



NEWSLETTER

Keeping Yorkshire Blooming
August 2020

YORKSHIRE

#LITTER
HEROES
UNITE!



Litter blights our streets, parks and beaches and costs us millions of pounds to clear up every year. Keep Britain Tidy inspires people to eliminate litter now and for future generations.

This is about more than simply getting people to pick up litter. Their aim is to change behaviour permanently by spotlighting the problem daily and offering creative solutions.

They work with people, businesses, local authorities and government to educate, innovate and inspire - **improving the environment on everyone's doorstep.**

**GREAT BRITISH
SEPTEMBER CLEAN**

Just like Yorkshire in Bloom, Keep Britain Tidy fights for people's right to live and work in places

they can be proud of and prosper in. Also like us they celebrate the great parks and beaches that we all benefit from

Join the Great British
September Clean

Be part of the pick



11 - 27 SEPTEMBER 2020

#GBSeptemberClean



YORKSHIRE

Together we can help improve the environments in which we all live.

Picture opposite:- High Green in Bloom litter pick.
Picture taken prior to social distance restrictions

Hello!

It's been great to hear of all the groups getting back out into the communities and businesses opening back up. Sometimes you wouldn't even know there is a pandemic if you look at the beautiful planters, baskets, flower beds and public grounds that are still being lovingly tended to.

A big well done to those volunteers and staff for these excellent displays that are and have truly been lifting everyone's spirits. I am sure there may be volunteers out there who have gone that extra mile to make this happen. If you know of anyone please let us know and we may be able to give them the recognition they deserve.

Please do keep sending us your stories, experiences, or any activities happening within your communities.

John

Co-Ordinator
YiB



Email: admin@yorkshireinbloom.co.uk



Twitter @yorkshirebloom #yib2020



Facebook: YorkshireinBloom



Get to know your garden allies!

With the warm humid weather we usually get associated with summer, many of our prized blooms and plants can soon be under attack.

Ladybird, hoverfly and lacewing larvae are voracious predators of garden pests, so they're worth getting to know. Most plants can suffer from greenfly, blackfly or other aphids. These insects suck sap, can distort growth and spread plant viruses. Many aphids excrete a sugary liquid called honeydew, making plants sticky and allowing the growth of sooty moulds. Several predatory and parasitic insects found in gardens keep their numbers in check, some of these can be purchased as biological controls for aphids on greenhouse plants.

Ladybirds - There are more than 50 species of ladybird in the UK. They range in size from less than 1mm to over 10mm. They come in a variety of colours including yellow with black spots, brown with cream spots, red with black spots and black with red spots. The number of spots can vary from none to more than 24 and some species are very variable in colour and spot number.



Ladybird larvae are up to 12mm long and usually greyish-black with variable amounts of orange-red or white markings. Some species have spiny bodies. A majority are predatory on aphids, scale and other insects but some species feed on mildews and a few species on plants.



Hoverfly larvae - Hoverfly larvae are legless maggots with flattened, relatively broad bodies up to 12mm long. They often have semi-transparent bodies so internal structures, such as the gut, can be seen. There are more than 260 hoverfly species in Britain and just under half of them have larvae that feed on aphids. The green larvae of one species, *Sphaerophoria rueppelli* is available from some suppliers of biological controls. Adult hoverflies feed on nectar, honeydew and pollen and are useful pollinating insects. Adult hoverflies are important pollinators and can be encouraged by providing lots of flowering plants



Earwigs - Earwigs are omnivorous, feeding on small invertebrates and plant material. On fruit trees they can give useful control of fruit aphids and do not cause damage to the trees or fruit. Providing shelters such as flower pots loosely stuffed with hay in trees can help increase numbers.



BRITAIN IN BLOOM
with the RHS

YORKSHIRE

Lacewing larvae



Lacewing larvae eat aphids and other small insects, which they seize with their curved jaws. They are up to 8mm long with tapered rear ends. Some lacewing larvae camouflage themselves by placing sucked-out aphid skins among the bristles on their upper surface. Adult lacewings have a similar diet to adult hoverflies.

Predatory midge larvae - Predatory midge larvae, *Aphidoletes aphidimyza*, are yellowish orange maggots up to 3mm long when fully grown.



They insert their mouthparts into the aphid's body and suck out the contents. When fully fed they go into the soil to pupate and emerge as tiny flies, which feed on honeydew.

Parasitic (Parasitoid) wasps (various species)

These insects are more accurately termed parasitoids as they kill the host, something parasites do not usually do. The adults of several species of small parasitic wasp lay single eggs inside the bodies of young aphids. The egg hatches into a small grub that feeds within the host insect's body. Eventually the parasite grub kills the aphid, usually by consuming the body contents and pupates inside the aphid's body. By then the parasitized aphid's body has become whitish brown and has a characteristic inflated appearance and is often called an aphid mummy. The adult parasite emerges through a hole cut in the aphid's body.



Predatory beetles - Some ground and rove beetles climb plants to feed on aphids, the rove beetle *Atheta coriaria* is available from some biological control suppliers for control of aphids and some other glasshouse pests.



Biological control - Some aphid predators, including predatory midges, parasitic wasps, lacewing larvae, rove beetles, hoverfly larvae and ladybirds, can be bought by mail order or some garden centres as biological controls. Biological controls are the use of natural enemies to control pests.





News from around the Region

Starbeck in Bloom summer event.

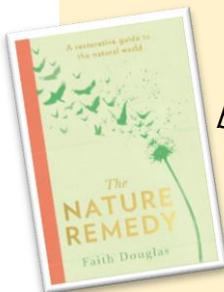
In common with many organisations, Starbeck in Bloom have had to cancel our annual summer community events, namely our Summer Show & our Garden Competition. We felt it was a shame to miss out completely, especially as so many people have been working hard in their gardens during the lockdown, so we have decided to hold a Virtual Garden Competition.

We are asking residents, businesses & community groups to take photos of their garden or container throughout the summer months. They then choose 1 photo which shows their garden or container at its best then send the photo to us for judging. Harrogate Flower Show Director, Nick Smith, who usually travels round Starbeck judging the garden competition has agreed to judge this virtual event. – *Rebecca Lund SiB*

New publications from the Region

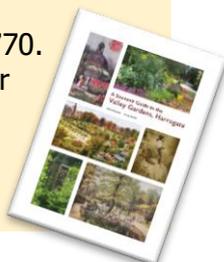
The Nature Remedy – Faith Douglas
Thorp Perrow Arboretum Curator and YiB Judge

'Beautiful, illustrated modern guide to nature & forest bathing, for a new generation (including city-dwellers) and how it can impact our mental and physical wellbeing. (available through Amazon)



Friends of Valley Gardens Harrogate have released a Guide and History to Valley Gardens.

The gardens date back to 1770. Jane Blayney the joint author offers her help to other groups if they are looking to produce a similar guide. (Contact YiB Admin for details)



The Royston Canal Club wanted to share some very exciting news with you and Yorkshire in Bloom, they have just had a new section a path completed.

This is something they have been working on for some time and plans were shared with In Bloom Judges last year and has now finally been completed.



The new flexi paving means the site is more accessible to all and as you can see from the before and after pictures it's been quite the transformation.

Scarborough Region 'Bloomers'

Bloom and Friends groups in Scarborough, Whitby and Filey are gradually coming out of lockdown although formal meetings won't be resuming for some time to come yet.

Filey volunteers have been spotted tidying up flower beds in Crescent Gardens although work has been done by individuals rather than as a group.



Hunmanby in Bloom have been holding social media meetings throughout lockdown and this seems to have been very successful.

Whitby in Bloom have been very busy with their hanging basket production and as a result visitors returning to the town are greeted with a big floral welcome.



In Scarborough the **Friends of Dean Road Cemetery** have restarted their

Sunday morning sales tables again. This has been done very carefully with much thought for the safety of volunteers and the public. Other villages and community groups across the region have been beavering away as best they can in these difficult times. Sadly, the popular Muck and Magic Gardens Competition has been Cancelled, but hopefully it will return bigger and better next year.

Supplied by *Sheila Johnson Muck & Magic, Scarborough*

Picture opposite: Friends of Dean Road Cemetery with the Sunday Sales Team – (missing is chairman Linda Tomczak) Taken before social distancing regulations.





High Green in Bloom

Lockdown 2020 – it's been an interesting few months, and the High Green in Bloom team have had both highs and lows during the current situation. As most groups will have found, lockdown meant that members of the team had to go into shielding for various reasons, and the worries were that the gardens and planters we looked after around the village would suffer from lack of maintenance, and the longer things went on the harder it would be to get everything back to normal. Many groups will have been in similar situations across the country. As the weeks progressed we did our maintenance by stealth, using the



1 hour allotted exercise per day to pop into the rose garden in the park, and continue, social distancing of

cause, with weeding, grass cutting and the basics to keep things ticking over. This was almost becoming a daily hour, and we were secretly getting lots done.

Spending more time in the rose garden at different hours of the day to what was normal, and the weather being sunny meant we were seeing new people using the local park for their daily exercise, and lots more families out enjoying the green space with children, riding bikes and playing games. We've built new relationships with regulars using the park and had some wonderful comments about the work we do to keep the gardens looking well, and how important the park had become to locals during the lockdown, for both their mental and physical wellbeing.... ours too.



The park had become a central hub for the village and it's been lovely to see how people are using the space; one morning we arrived to be greeted by rainbows tied to trees and seats all around the garden. These were messages left by the teachers and children of key workers from the local school, left for their friends and pupils that were away from school during lockdown, messages of hope and support, and looking forward to the days when they would see them again, and it was lovely to see the children finding them on their walks in



the park.

The other new craze that came out of lockdown was painted stones.... we started to find them in all the nooks and crannies around the rose garden, some fantastic and imaginative art work, and again, children were coming along to hide their stones, and find new ones daily, always bringing a smile when you find one.



We did have a disappointing morning when we arrived to see the mural one of our team had painted on our container had been vandalised, and painted over with graffiti. After the frustration subsided, we painted over it, just to clean it up, but as the weeks have gone on and John felt able to safely pop out to the park, he repainted it, bigger and better, and now with a nod to our wonderful NHS, and it's been another talking point with everyone that's been to see it on their daily walk.



As the weeks are progressing and lockdown slowly lifting, we are almost up to full strength, and back to our normal Saturday morning slot, tea and biccies, and of course still mindful of social distancing. There are



things we won't get done this year, like holding our summer gala, and other events we normally attend to help raise funds, and showing the Yorkshire in Bloom judges what we've been up to, but everything in the garden is looking rosy....

Stay safe everyone and see you in 2021.





Friends of Wilthorpe Park

The 'Friends of Wilthorpe Park' (FoWP) came together in 2015, none of us knew each other in the first instance but our friendship over the past five years has grown. We have something in common, we love our local park. 2020 – What a year this has been for everyone around the world, the UK and our own town of Barnsley.

As a group I must admit I was concerned if we could weather out this COVID-19 storm, would the group survive, would the park survive? After all there are only eight of us for eight acres of park. Laughingly I joked over the past few years, 'that makes it an acre each, no problem'. Little did anyone know what was around the corner?

I have no doubt that our individual circumstances will possibly mirror other 'In Bloom' groups who are reading this article. Over half of the members of FoWP isolating themselves because of their age and medical conditions, others looking after relatives and friends who were shielding, and the rest finding it extremely difficult to go about their normal daily life whilst adhering to the government's lockdown protocols.

As a group we kept in touch by phone, keeping each other focused, passing ideas about future plans for the park, trying to stay positive.

After all we had come so far, achieved so very much and in true Yorkshire style and grit, no virus was going to stop us!



Again Individually we litter picked, cleared the odd weed out and slowly over the next few months the park was not looking too bad. As the weeks past a number of us met up, whilst strictly following the 2m distance ruling, the equipment we used, we wore gloves and did not pass it around to each other. We are lucky, we have plenty of space to spread out, so we were never ever tripping over one another.



Is there a bright side to this article? There sure is! Not a light at the end of the tunnel but definitely a rainbow. We have never seen as many people use this beautiful 8 acres of green space. There would be in the past, the odd dog walker who would stop and chat to us, families going through the park to either use the bike park, created by us in 2017 or the new playground facilities, which was our first priority when we started in 2015.

Now! Comments from people visiting the park such as 'I have lived around here for years and I never knew how very beautiful it was in here' or 'we have just moved into the area and someone told us to walk to this park, its great'. We even received a comment on a Facebook site 'Not so Grim Up North' on June 2nd.



We have even managed to raise some much needed funds, because of the virus we could not hold our Mother's Day or Easter fundraising events. However we have been selling homemade masks and they have gone down a

storm and during the first few months we placed quizzes and brain teasers on our Facebook page just to let our local community know that we were all this together.

Nature has a way of coming through for you too. The flowers seem brighter, trees look really lush and all the birds, squirrels and bees all seem to be noisier and busier than before. We even have a bees nest in our compost heap. Or are we just having the time to appreciate it a little more?

It's brilliant! Our park, their park, helping to keep them mentally and physically healthy.

The FoWP will keep growing and going. We know you will too!

Keep Safe everyone –
'The Friends of Wilthorpe Park'

Supplied by Pat Braithwaite FoWP



A note from one of our sponsors Amberol

BRITAIN
IN BLOOM[®]
with the RHS

YORKSHIRE

Can we help you meet the challenges of summer 2020?

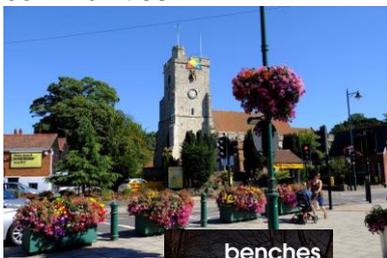


Patience Atkinson-Gregory of Amberol anticipates some different challenges for Britain in Bloom groups during the summer and autumn seasons in 2020.

With businesses, public places and the leisure industry slowly opening up, eager In Bloomers are getting out and about again. And what a positive difference it makes to our high streets, parks and open spaces.

However, many of you are facing the double challenge of keeping plants and flowers blooming during summer 2020 alongside the demands of social distancing. And who knows what the unpredictable British weather will throw at us this year after one of the driest spring times on record?

At Amberol we believe very firmly in the importance of the work that In Bloomers do: green spaces, flowers and gardening are all proven to have significant mental and physical health benefits, both for those involved in the planting and those who observe the amazing results of your hard work. In fact, the value of gardening has been recognised by the NHS and is part of their social prescribing programme, designed to raise awareness around the benefits of integrating within communities.



Britain needs In Bloom now more than ever

In the current crisis, we all need and appreciate public places and spaces more than ever, particularly those who don't have access to their own outdoor space. With everyone going through difficult times, seeing plants and flowers in bloom when out and about is such a welcome mood-booster.

That's why we enjoy supporting the Britain in Bloom regions. And this summer in particular, there are ways that we can help.



Because they are self-watering, Amberol's planters offer a way making it easier to observe social distancing by reducing the need for watering trips to once or twice a week, even in hot, dry spells. Because each

planter has a water reservoir under the soil, the water doesn't evaporate, meaning that plants can access water as needed, conserving water and ensuring optimal growth

We are increasingly being contacted by organisations looking to use different ranges of our floor standing planters to create walkways and funneling in areas with high footfall as an alternative to traditional fencing. These floral barriers certainly make an effective and attractive alternative to bollards and railings. Parade, Promenade and Oval planters have proved particularly popular choices.

Whether you use our products or not, you may find some inspiration in our newly published '[Inspired Plant Ups](#)' guide. Free to download on our website, the booklet contains examples of different displays planted up by In Bloom groups across Britain. There are some great examples and colourful photos of stunning displays. So why not take a look and see if it gets your creativity flowing?

And finally, **Britain in Bloom is all about community**; getting to know new people, supporting each other and sharing ideas. That's why we have set up our [Buzz in Bloom Facebook group](#). It's a members-only site where people can exchange advice, tips and news. It's a useful way of keeping in touch with like-minded people who share a passion for enhancing their environment and their community. Just search for Buzz in Bloom on Facebook or connect via our website.



And of course, we are always happy to offer advice and support where we can, so if you have any questions about how we can help during these difficult times, please get in touch by emailing sales@amberol.co.uk, Tel: 01773 830 930 or visiting us at www.amberol.co.uk.



Website:
www.yorkshireinbloom.co.uk



Contact:
01422 885222



Email address:
admin@yorkshireinbloom.co.uk