

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire Rose Best New Entry Award

IYN Ossett in Bloom

I would like to nominate Ossett in Bloom for the best new entry award. Although they have been going only a few months they have formed links with local schools. They have used Ossett's community Facebook pages to get a sort of dialogue going with the residents of Ossett. As a result they get people stopping to help all the time and people just coming up to them in the street to say that they have been seeing updates from them. They have established links with many of the shops in the town who water containers for them they have planted herbs in the town centre and local shops are giving out leaflets for them. The group have done planting and painted an impressive amount of street furniture. They have plans for encouraging wildlife into the town centre. Altogether an impressively vibrant and enthusiastic group who have worked wonders in the first few months, they deserve this award.

Nominated by Beatrice Myers

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire Rose Permanent Landscaping Award

Calvert Close, Kippax

Kippax – there are a number of permanent planting areas across this entry, but we were particularly impressed with the newly re-landscaped bed at the corner of Calvert Close.

Due to a road traffic incident in early 2016, the bed was trashed. The group thought long and hard about what to do; replace like for like, or redesign. The latter won out and the thought put into the selection of both perennials and shrubs, to compliment the remaining Betula utilise, has provided an eye catching display at this prominent road junction.

Nominated by Jo Birch

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire Rose Public Park Award

Homestead Park, York

Consistent high quality, and cleanliness of all hard landscaping throughout. Imaginative, inspiring and fun designed planting schemes expertly executed.

Particular mention to the new designed dementia garden. Screened by young carpinus and steel work creating a church window effect looking through, each window in Perspex with an appropriate verse text or poem to evoke an emotion or memory. Having the forethought to create 3 separate series of 5 verse so they can be rotated seasonally. Many scented and textured plants to evoke memory with sound and smell. Ease of access and seating around the giant stone globe water feature and reflective metal allium sculpture creates a circle garden inclusive to all.

The well designed and fun 'formal' garden depicting this year the theme of honeybees. Flower beds planted in the shape of a series of hexagon cells in planted with complementary bedding. The accompanying willow structures and metal bees are themselves a work of art as well as telling a tale and acting as a prop. Each will be sited in the park after the summer bedding theme has finished.

In public pick up boxes, at the entrances, colourful leaflets and educational material highlighting walks and tree trails, and impressive large colour take home material offering the visitor the opportunity to spot varying species. Including bird, bees, flies, wasps, butterflies, mammals, dragonflies and other aquatic lifeforms.

Proposed by John Stanley

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire Rose Spring Floral Award

Allerton Bywater

The excellent attention to detail of the Leeds Roads flower beds complete with stone forms and excellent plant selection and quality. A vast display of mixed spring bulbs planted together along verge sides giving a succession of differing flower colour throughout thus extending the spring flowering season. A colourful and eye catching cenotaph continue the feel throughout the village.

Proposed by John Stanley & Lynda Parkinson

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire Rose Memorial Award

Bramhope

This War Memorial that was re-furbished for the centenary is looked after by Bramhope in Bloom and is a wonderful example of the tributes we pay to those who gave their lives during the two world wars.

It was immaculately clean and tidy and provides an area for people to use, either on Remembrance Day or throughout the year as a place to sit and spend time. There is a good variety of suitable planting which is very well looked after. It is weed free, dead headed and well-watered.

Full consideration is given to environmental issues.

Nominated by Jack Mears and Jane Macaulay

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire Rose Memorial Award

Town Hall Square, Keighley

Phil and I would like to nominate Town Hall Square in Keighley for this award.

The pride the residents of Keighley take in their War Memorial is clear for all to see. They make impressive efforts to keep it in the best possible condition, even treating the bronze plaque with bees wax.

The planting around the square has lots of impact and is full of colour. The paving is absolutely weed free. Local schools are involved with the planting and the compost used is peat free.

The square is a focal point in the town centre, a lovely place for people to take lunch. Efforts are being made to bring wildlife into the square. The memorial is visited by people from as far away as Australia and has been featured in the magazine of Heritage England. The square is used on Remembrance Day for services and has been used for services connected with Passchendaele and the Somme recently and is available for use by local charities.

It is impressive that new planting of trees is taking place. This memorial is truly worthy of the award.

Nominated by Phil Young and Beatrice Myers

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire Rose Commercial Award

Pipe and Glass, South Dalton

The Pipe and Glass certainly provides the "Wow Factor" to customers and raises Gastro Pubs to new heights. The flowers and shrubs in the beautiful gardens, wonderful vegetable plot with its fence of herbs and the polytunnel, plus numerous planters and hanging baskets all tastefully and appropriately planted are all edible and used in the meals and sauces served in the restaurant - even their own hens provide the eggs used..

The rear garden plus a small wood which is awash with snowdrops, daffodils and wild garlic at different times of the year is a haven for wildlife and has beautiful sculptures of a stag and a doe made from recycled Larch - a delightful setting for regular cookery schools held outdoors.

Recycling and care for the environment is paramount with sustainable planting - many evergreens and a 500 years old Yew hedge - recycling of all plants, composting and water butts for watering - no pesticides are used.

The owners and staff of The Pipe and Glass have a passion for using plants and flowers in cooking and as part of a healthy life and caring for their environment - Very well done to everyone - a stunning entry.

Nominated by John and Joy Smith

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire Rose Conservation and Wildlife Award

University of Bradford

I would like to nominate Bradford University for this award. I am afraid I don't have good pictures as it absolutely poured down all the day I was judging, dull isn't it! However the commitment the University have towards caring for the environment is amazing. Their ambition is to be at the cutting edge of environmental care. Their aim is to send nothing to landfill at all, in time and at the moment all their food waste is turned into compost by the amazing rocket composters.

All the planting is peat free and any mulch used comes from trees on campus and produced by themselves. They carry out tree surveys with the aim of managing and retaining the tree stock of the campus. They are giving preference to native species in all their planting. Butterfly bars are being planted with a abundance of flowers of various types. Double flowered cultivars are being avoided because of the lack of nectar. They are bringing in areas where the grass is kept longer, uncut for the benefit of wildlife. Leaf piles and log piles are in place and owl boxes and bat roosting boxes are being placed in trees. Native fruit and seed bearing shrubs and trees are being planted,

Where possible standing dead wood is being retained to provide habitats for fungi and invertebrates. The University has worked with local schools planting hedgerows on site. Wildlife surveys are carried out. The University works hard to involve students and encourage them to be aware of and to care about wildlife and the memory of their efforts will go with their students into the future.

A generation of students who care about the wildlife and may go on to influence students of their own is a wonderful thing. Bradford University richly deserves this award and I hope you will look kindly on it.

Nominated by Beatrice Myers

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire Rose Conservation and Wildlife Award

Wortley Walled Garden

This garden is an inspiration to those who aspire to become organic gardeners and those who are already heading in that direction.

This garden became certified and registered as an organic garden since 2006. The ethos being that nothing is bought in, all seeds are created from their own stock, companion planting is used in abundance, old fruit and vegetables are proudly taking pride of place. Compost is made on site as is their own fertilisers.

The historical aspect of the garden, built in 1790's and was a Georgian kitchen garden for the Hall, is not forgotten. It is being caringly brought back through small reclamations being added to rebuild the walls.

The garden is a true labour of love and respect for the elements and nature working as one.

Nominated by Sue Hoyle

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire Rose Young Persons Award

Old Earth School, Elland

What a happy, hive of gardening activity met us at Old Earth School - a wonderful school who's ethos is to provide children of all ages with a very happy, caring education.

The Headteacher Paul Reynolds gave us very impressive details of this Eco School's environmental and eco policy and achievements to add to their portfolio of wonderful photographs of the children gardening not only in the school but also in the community helping to plant new trees on hillsides to help prevent future flooding. Children and teachers are all knowledgeable and very enthusiastic, with every one of the 482 pupils planting a trough of vegetable to take home – all grown by the gardening club from seeds purchased with a grant from Suma Wholefoods, an organic food retailer.

New areas and gardens are constantly evolving with wonderful wildflower beds, lots of bug huts, vegetable plots growing produce for the kitchens, beautiful, colourful and self-seeding flower beds, evergreen planting giving year round interest, repositioned tranquil memorial area with seating and a water feature set amongst herbaceous beds – all with integrated artwork and plant, bee and ladybird identification signs. Recycling and conservation is of paramount importance, using cardboard, fabrics, tyres and plastic – even a greenhouse made from recycled bottles, a “mini Sculpture Park” from old coke cans, a play area built by parents and the community from old pipes and flowers, plastic benches made by Iplas from recycled bottle tops. In addition a wind turbine was purchased with a grant from B & Q, solar panels have been fitted, water recycled, a bio-mass boiler produces heat using wood chippings and there is even an amazing, recycled double-decker bus used as a library and art club.

Huge congratulations to the far seeing and inspirational Mr Reynolds and Mr Anderson, all the very enthusiastic staff and the delightful pupils – a wonderful example of educating future generations to care for our planet .

Nominated by Joy and John Smith

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire Rose Young Persons Award

Nafferton Primary School

Under the wonderful guidance of the Head Teacher and staff, each year group is involved in gardening activities. The pupils are enthusiastic in naming the plants, how they were grown and explaining the benefits to the environment. Gardening is integrated into the ethos of the school.

Flowers, vegetable and fruit are grown and used in the kitchen and funding has been acquired for a greenhouse, henhouse and a child friendly kitchen to prepare and cook the produce. There are also plans for a forest school and many lessons already take place outdoors or in the innovative Yurt and wigwams in the school grounds.

Already an Eco School and very impressive winner of the National Water Explorers competition, the school has many new projects planned for next year and beyond and the pupils enthusiastically contribute to their planning, funding from the school fair and very generous sponsorship from Lissett Windfarm, B & Q and a Millennium Committee grant, ensure the success of this 3 to 5 year plan.

Parents and grandparents are very involved and donate their time for projects such as building a magical playhouse, a bug hut from recycled pallets and giving plants for a lovely Easter garden.

The school is environmentally friendly with its wild flower areas, pond and mini beast hotels, compost and recycling bins

Nominated by Linda Casper and Joy Smith

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire in Bloom Community Award Small Community

Oxspring Primary School

The young people, staff and parents of this small village school have to be highly commended for the work they undertake within their own small community. The young people get involved with planting vegetable troughs in the village. It was extremely clear on the day of my visit how much the school and community blend as one, something that can at times be rare.

The young people are very knowledgeable about wildlife and conservation, the school garden is packed with vegetables, fruit and plants, they also have bird and bat boxes, a living classroom and outdoor areas for teaching. This knowledge is taken home and into the community.

Nominated by Sue Hoyle

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire in Bloom Community Award Small Community

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Station are a fine example of a very friendly cohesive group determined to enhance their local station and its surroundings. With 60 colourful planters, newly developing gardens and an evergreen and perennial garden at the entrance, commuters receive a warm welcome. The Bronte garden is a delight with flowerbeds planters and a recycled Slingsby platform trolley and travelling trunks overflowing with beautiful annuals and information boards about the Bronte's and the plants and flowers they sketched or wrote about - plus the re-sited War Memorial where the Station's annual Remembrance service will now be held.

Plants are all grown organically with no pesticides and all watering is done from very impressive rainwater tanks and grey water and beer run off water from the Jubilee Tea Rooms.

The group have links with scouts, local schools and business, funding comes from Council grants and business support and sponsorship of planters plus community events such as the Annual Carol singing which are very well publicised by 4 large banners and local newspaper coverage.

Through the work of this group the local community have a station and surrounding area and rail users are welcomed by beautiful, well maintained planters, a wealth of local history on the platforms and the wonderful Jubilee Refreshment Rooms which in addition to providing lovely food is a "Mini Museum of railway history - a great credit to all involved.

Nominated by Joy and John Smith

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire in Bloom Community Award Small Community

RAF Dishforth

RAF Dishforth – from the first meeting with representatives from the RHS community team in early 2017, this community have come together to create not only some incredible gardening projects, that they have taken it into the wider community, being invited to both the Harrogate spring show and Harlow Carr summer fair. The project has galvanised the RAF Dishforth wives and children, as well as the staff, focusing on supporting one another, being creative and passing on skills, which they can build on as they move from base to base. This is an incredible story of a gardening dream coming to fruition...

Nominated by Jo Birch

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire in Bloom Community Award Small Community

The Rainbow Community Garden

The Rainbow Community Garden is a wonderful colourful haven developed by Jeannie's incredible vision and determination for the whole community over many years.

Cared for by 2 part time workers who are funded by the Lottery and The Rank Foundation plus volunteers, the garden is constantly changing and evolving and is used by the whole community, including children of all ages, NHS referrals, people with disabilities and training groups from schools and colleges. There are paths for wheelchairs, raised beds, a greenhouse growing tomatoes and grapes plus a small woodland area with bird feeders, a bug hut and painted logs for children to sit on or lift to hunt for bugs! Conservation and recycling is important - with trees planted by The Woodland Trust - as is the sensory garden with secluded seating areas all integrated into a wonderful garden filled with colourful pots planted and painted by the visitors.

Volunteers and apprentice groups have varnished or painted seats and tables and replaced the wooden tops on the raised beds Wilmott Dixons provided roofing for The Gardeners rest eating area and Tesco have provided reclaimed sleepers and a community worker to help make the new vegetable plots. A delightful willow tunnel leads to the newly acquired garden area which was cleared of brambles and rubbish and now has donated seats where community events will be held- another amazing space for the community to get together.

Congratulations are due to all who have created this delightful oasis, especially to Jeannie.

John and Joy Smith

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire Rose Community Champion Award

Toney Greaves, Barwick in Elmet

Tony is a stalwart of Barwick in Bloom and the village community. Despite his advancing years and severe hearing disability he continues to do a tremendous amount for the local community.

He is a gentle unassuming character who quietly undertakes a multitude of tasks around the village, more often than not working on his own initiative when he sees something which needs doing. Whilst he enjoys the banter and comradeship of Barwick in Bloom it is very much in his nature to work tirelessly in the background never seeing recognition for anything which he has done.

He has been a keen and very valued member of the Barwick in Bloom team since its inception 20 years ago and has been involved in almost everything which they have done. In addition he was the 'ride on mover man' for many years and in between times is always out spraying, painting and maintaining street furniture, setting out seats for events and generally doing all sorts of little environmental jobs in our village. In his 'spar' time he also voluntarily looked after the village hall and its grounds for many years.

During the last 12 months re received the Girl Guides 'Thanks Badge' for his efforts in helping the local guides with some of their environmental activities and we feel that recognition of his efforts by Yorkshire in Bloom with the presentation of a Discretionary Award would be very much appreciated and absolutely justified.

Nominated by Melvyn Riley

Discretionary Citation

The Yorkshire Rose Community Champion Award

Catherine Baxter Woodlands Community Garden

Woodlands Community Garden is a young project which was borne out of a chance occurrence of a young mother chasing after her energetic toddler. She happened across a large area of land at the back of the church building and saw the possibilities. In a relatively short space of time a beautiful garden has been established and is used by many community groups and people of all ages. The inspiration behind this project is Catherine Baxter. She has organised an established programme of events in the garden, and connected to the garden and she leads a band of willing volunteers who have made their mark in their local community. But it is Catherine who is making it work and she thoroughly deserves this nomination.

Nominated by Sheila Johnson