continue with the tree planting as opportunity arises. Keep the community allotment developing. Keep up the successful grant seeking programme. Work with street force to see if the litter issue can be reduced or resolved. Show some picture records of what you have achieved.

Willerton Close, Dewsbury Level Achieved: Establishing**Areas of achievement:**

Mr. Hall has encouraged some of his neighbours to enhance the area by improving their own gardens. There were some outstanding gardens in the Close which were well laid out, colourful and innovative.

Areas for development:

The assessors felt that this embryonic neighbourhood scheme has great potential to develop in the future to benefit all the residents some of whom are elderly. If a local group is established using the skills of all the residents of the Close to improve communication by means of meetings, flyers or newsletter, then a first class neighbourhood project will be the

result. The residents also need to look outside their own gardens at the verges and surroundings.

Category 11

Young Peoples Award

Applegarth Primary School Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

For a first time independent entry, this is a very creditable presentation. A welcoming reception of schoolchildren – both gardeners and members of a children’s eco-council, and parents, greeted the judges and accompanied them throughout. The eco-council meet fortnightly to discuss environmental matters such as composting and planting of more saplings. There were immediate signs of the children’s gardening interests and efforts. Both the playing field and the school playground had many features of interest - 4 small apple trees, tyre gardens, a small greenhouse, potato growbags, vegetable plots guarded by a scarecrow, a willow tunnel for instance. 24 saplings have been donated by the Woodlands Trust. The ‘Busy-Bees’ garden for the reception class introduced young children to gardening and early awareness of the environment. Future plans are to make a ‘mini-beast mansion’ from old pallets, and to progress a wild-life garden with the help and design by a former pupil. The judges much enjoyed a most interesting and thought-provoking presentation, and wish the young gardeners, staff and parents well.

Areas of Achievement

That so many children clearly benefit from gardening and from being introduced to environmental matters, is most evident on visiting Applegarth Primary School. The staff and parents have achieved a lot.

Areas for Improvement

The proposed site for the wildlife garden requires a lot of thought beforehand, but on completion will be an asset to the school.

Aspin School Garden, Knaresborough Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Impressive entrance to the garden – row of cordon apples and colourful raised beds of flowers and vegetables. Clean and tidy appearance was evident from the start of the tour. Enthusiastic pupils in attendance throughout the judging.

Areas of Achievement:

Herbaceous paved area in front of the classroom. Children, staff and volunteer participations throughout. Good use of supermarket vouchers to acquire essential goods. Mosaic path. Path to wildlife garden made from recycled tyres. Many innovations using recycled materials such as old pellets trays for compost bins.

Areas for Improvement:

Wire and post support for cordon apples, perhaps more use could be made of the ‘superb greenhouse’ through summer to early winter.

Batley Girls High School Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Batley Girls High School has been selected by Prince Charles to become only one of six schools in the country to take part in a massive festival in London called Start. Each school will work with artists and architects to design a pavilion structure, representing a sustainable theme that summarises each schools contribution towards a sustainable future. The theme

for Batley Girls is serving the community, and reflecting the schools position as a hub of the local community and its vital work in community cohesion.

Areas of Achievement:

The science garden was an amazing educational resource containing an ammonite path, herb planting, mature trees, recycle areas, displays boards and a voltex producing electricity. The allotment where pupils are involved from sowing the seeds to designing a menu. The use of the glasshouse to produce plants for general use and hanging baskets. The different parts of the community working with the school on various projects. The purchasing of animals so pupils are educated in animal husbandry. As one of three partners who along with the Batley Business and Enterprise College and the community partnership put together the heritage mosaic.

Areas for Improvement:

The proposals to have a bee colony will help the pupils understanding of the environment. Even though the school has a very strong eco commitment which inhibits the use of chemical weedkillers, the amount of weeds around the school does distract from the horticultural aspect of the competition. More interaction with the judges and pupils would benefit the entry

**Dunnington Primary School Nature Garden Silver Rose Award
Introduction**

The judges were very impressed by this first time entry. All classes throughout the school have become involved in growing and nature conservation. The new water science park has just been developed and will take time to flourish. Makes an ideal outside learning facility. Help has also come from people in the village with excellent advice and involvement preparing and planting areas with the children. Judges liked the planting around perimeter, pre School garden Vegetable plot and raised beds as well as nature area and memorial garden. A big thank you to the school but especially Rebecca, Edward, Thomas and Katie for showing us around and answering our questions so expertly. This entry will only get better as the gardens develop.

Areas of Achievement:

Sowing seeds at home and planting around boundary of school. Knowledge children had of plants and overcoming possible problems in the gardens. Helping each other. Veg plot in a very dry area of school grounds. Science / nature garden. Good photographic records kept of progress made so far.

Areas for Improvement:

This entry will only improve with age and as the children get more confident in their growing abilities

**East Morton Church of England School Silver Rose Award
Introduction**

East Morton School is centrally situated in the village, surrounded by good sized grounds and a well maintained garden that provide a hub for community and environmental activities. The children involved with both the Garden Club and the Eco Club were very knowledgeable and keen. Well done!

Areas of Achievement:

The entrance to the school was very colourful and welcoming, making excellent use of a wide variety of containers for planting. The children have planted a really good range of vegetables in the garden.

Areas for Improvement:

The Environmental area has great potential and there is plenty of opportunity for further projects with the Eco club. For example, next year, observe and log use of the nest boxes. A wildflower area could be created.

Hunmanby Primary School Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The staff and volunteers all work together to design the school grounds to support and enhance the teaching of the school curriculum. The work is done by members of the Action School Gardening Club which is supported by 'in bloom' volunteers and a committed teacher. Encouragement and support is also given by the Headteacher.

Areas of Achievement:

Despite very dry conditions the raised vegetable bed will produce some very good crops. The children take great pride in the gardens and the whole area was kept clean and tidy. The inner courtyard demonstrated plants from 5 different continents.

Areas for Improvement:

The new fruit trees require staking before the winter. Please give the living willow classroom a little more water in drought conditions. Try growing wildflower plants in plugs to fill gaps in your wildflower garden. Some form of irrigation would help the inner courtyard during the school holidays.

Keresforth Primary School, Barnsley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The dedicated staff are to be commended for their enthusiastic approach to the environment and horticulture. The children certainly thrive in their experiences and it is very gratifying to see the knowledge that the children clearly gain from undertaking practical core and out of school activities. The school needs to consider rolling out a 5 year management plan that enables new projects and initiatives to be implemented as part of the ongoing outdoor management of the school.

Areas of Achievement:

Dedicated core of staff and enthusiastic children. Good mix of environmental and horticultural projects. The support the school is giving to the overall Barnsley In Bloom campaign. Supporting the annual Barnsley In Bloom poster competition.

Areas for Improvement:

Roll out a 5 year management plan with a view to implementing some new initiatives/projects. Photographic evidence of previous projects would be beneficial if unable to present to judges during visit (i.e. before and after). Hope the plans for the stage/performance area with audience seating come to fruition.

Kirkby Malzeard Primary School Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The judges appreciated the warm welcome and the tour round the school by the children. It was good to see the grounds developed for formal and informal environmental activities.

Areas of Achievement:

The vegetable patch. The design and development of the Early Years Area, especially the herbs, flowers and the water. The Wildlife Area which is used as an educational resource and encourages wildlife.

Areas for Improvement:

To keep weeds out of the veg patch it would be better to dispose of the weeds and not put them in the compost bin. Cutting the long grass in the Wildlife Area in the Autumn, would encourage butterflies and bees. The seat in the Wildlife Area would be better used if placed next to the path rather than in the long grass. Asking the children to fill the bird feeders would encourage the local bird life

Lound Junior School Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Gardening continues to form an important part of school life. This is illustrated by the expansion this year of the area under cultivation, and the purchase of a greenhouse. Planters at the school entrance provide a colourful entrance to the school. The weekly garden club is thriving and arrangements to cover the summer holiday period are in hand. In addition to the formal gardening projects, the school has access to a large area of land managed as a nature reserve. The school helps with maintenance, planting and so on. The site provides facilities for pond dipping, mini beasts and so on. The school has also assisted with the planting of an orchard. In both the school and nature area plans are in hand for maintenance and new developments.

Areas of Achievement:

Creating the vegetable area in a short space of time with external grant aid. The knowledge of the children involved in the garden club. The plans for the greenhouse and garden development.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue with the development plans and try to resolve watering/water storage for the vegetable garden.

Low Moor Allotments Community Kids Allotments Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

On a sunny Saturday afternoon the judge was thoroughly entertained by this community group who have developed. Allotments which act as a teaching aid for schools and young children from 7 – 12 years as well as allotment areas for families just starting to grow their own produce. The gardens had everything from natural areas vegetable plots compost areas and different fruits from Strawberries to plums, Brambles to Apples. The children who showed me around the plots were very knowledgeable about the plants being grown and problems which could occur. Who ate all the Broad Beans? The group also encouraged young families to get involved with small plots with their children. An excellent project and one I was pleased to be shown round.

Areas of Achievement:

Involvement of children led by community volunteers and families. Quality of produce being grown. Good photographic record of achievements over the years and how gardens have developed. A sense of pride by everyone involved.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue to help the children with different growing techniques and develop their knowledge of nature. You may need to expand if the plots continue to flourish as they are.

Midgeley Junior and Infant School Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The small village school set high in the Pennine hills plays a great part in the environmental scene. Centre of this activity are the young enthusiastic children spurred on by equally keen staff and parents.

Areas of Achievement:

The Eco-gardening Club show great enthusiasm and have a good knowledge of horticulture and the basics of bio-diversity. Numerous colourful containers and features. Also a productive vegetable plot. Good ideas on composting.

Areas for Improvement:

Area in front of the school can be developed to give an outstanding floral frontage. Possible expansion of vegetable plots. Children to log developments throughout year of the wildlife in the locality.

Molescroft Primary School, Beverley Silver Rose Award

Introduction

This school has a core principle that every child should have the opportunity to learn about the environment and growing food. The range of habitats from wetland to 'insect hotels' to veg patches and areas for playing and resting and dining in healthy and attractive surroundings. It was good to talk with some of the children of the 'Green Team' and hear about their responsibilities and achievements.

Areas of Achievement:

Every child gets the opportunity to be involved in the schools Environmental project. The project includes Wildlife artwork and areas of the garden for different year groups and the school grounds are treated as an outdoor classroom with growing veg at its core. This is an Eco School with Green Flag status and has a Green Team who keep staff and pupils aware of 'caring for the environment' issues. Staff and parents fundraise and have acquired a potting shed through the Morrisons scheme.

Areas for Improvement:

Consideration might be given to forming a Garden Club to allow a child with a specific interest to continue their involvement in growing. The ongoing maintenance programme might be improved

Moorside Infants School Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The staff and pupils of Moorside Infant School are rightly proud of their school grounds, which are used as a teaching resource and involve all the children. They have well established wild-life areas. The children plant seeds, bulbs and trees; they grow vegetables and flowers; they learn about mini beasts and re-cycling. The grounds are not easy to maintain, being a thoroughfare for the neighbourhood and susceptible to damage, but they are not daunted by these challenging circumstances. This is a school with a strong tradition of eco awareness! Well done.

Areas of Achievement:

The School Eco Club. The exciting Eco week project, which involved re-cycling activities, willow weaving and sculpting nesting boxes. The non-fiction books on 'The plant cycle' being produced by Year 2. The innovative shape garden. Good use of re-cycling e.g. milk bottle bird feeders and green cone composter. Very good support from the local community

(Booths, Ripon in Bloom, the Walled Garden, Betty's). The visit by all classes to Harlow Carr and ensuing work in the classroom. Bridget's exceptional enthusiasm and leadership

Areas for Improvement:

Is there scope for parental involvement? E.g. A gardening club for a group of particularly enthusiastic pupils to maintain a vegetable plot - from seed to plate? In the event of another dry spring, should the children have a watering rota, to ensure that seed germination occurs? Knowledge of pupils undertaking projects: consider the possibility of more frequent involvement of children in specific projects (e.g. one group studying different types of compost; a potato/carrot group; a minibeast group!) so that a greater depth of knowledge is acquired by the children and they feel ownership of their project from beginning to end. Perhaps a wormery in the outdoor classroom for Reception? Possibility of pond dipping to make greater use of the superb pond?

Oakworth Primary School Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The school with its garden club team undertake a wide range of gardening activities around the school. Examples of this are the planters on the school wall, planted by class groups providing colour and interest both to the school and the general public using the road. The school has large expanses of hard surfacing meaning container gardening is the only option. Planting includes ornamental and vegetables along with some fruit. This provides a range of opportunities for using the garden areas, for school uses. A large natural garden is developing well.

Areas of Achievement

The nursery garden and its use as an educational resource. The approach to fund raising. Recycling in a number of ways across the site. Pupil/parent involvement even in the holidays. Supporting Oakworth in Bloom.

Areas for Improvement

It may be more productive to consolidate and continue to improve the quality of the plantings. Consider adding to the pictorial offering in the play ground to include birds and so on as an aid to identification.

Overthorpe Junior, Infant and Nursery School, Dewsbury Gold Rose Award

Introduction

This is a Junior, Infant and Nursery School with children ranging from 3 to 11 years of age. The catchment area is from the local neighbourhood and there are approximately 365 children. The school works hard to ensure that all ages are catered for within the environmental projects. The school is on the outskirts of the town, bordering on the countryside and all pupils are encouraged to partake in environmental issues and, much of the curriculum is experienced through the environment. National Curriculum Key stages are followed throughout the environmental projects and the school had a good Ofsted report. Congratulations to all involved in this entry.

Areas of Achievement:

The children were polite and articulate and exhibited an excellent knowledge of plants, insects and the local environment. The World War two garden, containing an Anderson shelter and allotment gardens, was most impressive. Well done! The wildlife garden was full of a variety of ecosystems which successfully encouraged many different species of plants, birds, insects and animals. The judges were most impressed by the fact that the whole school project was self funded, mainly by the commercial enterprise of children and staff.

Areas for Improvement:

The large tarmac playground contained unsafe areas and was a blight on the rest of the project. Outside furniture appeared to be too large for the children and there was no shelter in this area either from the sun or inclement weather.

Young Gardeners, Pocklilngton VC Infant School Gold Rose Award**Introduction**

We were greeted by the enthusiastic staff and gardening gang at Pocklington Infant School who gave us a very comprehensive tour of the school grounds. Congratulations to all involved. The children clearly love being outdoors and getting their hands dirty! Also well done on your success at Driffield Show. Matthew, Yasmin, Rose and Katie are clearly gardeners of the future.

Areas of Achievement:

The Gardening Gang of Matthew, Rose, Yasmin and Katie who showed us around are great ambassadors for the school. Evidence of environmental projects were fully explained by the children. Visits to Harlow Carr and Driffield Show are clearly great fun and educational as well. The partnership with Bishop Burton will produce many benefits. A broad range of crops are being grown with all year round interest.

Areas for Improvement:

Keep up with the fund raising to enable the school to develop future plans, of which there are many. Be aware of grants available locally possibly through Civic channels! Try to involve more parents in helping with hands on work.

Parkside Primary School, Goole Silver Gilt Rose Award**Introduction**

It was a pleasure to visit Parkside Primary School and to be given a conducted tour of the grounds and classrooms by the very knowledgeable children and staff including the Headteacher who is very committed to the environmental aspects of the schools curriculum. There are plenty of "hands on" activities at all levels and ages both in the planning and implementation of the various environmental and horticultural projects taking place at the school, which are applied and linked to other school subjects.

Areas of Achievement:

The flower plantings around the school provide an immediate impact with plenty of colour, texture and scent and are well maintained. The children have a good knowledge of the wide range of vegetables grown in raised beds, which are carefully planned and cultivated by the children and used by the school or sold to raise funds to purchase seeds for next year. Active involvement of the staff and grounds staff providing encouragement and guidance at all stages in the cultivation and care of the wide range of plants found within the school grounds. Excellent environmental awareness demonstrated by the children through classroom projects and practical projects.

Areas for Improvement:

The school is encouraged to proceed with its plans to provide a pond/wetland area to extend its environmental activities, a quiet spot and fruit tree plantings all within a secured fenced area.

Ravenscliffe High School, Halifax Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Having visited this site a number of years ago it is evident the amount of work that has been achieved on this relatively small and complex site. There is no doubt that the students and staff involved receive a positive feeling working on the site and within the community. The site boasts teaching areas for students under glass, polythene and in the open air and it is continually developing. A remarkable school with remarkable staff and students.

Areas of Achievement:

Many innovative features throughout the site all used as positive teaching aids from the indoor areas, to the small located quiet areas, through to the vegetable plots and the newly established fruit garden. This school has an innovative 'reverse inclusion' – it's about getting the students out into the community where it matters. Staff support and commitment is clearly evident with positive planning and working with parents. Many events held on site to integrate the community into the school and help raise funds for future projects. The philosophy of the school is to involve students, with all ranges of abilities, to achieve horticultural skill sets to help them integrate in the community wherever possible.

Areas for Improvement:

The planned pond project will be interesting. In a difficult location but the judges are sure that there is a determination that it will work. It was noted that there was a significant bank adjacent to the orchard area which was currently maintained to a very high standard of cut. Perhaps this area could be considered for the introduction of wild flowers. This would help attract flora/fauna, provide an attractive area during spring/summer and help reduce maintenance costs on site.

Ravenshall School, Dewsbury Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Ravenshall school caters for children with complex needs where each child has special needs. The children are closely monitored for security reasons in individual classrooms each with access to an outdoor area. Each class has made special efforts to make interesting features either in the play area or in the surrounding recreational area. The judges were impressed with the willow wigwam, the allotment and the wildlife areas. Classroom projects are designed to create sculptures and features to enhance the Allotment area. Funding was sparse for many projects but the staff persisted in their efforts. Because of the large catchment area parental support is nonexistent.

Areas of Achievement:

The members of staff are brilliant in creating projects to motivate and educate the children in their natural environment. They were also entering a competition with the express purpose of winning funding. The children understood the problems associated with growing fruit and vegetables and the effect of the hot summer. The mosaics and wooden sculptures made in class will enhance the allotment area.

Areas for Improvement:

The maintenance of the pond are needs to be addressed.. The woodland and forest play area will be a great asset in the future development of the children's skills. Although the sensory path is a good idea, some modification needed for wheelchair access.

Ripon Walled Garden Scheme Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Ripon Walled Garden was the Bishop of Ripon's vegetable garden but the scheme also includes the orchard and woodland.

The scheme is to promote and encourage the use of horticulture as a therapeutic tool by providing work experience for adults with disabilities and young people from Springhall School.

Areas of Achievement:

The woodland recycling scheme.

Areas for Improvement:

The maintenance within the walled garden could be improved.

Ripponden Junior and Infant School Growing Colours Silver Rose Award

Introduction

It was a pleasure to meet Mrs Scoley and some of the children at the school. The way the school tackles green issues and recycling is to be commended. There is also a good emphasis towards bio-diversity. The school is starting to embrace growing salad crops and vegetables in pots at the front of the school. We do hope the plan to build some raised beds for growing more vegetables comes to fruition. A good entry. Well done to all.

Areas of Achievement:

The school has achieved much in the garden to date. There is a lovely feeling of tranquillity in the wildlife friendly garden at the back. A lovely portfolio of gardening and green achievements put together by Miss Eccles. Good use of donated plants and pots. An impressive understanding of environmental issues by children.

Areas for Improvement:

The floral planting element at the front of the school could be a little stronger and more impactful. Continue to highlight the value of growing your own food and look for extra ways to use the produce within the school.

Rothwell Haigh Road Infants School, Leeds Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The school sets a high standard by using gardening and the natural environment in its education programme. The giant {children Made} banner at the entrance sets the scene for an inspiring tour of the site. Every area of the rounds is used and innovation in growing containers is demonstrated in container re-cycling. Items such as bags umbrellas and wellingtons have been planted to good effect. In addition to this the school gardening club has taken on an adjacent allotment. This is constructed as raised beds and is very well maintained. The extension of school to the outside creates external class rooms and a range of very different experiences for the children.

Areas of Achievement:

The garden, environmental, education link is an example of what can be achieved in small areas and with limited budgets. The use of plants for projects that show every thing from sowing including country links. So sunflowers from seed links to France and records of heights and completion for the tallest all from one plant.

Areas for Improvement:

To continue this exceptional work, and when possible encourage others to follow your lead. If conditions allow carry out judging in school hours.

Saville Park Primary School Bronze Rose Award**Introduction**

This is a small school that is just developing its garden area. There is a large playground area with a number of green areas planted with perennials, there are also a number of planters and small containers around the school grounds that give a good colour to the area. The nursery has some healthy vegetables growing and they have used some innovative recycled containers as planters.

Areas of Achievement:

The nursery with its innovative way of recycling; wellington boots, walking boots and old tyres as containers. The beginnings of a herb and vegetable garden. The planters in the play area give a splash of a bright colour to the hard landscaping.

Areas for Improvement:

Consider creating raised beds for the herb and vegetable plots. Be aware of weeds. Try to encourage parents to become more involved in the garden.

Scholes (Elmet) Primary School and Gardening Club Gold Rose Award**Introduction**

The judges were impressed attitude of the head mistress and garden club leader in creating a whole school approach towards creating a better understanding of the environment. Good use was made of the outdoor facilities to increase the children's' knowledge of food production and wildlife.

Areas of Achievement:

Range of food crops grown. Enthusiasm of the school children. Use of the outdoor area into a well planned curriculum.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue with future projects for the site.

Sidmouth Primary School, Hull Silver Rose Award**Introduction**

The school clearly demonstrates many environmental and horticultural activities/projects to embrace the core and out of school curriculum. The school has also overcome many difficulties in terms of on-site outdoor space and has created this oasis of colour and plant life in many areas of the school in line with the various key stages. The partnership work with the council in terms of allotment use is to be commended.

Areas of Achievement:

The solar panel project from re-cycled beer cans – outstanding. The sponsored wind turbines (Tesco's). The support given by parents and friends to improve & enhance the school.

Areas for Improvement:

Look to creating a 5 year management plan to evidence on judging day to show ongoing and future projects. Allow the judges to meet some of the children involved in order to demonstrate the knowledge that they have gleaned whilst undertaking the various projects.

St Johns Church of England Primary School Allotment, Knaresborough Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Situated on an allotment site a good distance from the school. Plots well maintained with good variety of vegetables, soft fruit, salads and herbs.

Areas of Achievement:

Proves just what can be achieved with 12 children for one hour per week. (even when the weather is wet!). Children knowledgeable and enthusiastic, good voluntary help and support. Good use made of supermarket vouchers to buy essential goods.

Areas for Improvement:

Maintain beds with addition of bulky organic compost or manure. Work out a rotation for the beds – this helps with better use of food in the soil and suppression of certain pests and diseases and weeds. Keep pulling out the ‘marestail’!

St. John of Beverley Roman Catholic Primary School Gold Rose Award - Category Winner

Introduction

There was so much going on at this school that it is impossible to do this entry justice in this report. The involvement and dedication of teachers, parents, and the members of the Gardening Club was impressive. The knowledge and enthusiasm of every child was very infectious. The range of features and recording of their work and achievements via a ‘blog site’ was very detailed and presented to us in a very professional manner.

Areas of Achievement:

Registered with RHS’s Campaign for School Gardening and achieved Benchmark 4. Acquisition of a polytunnel through the Alan Titchmarsh Award. The Gardening Club and Eco Club with the involvement of teachers, parents and children on a Thursday. The special feature of a World War 2 Ministry of Food garden complete with veg. of that era and a kitted out Anderson Shelter. (‘Home Sweet Home’); The raised beds system including a tractor tyre for large pumpkins; an orchard with trees donated by parents of pupils who have moved on; The Great British Elm conservation project; fundraising for Walk for Water £700 for solar powered water pumps for an African village; The wild garden with nest boxes complete with camera to record a family of bluetits, and the solar powered water pump for the wildlife pond. The recording of all activities on their blog site, dates, work undertaken, photos, results. Above all the obvious enthusiasm, enjoyment for the care of the environment.

Areas for Improvement:

None, except to work hard at maintaining the high standards you have achieved and we would love to return and see the results of your future programme for constructing a ‘Dream Garden’ ‘Peace garden’

St Mary’s Primary School, Keighley Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

This school has developed a great deal of interest outside the classroom, with the assistance of staff, parents and supporting organisations. The grounds are being used in conjunction with the curriculum to deliver practical aspects of sustainability, conservation and biodiversity.

The schools vision to develop as a Centre of Excellence for learning outside of the classroom would benefit the whole community.

Areas of Achievement:

The designing of the memorial garden by the pupils for quiet reflection. The allotment where every class has responsibility for a raised bed containing a variety of vegetables. The planting of trees and a hawthorn hedge with help from Forest Bradford and trainees from Calico. The wind turbine and solar panels are helping the school to become more sustainable

Areas for Improvement:

It would help if the judges had more opportunity to interact with pupils, parents and staff from supporting organisations.

St Mary's School Wildlife Garden and Pond, Knaresborough Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A distinctly different school garden and pond development over the past 4/5 years from virtual scrubland. Emphasis on the attention to the importance of wildlife.

Areas of Achievement:

'Bushcraft Den' built by the children. Tree tapping. Amphitheatre and art-work in the trees. Vegetables grown in Travis Perkins non-vetumalle aggregate bags, old types stacked in twos and threes fill with compost. Small orchard of apples, pears and plums.

Areas for Improvement:

Rotate the 'growing areas' as much as possible this helps with better us of 'food in the soil' also helps with pest and disease control. Plant two or three more fairly quick growing trees for shade in the well maintained grass area.

Stakesby Primary School Gold Rose Award

Introduction

It was a pleasure to visit such a lovely school. The enthusiasm from the teacher, volunteers and the children were very evident. The vegetable gardens have become well established and are producing crops which are used in the school kitchen. The woodland area is obviously also well used, providing outdoor classrooms covering many subjects from the school curriculum. Everyone concerned should be very proud of this very impressive school project.

Areas of Achievement:

Development of the woodland area benefiting the school as outdoor classrooms to cover aspects of the curriculum.

Growing vegetable crops of high quality.

It was good to see vegetables growing in the flower beds, giving good variation.

Children were clearly involved in the planting and maintenance, and had a good knowledge of the plants.

Areas for Improvement:

The soil would benefit from adding more organic matter and the vegetables would possibly grow better in raised beds.

Plant tete-tete daffodils, mixed with red riding hood tulips to give additional colour in the spring. A small area of wildflowers would give additional colour and attract bees, in the woodland area.

Stamford Bridge Primary School Gold Rose Award

Introduction

With not extensive grounds this is a really enthusiastic school with both Eco and Gardening clubs spread throughout all school classes using the grounds in all sectors of the curriculum. A delight to visit ! Aply led by staff with assistance from local In bloom volunteers-all schools should be like this!

Areas of Achievement

Every corner of site used, perimeter border full of vegetables ,interesting plants and little seating areas. Wild corner with insect hotel, and wild flower planting, pond ,wild life habitats. Knowledge of all children including little ones was good. Good use of all areas by different classes for varied aspects of curriculum from weighing and measuring, cooking, recycling and energy use. With volunteer helpers, all age groups work together to have fun and learn

Areas for Improvement

Difficult to think of any improvements-just hope school recognise good work of their staff and continue to support their efforts

The Weekly Weeders, Pocklington School Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

We were delighted for Pocklington School to be included in this years Yorkshire in Bloom schedule. What appears to be a relatively small school at the front opens out to a huge area at the back – quite a task for a small team to maintain. Clearly Pocklington School has great potential in the Yorkshire in Bloom competition and is a very worthy entry.

Areas of Achievement:

Pocklington School clearly puts great emphasis on the school grounds as the “shop window”. The enthusiastic (but small) staff is to be commended in producing beautiful and tranquil grounds. We were impressed by the variety and range of trees on site.

Areas for Improvement:

Arrange for the Yorkshire in Bloom judges earlier next year when pupils are still in residence so they can tell their story. Continue to follow your plans for the next few years making changes and improvements along the way.

Whitehill Community Primary School and Nature Club, Halifax Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Whitehill Community Primary School has achieved a great deal through the ‘In Bloom’ Young People’s Award and this year the focus was on the community participation through the allotment development. It had outstanding features and would be an inspiration to other who wanted to develop their school grounds

Areas of Achievement:

- The grounds of the school that were close to perfection
- The quality of materials for the raised beds
- The new greenhouse
- The produce
- Family and community involvement especially the 24/7 access to the allotments
- The enthusiasm of the children I met
- Strong partnerships with local business
- The allocation of funding for community development

Because of the quality materials, the project looked made to last. The allocation of beds meant that people could share their expertise. It was good to hear of the planned expansion of the scheme with other parts of the grounds being considered. The extended use of the school grounds has spin off in terms of ownership by the community and increased care of the environment

Areas for Improvement:

- The new raised beds that are planned
- Involvement within the school in grow your own vegetable activities
- Perhaps events including demonstrations of growing seeds for food for parents

It will be interesting to see how far the group goes in the next year or two. It would particularly good to meet local participants as well as the children to talk about their views of the group's development. Very well done.

Wilthorpe Junior School, Barnsley Silver Rose Award

Introduction

This is the first year Wilthorpe Junior School have entered the competition and it was a real pleasure to meet the team. The pride in the school and the achievements of the young people, teachers, staff, governors and parents are clear to see. The young team who escorted me around the school evidenced a good knowledge of the garden a commitment to the Gardening Team and the school as a whole.

Areas of Achievement

The excellent understanding the young people of have of bio diversity, plant life, wildlife and the historic elements of the Saxon hedge. The garden is divided into specific areas; sunshine field with the sundial, bug world, willow tunnel, sensory area, outdoor classroom, the vegetable garden, the hedgerows that attract wildlife and Rachel's Garden. The recently planted fruit trees, apples, pears and plums and the vegetables, particularly the potatoes, are thriving. It was also good to see the composters and water butt are being used.

Areas for Improvement

Continue to improve and expand your vegetable and plant collections. Rachel's Garden is a lovely seated area and may benefit from the planters being added to which will give more impact, possibly with some sustainable plants to give year round cover.

Withinsfield Primary School, Southowram Silver Rose Award

Introduction

On entering Withinsfield School you are greeted with colourful planters that have been prepared and are looked after by the schools gardening club. The whole of the school's outside area was very clean, tidy and litter free. The enthusiasm of the two gardening club members was lovely to see and their understanding of the importance of bio diversity was great to hear about.

Areas of Achievement:

The woodland area with its emphasis on attracting wildlife. The new bird boxes that are already showing signs of inhabitation. The raised vegetable beds. Composting of waste foods and plants. The involvement of Yorkshire Water, Parents, Staff and Governors. The Eco Wardens and Gardening Club.

Areas for Improvement:

The woodland area would benefit from a small amount of clearing so that the paths are easier to navigate. Some of the raised beds contained weeds and would have benefited from

being weeded. The plan for an allotment at the school is an exciting development and it is hoped it comes to fruition.

Wold Newton Foundation School Gold Rose Award Introduction

It is encouraging to see so many of the children from the school involved with the various curriculum and after school club activities, some of which includes growing vegetables, flowers, planting trees and environmental issues.. The partnership that has formed between the parents and with the local in bloom group to make this happen has to be commended within this rural community.

Areas of Achievement:

The endless donations that are made to the school by parents and friends to help the school achieve their educational goals via the environment. The two new pond areas that have been recently introduced will further help with environmental education. The Schools current program of growing local specimen trees from seed has to be commended. The mini beast garden is a good addition to the playground.

Areas for Improvement:

The willow structures need careful management if they are to develop into living walls. Try to harness the roof water off the school to sustain the water levels of the new ponds. Further enhance the planting around the wildlife pond to reflect the local areas wildlife biodiversity.

Category 12

Universities, Colleges and Further Education Establishments

Craven College, Horticultural Department, Skipton Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The judges enjoyed a comprehensive tour of the college campus, visiting the teaching garden, greenhouse, dry stone wall centre and general grounds. There is obviously a move to work with nature and the maintenance regimes around the campus reflect this. There is also a focus on the countryside skills and the new dry stone wall centre can only enhance this work further. The college is also very much part of the community and links with many local groups including RHS Harlow Carr, Men of the Trees and Skipton in Bloom.

Areas of Achievement:

Good involvement by the students in the community projects around Skipton and with Skipton in Bloom. In particular the involvement in the Let it Grow event was significant and can only enhance the students experience further. The different maintenance regimes around the campus create a variety of different habitats. The dry stone walling centre is a unique facility providing a much needed resource to maintain rural skills and will be added to with the coppicing area. A comprehensive portfolio highlighting the recent projects and work with Skipton in Bloom. A good range of facilities around the campus for the students to get involved with and learn from such as the herbaceous border and apple trees in a ripening timeline.

Areas for Improvement:

Well designed barrels although painting and staining would enhance them further. Consider mulching some of the shrub beds to reduce the weed growth and keep in moisture. Apart from the dry stone wall area would it be possible to label some of the planted areas or have some interpretation about the species and the maintenance regimes

Sheffield Hallam University Gold Rose Award - Joint Category Winner

Introduction

A very impressive and well structured entry supported by a comprehensive report (and other associated material) listing the University's environmental achievements during the past year this was supported by display boards on arrival. Colleagues even went to the trouble of providing a YiB lunch menu! Until my visit I had not appreciated how the "City Campus" site integrated into the general City scene. The main thoroughfare from Sheffield Rail Station runs directly by the campus into the commercial / shopping area of the City. All non teaching Campus areas are accessible to the public which created a pleasant ambient atmosphere. Both the City and Collegiate sites were very well maintained both from the hard and soft landscaping and in the case of the latter it was interesting to note the work being done (and planned) to retain the character of these impressive buildings set in mature surrounds.

Areas of Achievement:

The commitment of the University to maintain and improve the general environment of their extensive land and buildings holding. The high profile importance given to this work to both the staff and students and indeed the wider population of Sheffield is very noticeable. Comprehensive documentation of the environmental and sustainability work being achieved. The current work being undertaken to develop the sensory garden to the rear of

the “Mews”. The recently completed garden area and paths next to the “Forgers cafe / restaurant” has been very well done.

Areas for Improvement:

It is really difficult to offer much advice as virtually all aspects of the horticultural / environmental aspects of the site have been well covered with excellent in house policies. Just continue to pursue this excellent work through an obvious well qualified team. The only two weak areas were the gardener’s storage area which presented a poor image and the large pedestrian area in front of the Furnival building which would benefit from some carefully located large structure planters and some smaller seasonal bedding containers to soften what is otherwise a rather bland area. It is hoped that a solution might be found to overcome the wear on “the waves” area. Well done to all concerned with this impressive entry.

University of Hull Gold Rose Award

Introduction

This is a red brick establishment set in the leafy suburbs of Kingston upon Hull on a 150m acre site with a mix of old and new build incorporating permanent landscaping and innovative displays of seasonal bedding. It is evident that there has been a period of extensive development on campus over the last three to four years which has facilitated the opportunity to re-design some elements of the surrounding landscape. A new tree planting programme is in place, a car park has been converted into an Italian plaza garden with low energy lighting for night events. A big plus is the variety of new beds and planters offering colour and seasonal interest. Students are provided with ample opportunities for meeting and al fresco eating in a variety of locations with high quality and well maintained wooden and stone benches. All the environs are open to the public to enjoy and there is a new health and wellbeing initiative in place that offers several measured walks around the campus with interpretation signs and exercise pods at various locations.

Areas of Achievement:

The overall high standard in the face of significant and ongoing development. The variety of interesting new projects such as the Colour Wheel and Central Plaza.

Areas for Improvement:

There was no evidence of a water feature on site.

York St. John’s University Gold Rose Award - Joint Category Winner

Introduction

It must be a pleasure for all students, staff and residents of York St Johns University to have such an excellent campus and grounds. A development of new buildings aside old, the grounds reflect this in its traditional planting schemes complimented with a more contemporary feel in areas of new and award winning architecture. Excellent standards are a reflection of the dedication and enthusiasm of the grounds team.

Areas of Achievement:

High level of maintenance on all flower beds, grounds, and lawned areas. The old main entrance to campus (on Lord mayors Walk) frontage to site a delight to walk through. The wonderful Peace Garden and superb Quad, are of a high standard.

Areas for Improvement

With grounds of such a high quality it is hard to suggest areas for improvement, however with the new developments with the proposed living wall and the removal of the pre-fab buildings and proposed re landscaping of that site, all will enhance the University grounds even further.

