



# Judges Notes for Summer 2018

## Category C6 – Parks, Gardens, Cemeteries, Public Grounds

### All Saints Church, Barwick in Elmet      Silver Gilt

#### Overall Impression

The sustainable planting is good supplemented with bedding to give good summer colour and the In Bloom group have constructed all the planters. Plants are supplied by the In Bloom group plus church members and spares are sold to raise funds. All the churchyard is well maintained and incorporates a bug hotel and a wild life area. The area is totally litter free.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Evidence of active engagement with the users and would the use of social media potentially make younger members of the public aware of the possibility of practical involvement.

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### Barwick Methodist Church

### Platinum

#### Overall Impression

The planters and floral bedding were excellent and well maintained, the osteospermum were super giving a very natural appearance. There is a very committed team of 6 ladies who have a weekly maintenance regime and very much have the church at heart. The sustainable planting is also very good.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- A little information on the history of the church and its place in the history of Barwick would be a good addition.

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## **Bridgeholme Cricket Club      Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

Wow! What a fabulous site. All these flowers grown and planted by just one person. We were so pleased to meet Sharon and in awe of her energy, enthusiasm and commitment to grow over 3000 plants from seed let alone create some stunning and imaginative floral displays and to keep them in peak condition through this very dry summer.

In addition to the fantastic displays of annual bedding located around specially constructed memorial seating areas and the score board there were also some lovely areas of perennial and shrub planting with carefully selected foliage mixtures.

The whole site was clean and the cricket square and outfield were very well maintained.

There was a limited amount of wildlife habitat mainly consisting of the boundary between the site and the adjacent field, but we are told that there are plans to address this in the future with the introduction of a wildflower rockery on the bank.

Bridgeholme Cricket Club certainly has its own identity with seating areas named after club members and the beautiful planting giving it a really welcoming feel making it a destination not just for cricketers but also for people walking along the adjacent canal path.

Sharon and her partner must also be congratulated for their tenacity in bringing the site back to standard after some very severe flood damage.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Time cutting of the grass bank to encourage wildflowers. Cut before the end of April and again after any flowers have seeded in late August.
- Consider sowing Yellow Rattle on the bank to suppress grass growth to enable wild flowers to establish.
- Consider working with Todmorden in Bloom, selling them your excess bedding plants and perennials to raise funds for the cricket club.
- The use of more hardy perennials in the floral displays around the seating areas would create more permanent displays and reduce the amount of bedding plants needed, we do however appreciate that you may not want to do this as the pride and enjoyment in growing the plants was obvious.

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## **Burncross Gateway Garden      Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

Burncross Action Team have undertaken this ambitious project, to convert a former highways depot into a wild flower area, using floral mix seeds. The project has been on the to do list for many years but gaining access had been a problem and delayed the project. Importantly a number of schools were involved with aspects from design to actually building the garden. A full survey of all residents was also undertaken, which as well as thoughts on what to do with the area led to help with some aspects of the work.

Of particular note is the fact that all the concrete kerbs and other road making materials have been re-cycled into the garden. The group was able to draw on advice and physical help from Gavin Hardy (RHS) as a greening Great Britain project.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Congratulations for achieving this and the level of involvement from the community is excellent.
- As the planting develops it will need to be monitored to keep the desired species mix, and remove invasive plants..
- Should you be able or lucky enough to find suitable person to record the wild life on site, that may prove to be of interest..
- Again it is if the opportunity ever occurs to further develop the information boards, it may be worth considering doing so.

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## **Carlton Marsh Nature Reserve          Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

To an untrained eye Carleton Marsh Nature Reserve looks like a piece of beautiful natural countryside which has always been in existence. No one would know this beautiful area once had a railway line and goods yard running through it and the site is adjacent to one of the largest scrap yards in the country. The site has been carefully managed and improved by the local authority, local agencies and a very active volunteer group who through their hard work and attention to detail for nearly half a century. The scrap yard is screened by a belt of trees and the railway bed is now the main footpath giving magnificent views of the newly improved scrape or shallow pond which has been made to attract wildfowl and wading birds which can be seen clearly from the specially constructed hide. At the side of parts of the old railway track in open areas grow rare wildflowers which were a joy to see. The volunteers maintain a mesh to prevent unwanted items washing into the reserve which is vital to prevent pollution.

Birds are ringed and recorded, butterflies and moths are monitored during the night on several occasions during the year.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Visitors to the area can rest on the benches overlooking the wading ponds and sit quietly watching nature in all its glory.
- It is good to see all the different groups of volunteers and experts working together to maintain this wonderful habitat. Much work is being done to clear encroaching roads and scrub in the wetland area.
- Detailed record keeping dates to the 1970's and is kept up to date which helps to predict the increase or decline of different species of wildlife. Well done to everyone concerned.
- One concerning factor is that the group is not permitted to manage trees on the top side of the old railway bed which means the magnificent wild flower areas are in danger of being whipped out as the shade from the trees increases. The sooner this matter is resolved the better it will be for the whole area

## Churchfields Peace Garden

## Platinum

### Overall Impression

This tranquil park area was the former St Mary's burial ground located close to Barnsley town Centre. It has been transformed into a delightful small public space, very well cared for and popular for local residents and town centre workers enjoying a short break. The park furniture, seating and interpretation signs are maintained well and in tip top order, they contribute significantly to the inviting appeal of the gardens. The volunteer's team who support the activities in the park led by Doreen Cureton, demonstrate commitment and endeavour which has over the years through supportive donations and funding, resulted in this special place. The Light Lines memorial art work commemorating the Barnsley Pals from WW1, is now located in the gardens and has given an even greater sense of place and significance to this public space. It was a real pleasure to visit these gardens and deserves the plaudits it receives.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The loss of the wooden sculpture from the gardens could be seen as an opportunity to bid for a more permanent replacement, possibly commemorating the anniversary of WW1 which takes place later this year.
- It is appreciated that the Light Lines memorial was initially designed and installed as a temporary piece of art work before being relocated to the garden. However as it seems appropriate for its current location, consideration needs to be given in future years to a work programme for the provision and replacement of more substantial supports as the current ones already show signs of corrosion.
- The central raised bed plantings, the seasonally planted hanging baskets, new fern bed and tree canopy all add natural colour to the park and make it more inviting. Adding small areas of perennial plantings near each garden entrance would further enhance the appeal of the gardens. Particularly so in the autumn winter period when the tree canopy has faded. These added plants would go some way to replacing the seasonal beds removed to facilitate the installation of the Light Lines art work.

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## Churwell Environmental Volunteers

## Platinum

### Overall Impression

Churwell Environmental Volunteers contribute significantly to see maintenance and management of 4 ha of woodland and have undertaken many projects within the area making it welcoming to all age groups and members of the local community.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- A long term management plan [say 25 years or more] for the area may give a good framework for future projects and development of the area
- Whilst it is accepted pruning work on the trees is restricted there were a number of large dead limbs on some of the trees which where over pathways which require attention.
- The area around the former coal wagon may benefit from some refurbishment

## Cliffe Castle

## Platinum

### Overall Impression

The extensive restoration of the park has recently been completed, with just a few outstanding issues to resolve. This included the replacement of the extensive glasshouse, with a distinctive glass dome. The glass provides space for cacti, semi-tropical plantings and a display area for plants and exhibitions. There is also a new cafe and new small animal area.

A pond has been re-formed in the park by following the lines of the original one, that was uncovered once excavation started, This is complemented by the restoration of two large fountains. The refurbishment is excellent and has given the park a new lease of life which is demonstrated by increasing visitor numbers. Congratulations to everyone involved in the project

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The prolonged drought is possibly going to result in the loss of some new planted shrubs, ideally these areas should be identified and action taken to replant in the autumn.
- When and if possible implement a program to replace the vases
- Continue to support the Friends group and other voluntary groups who work in the park.

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## Cross Flatts Park

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

The whole park looked well maintained, tidy and free of litter. It is an area which is well used by the community for events. We were shown round by enthusiastic volunteers and amongst them were young people who rated the newly installed play 10 out of 10.

The Multi Games areas (MUGAs) were very popular along with the tennis courts.

The two bowling green provide a year round facility, one for summer, the other for winter.

A good start has been made on the creation of a community orchard which no doubt will be popular with local residents.

The Love Lock tree sculpture is impressive and will act as a focal point of interest.

The Millennium garden is well designed and has many interesting plants and shows little signs of recent problems. The history board has many interesting facts about the area.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- You might wish to consider some wild life areas in suitable locations in the park.

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## Dearne Valley Country Park

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

This country park covers an area of 80 hectares, much of it woodland, also some stretches of water including the banks of River Dearne. There is a myriad of paths linking each area of the park and access to Barnsley Town Centre is a short walk away.

Although the park is the responsibility of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, resource limitations have impacted heavily on maintenance frequencies. Maintenance is now shared with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT) who with their own staff, help from volunteers and grants and donations have been transforming the park.

Clean up days with volunteers have helped clear bags of litter and debris from the river, woodlands and park areas. An orchard has been planted, pond clearance work carried out and differing grass maintenance regimes put in place to promote wildlife and habitats for invertebrates. It's safe to say that without the sterling efforts made by the YWT staff and volunteers much of the park would still be in a neglected state and uninviting, very well done.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It was evident that a number of ambitious projects had been successfully completed and more were programmed for the future. To support the submission of further grant applications it would seem timely and appropriate at this stage to develop a comprehensive management plan for the park. This will ensure the hard work and energy put into halting the decline the park has experienced forms a legacy for future generations.
- The formation of a Friends of Dearne Valley Country Park group would further stimulate local interest and ownership into the park, and help support the year round activities already taking place. More importantly a social media site for the park community would be established which would then link with the wide range of organisations already associated with the park.
- The incredible biodiversity in the park needs to be celebrated, particularly when realising the origins of areas of the park stems from industrial wasteland. Increasing the interpretation in the park and formation of more trails and hides needs to be considered.

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## Elsecar Park and Nature Reserve

## Gold

### Overall Impression

It was a delight to visit this well-maintained park and meet the dedicated gardening staff and very committed group of volunteers along with Jo Birch from Barnsley Parks Services. They are all real ambassadors for the park and I hope are much appreciated both in person and on social media. There was a lovely atmosphere throughout the site, which was recently given a Green Flag award.

There is an excellent range of facilities catering for all ages with an emphasis on activity and appreciating and preserving the natural environment. It was clear that trees and hedgerows

are managed primarily for wildlife. The many memorial benches and excellent caf  allow anyone to relax and enjoy.

In the lower park the bandstand is a lovely focal point which has been freshly painted in colours associated with local history. The planting in this ornamental area is the most traditional and is well maintained and the terraced garden with its excellent walling provides a good backdrop and habitat for wildlife including weasels and grass snakes. It was pleasing to see the rockery and footpath system opened up in the Dell and the Quiet Zone childrens play provision with picnic area here too.

There is much community involvement with supported internships from Barnsley College, the Community Pay Back group and the Tidy Team from Barnsley Council. Signage is very clear and inviting and waste is managed with sustainability a priority. Though the toilet provision is ageing, it is spotless.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Remove dead plants in the bandstand area before judging as this is a focal point
- Consider repainting the TOILET signage in Wentworth green to maintain unity throughout the park.

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## **Fishpond Wood, Bewerley**

## **Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

Fishpond Woods is a phenomenal environmental project, the whole ethos is to create a Natural Health Service which helps all levels of the community. Peter, the owner, has worked with Natural England to assess and produce a long term regeneration plan for the woods. The area covers 25 acres and has been listed by AONB as a flagship heritage site. We were impressed with the huge amount of work that has already been undertaken and how, by working with school children who had been excluded, Peter has been able to harness and encourage abilities not readily seen in the school environment. Also help from individuals with special needs has also improved their skills and abilities along, no doubt, with a rise in their confidence and self-esteem.

This project is long term and it is clear it is a dedicated and passionate endeavour for Peter. We commend his commitment and philosophy to a Natural Health Service, the benefits have already been seen by individuals who have volunteered.

The late 18th century Ice House that has been restored was fascinating - as were the European cave spiders!

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Fishpond Woods are a work in progress, continue with the removal of the sycamores and rhododendrons, and replacing them with native species - Oak, Beech, Birch, Alder etc. as well as orchard fruit and nut trees to help sustain the wildlife. We liked how you were using the wood to make benches, tables and planters and also selling logs and charcoal.
- We were impressed with the huge amount of work already undertaken and the long term prospects for this wonderful environmental project. Whilst we understand Peter allows

the local Outdoor Centre and Schools to use the woods free of charge, we were unsure how Peter was encouraging the wider community to become involved.

- We wonder if there are further funding streams available for you to draw upon? We believe there may be potential to explore grant funding which we believe may be available for this type of project. Please ignore if you are already in the process of accessing and or applying.

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## **Foxwood Residents Association      Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

This is a welcome return for the Foxwood Residents Association. The Fox is back. The community is pulling together to improve this area on the outskirts of York.

Despite the size of the group it does well co ordinating events throughout Foxwood from walks ,litterpicks,garden competitions but most of all involving the community.

Not the easiest of areas to maintain but community pull together to get things done.

The residents association should be proud of what they have achieved. Come on Foxwood residents and get involved.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Consider removing some trees or removing lower limbs from trees surrounding park so that it can easily be viewed into and prevent anti social activities in park.
- Replace dog fouling signs at entrances to park.
- Create wild flower meadow by Community centre but take advise prior to any wild flower seed sowing or plug planting.
- Continue with garden competition around Foxwood and get residents involved with the work residents association are doing.
- Continue to maintain herbacious and mixed borders around community centre, May be worth reducing and splitting some plants this autumn to help improve beds and use surplus plants elsewhere.
- Due to size of group consert efforts around community centre and continue to involve community payback and other voluntary groups on bigger projects.
- Evidence spring bulbs in leaflets for future years.

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## **Friends of Cudsworth Park                      Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The friends of Cudsworth Park work closely with the local authority in the beautifully laid out park. Created for the benefit of the miners and their families in the early part of last century funded by a levy of 1d a ton on the coal produced from the local pit. There are well maintained avenues of lime trees which gave welcome shade on the day of judging as well as flowerbeds, grassland and the old bowling green which has been turned into a peace garden which now contains a war memorial researched by the local history group. The



Friends group organise gala's, Brass in the Park concerts and Tea in the park events along with regular litter picks Tree planting and winter and summer bedding planting.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The judge was impressed by the the avenue of well maintained trees and flowerbed which had been looked after in the dry weather.
- External funding had been obtained from a local supermarket for a new swing and there were interpretation signs at the park entrance.
- The park was clean and tidy. It was a credit to the volunteers and local authority who are doing their best to look after local communities in these times of national budget cuts.
- A credit to all concerned

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## **Friends of Dean Road & Manor      Platinum Road Cemetery**

### **Overall Impression**

There is a true sense of history and respect in the work that the Friends do in the Cemetery. A cohesive and committed group of Friends with a sense of direction and love for all areas of the Cemetery.

We were impressed by the Memorial Restoration project and the work being undertaken to restore the graves through out the cemetery and to provide information as to the different graves by sections. The Friends working with Community Payback are to be congratulated on this vast task.

The information about the different graves and headstones was fascinating and the Friends care about the souls in the Cemetery and the environment that they are in.

The planting of new appropriate trees in the Cemetery to complement the mature and often rare trees, is to be commended.

The information boards throughout, the robin marker trail, newsletter, webpage, educational visits and monthly volunteer activities demonstrate your commitment to involve the wider public.

Your fundraising sales every Sunday are a popular way of raising funds and spreading the word of what you do. Your plans to restore the Chapel as a community hub is ambitious but a worthwhile future plan.

We were surprised by the Secret Garden - pond, ferns and bog garden - this should prove a haven for wildlife. The stone entrance to the Secret Garden is excellent.

There is no doubt that you are making a difference working together and in partnership with others to meet your aims to improve the appearance of the cemetery and develop its historical, environment and educational potential.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- We look forward to seeing the results of your future wildlife projects, including the hedgehog houses and additional planting to attract bees and other wildlife.

- It would have been interesting to see some photographs of some of the spring planting you told us about, including the miniature red tulips which you have planted in remembrance of the 1st World War.

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## **Friends of Filey Parks**

## **Platinum & Category Winner**

### **Overall Impression**

These Green Flag status gardens, with plenty of seating to enjoy the amazing sea views, are looked after by Friends of Filey Parks, Tidy Filey and the Council. The people from the offices in the Evron centre look after rockery and plants in wall and there are picnic tables under shade from the trees which have bird boxes fitted. This leads into the Crescent Gardens where there is a small enclosed herb garden, a riot of colour from the bedding plants around the bandstand and well designed island beds for all year interest known as 'Ronnie's Garden' in memory of a local volunteer. The walk is popular and most appreciated by visitors to Filey. After a brick path maze, we enter the Glen Gardens with its leisure facilities, rare trees, wooden sculptures of bears and badgers, bird and insect trails, and daffodils in Spring. Events are held here most months and these are publicised in leaflets to be found around the town and hotels, tourist information board and Filey Bay News.

Monthly working parties help to keep these beautiful gardens in excellent condition.

Catherine and her team along with with Filey Bay Initiative, U3A and the Payback teams are to be congratulated. Notice boards around the park also give information including contact numbers of public services and how to volunteer.

Funding comes from the Council, Princes Trust, wishing well donations, Lady Mayoressâ€™™ fund, Rotary, Lions and Freemasons. The Friends have plans for future developments.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Good luck with your future plans
- The bed with the bee sculpture could be planted as a nectar bar for bees and butterflies.
- A 'help yourself' sign or a information board about the herbs could be installed

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## **Friends of Holbeck Moor**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Holbeck Moor is a definite asset giving the opportunity for families without gardens to utilise this open space for pleasure and leisure. Despite high usage the area was litterfree not only on the grassland but also the skate board park, childrens play area and the multi-use games area (MUGA). There was however dog fouling on the areas adjacent to sapling planting. The group raise funds by selling plants at the annual gala and the Holbeck in Bloom sign on the moor is eye-catching and will raise public awareness. Previously overgrown areas have been cleared and seats and raised beds introduced.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The proposed wild flower area in the corner of the moor will be a colourful addition.
- Hopefully the saplings supplied by the Woodlands Wildlife Trust will establish when the rains come!!!
- Would additional bins encourage the use of these and reduce the dog fouling?
- The pergola for the grapevine at the children's play area would add interest and your idea of the provision of picnic tables is very sound and would add to the many worthwhile facilities on the moor.
- Good luck with the project to establish a bluebell wood.

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## **FRIENDS OF LOCKE PARK**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

This beautifully situated park is maintained by dedicated gardening staff and a very welcoming small group of committed volunteers who meet monthly.

There is a very good variety of activities and events throughout the year, including weekly running and companion cycling for the disabled, to attract the general public in to make full use of this local facility. There is a popular refurbished café near the Play Space area with its train theme linked to local celebrity, Joseph Locke. Altogether they provide a very positive atmosphere. The trees are very well maintained and provide a lovely structure. The Alphabet steps are a good feature. The Friends Group already has an action plan to improve the planted areas inside the main entrance and introduce a water feature.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Prioritise the removal of weeds in the beds near the main entrance to give a better aesthetic impression of the park and reduce the seed bank there.
- Open and reduce the shrubbery in this area and near Joseph Locke's statue to invite curiosity and lead visitors to explore more of the park
- Introduce a water feature
- Underplant the rose beds beneath the Tower to make more impact at this amazing site
- Provide a small information leaflet for the judges

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## **Friends of Millhouses Park**

## **Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

This wonderful park in Sheffield is supported by a successful and long-running partnership between Sheffield City Council and the Friends of Millhouses Park. It is set along a section of the valley of the River Sheaf and encompasses a huge range of facilities for all ages (eg play park, boating lake, tennis courts, MUGA, bowling green). Also within the park in appropriate locations are open spaces, formal bedding, areas planted to support local

wildlife, a sensory garden and many trees and shrubs. Interpretation boards dotted around the park provide information on features of interest or about the plants/wildlife

The Friends group have a core of about 20 regulars, but have a much larger membership they can call on when required. They have excellent community links with local schools, Rotary Club, Scouts/guides, University etc and local businesses including those who operate within the park. They have been extremely successful in fundraising over the years through events, grants and sponsorship, allowing them to contribute to both the horticultural and leisure elements within the park. Heritage Lottery funding has allowed them to renovate some of the old Mill buildings after which the park is named. They also support the Council gardeners with planting and maintenance of some areas.

On the day of the visit (a weekday in school termtime), the park was a hive of activity with sports groups, walkers, families, classes from a local school. At weekends visitors come from all over Sheffield and beyond. A good measure of its success!

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Two websites can be found for Millhouses Park, a main website which seemed to be somewhat out of date in places, and a Friends website which was a bit better in this respect but was somewhat more confusing because of the intrusion of advertisements. Might there be an argument for merging the two sites (there is after all quite a lot of overlap) and ensuring they are kept up to date?
- The holly hedge at the North End of the park is likely to require some re-planting after this summer's drought (the staff and Friends are aware of this). Hopefully it will be possible to establish plants in the in-fill sites, but in order to prevent further losses it may be worth considering either containerised plants and/or undertaking some watering if need be.

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## **Friends of Monk Bretton Memorial      Gold Garden**

### **Overall Impression**

The Friends of Monk Bretton Memorial Garden are a perfect example of a small community working together. Councillors, volunteers and youngsters from St Helens Academy are all working together to maintain and enhance this beautiful garden in the centre of the village. There is a real sense of pride in the achievements made and also in the history and heritage that the garden commemorates. The group are to be commended for using local craftsmen to design and install the archway and the poppies adorning the railings.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Continue to research the lives of the men and women commemorated on the memorial pillars and record for future generations. Would it be possible to look for some grant funding to produce an information board summarising your findings.
- There is a wide variety of shrubs in the garden giving all year round interest and colour. Continue with your winter pruning programme to ensure that some of the shrubs don't get out of hand.

- The bottle brush plants at the entrance to the garden were a most unexpected find in a Yorkshire village and in the hot summer heat they were thriving. Perhaps the group would consider replacing the rhododendrons in the corners which were clearly not happy.

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## **Friends of Monk Bretton Park      Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

It was lovely to meet the very enthusiastic Friends of Monk Bretton Park who clearly love their park and work extremely hard to maintain it to this very high standard. The planting of the trees and borders over the years has enhanced the open space. The group work well in partnership with the local community organising events in the park and the increase in people using the area has meant that there is a corresponding decrease in anti social behaviour. Fund raising is well covered from a variety of sources and the Brass on the Grass event is bringing people together and enhancing community spirit.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Consider grouping all your bedding into one area to create greater impact. Maybe additional perennials would be more suited to the hosta bed in the middle of the park.
- Continue to paint out graffiti whenever necessary as you are doing.
- The Facebook page will make a big difference to the number and age profile of the people you are reaching.
- Continue to update your 5 year management plan. This will ensure that your plans for the park are relevant and achievable and that volunteers and the local community are all working together.
- There was evidence of bird boxes and wood piles for habitats but maybe the group would like to consider some form of information boards/notices to explain the purpose of these.
- The Friends have volunteers who have lived in the area all their lives. Perhaps the group could consider an oral history project to capture all the memories of the park for future generations.

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## **Peasholm Park Friends      Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

This is a committed group of friends who love this park, with a true sense of direction, and this was demonstrated throughout our walk through the Park.

We were shown improvements that have been undertaken such as the restoration of the Lily Pond, appropriate planting along the woodland Glen, protection of the vast tree collection and wildlife.

Your future plans are well thought out, such as installing the original Dancing Girl statue and more wildlife carvings, with the aim to enhance the Park whilst retaining the original ethos, to encourage people to use the park and provide enjoyment to all those who do.

There is an abundance of wildlife in the Glen and the planting in this area is flourishing as proved by the lack of distress in a difficult year.

The notice boards provided by the Friends and the tree trail leaflet are both informative and interesting and give visitors a sense of the place and history.

The formal floral displays in the pleasure park were excellent and we were impressed by the Dahlia Beds. We were treated to the Naval Warfare Battle on the lake and the improvements in this area are impressive and appreciated by the many people in the Park even this early in the season. Your fundraising, educational efforts and family fun days are excellent. Congratulations on all your hard work.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- We look forward to seeing the improvements you have told us about and would encourage you to take photographs of your efforts to show future judges, and perhaps a short diary of events and work carried out by the Friends.

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## **Friends of Roundhay Park**

## **Platinum**

#### **Overall Impression**

The conversion from the original derelict site to the Friends' Garden we saw is an outstanding achievement.

The plant selection is excellent as proved by the lack of distress in a difficult year.

The natural methods of pest control is proving successful with a natural balance having been achieved to maintain control. A cohesive and committed group of friends with a sense of direction and love both for the Friends' Garden and Roundhay Park.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- We look forward to seeing the maturity of recent planting in the new bed area you have started at the entrance to the Park opposite the Friends Garden.

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## **Friends of Sandringham Park**

## **Gold**

#### **Overall Impression**

A successful community project. Once an area that suffered from vandalism this hub has been transformed for all that live in this area. The community group engaged with all age groups to create an area to suit all - and it works well. They have worked to include lots of different groups including young offenders to create this safe holding that has an amazing calm feel to it.

Funding from lots of different organisations have been crucial to the creation of this area, and funds are still being raised to maintain and progress.

A community fun day is held every year in this old Quarry site, which holds lunch, games and activities for all to enjoy.

The have been working with the RHS to create a perennial border to attract wildlife into the area. A bee bar is planned for next year, as is a 'den' area!

A wonderful well loved and cared for community space with huge potential!

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The newly planted perennial corner is fantastic work in progress and will benefit from more planting.
- There is huge scope to create a wonderful wildlife habitat here, with bug hotels, bug trap doors, habitat boxes and appropriate planting.
- It would be nice to see in addition to bugs and beasties an area created for local bird life, perhaps feeding stations and plants with seeds and berries.
- The addition of wildflowers in the borders surrounding would be a fantastic way to create diversity.

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## **Friends of South Cliff Gardens      Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

Excellent floral displays throughout the area of South Cliff, both formal and informal, with a good range of appropriate planting and excellent maintenance and care throughout which invites exploration of the South Cliffs.

The Shuttleworth Gardens were a complete surprise and a lovely safe place for all those who have discovered the gardens. A great deal of thought has gone into how the gardens are maintained and improved whilst keeping the original ethos of the gardens. The placing of the beautiful gates at the Miniature Garden to provide an ideal viewing platform for children was inspired and works well.

Throughout our visit we were given a good sense of history and heritage of the South Cliffs. You are to be commended on the work that the Friends do and your work in partnership with all those who have an interest in the area. Looking after 52 acres of coastal gardens is not a small task and you have involved the local community in your efforts. Your attitude of resolving any issues by finding alternative solutions to 'do not' signs is to be commended. Your fundraising is impressive and your plans for the future are well thought out be they smaller projects or much larger projects such as your Parks for People Bid.

Excellent communication of all your efforts including a regular newsletter, Open Evenings and other events such as litter picks, plantings, gardening days. Your information maps and other leaflets are colourful and informative.

We were impressed by the Rose Garden, Holbeck Gardens, the 'open windows' in the shelter near the Clock Tower, the boat floral display, the Prince of Wales Gardens and the Council's formal cliff top floral displays. There is no doubt that the work the Friends do has enhanced the area and you are to be congratulated.





### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The Friends group and the park have already developed close links to Wilthorpe Junior School. It could be beneficially useful for both to have the school pupils develop a series of trails around the park, both for science information and exercise. These could then be posted on the group's facebook page.
- Exceptional work has been carried out to improve a number of features in the park and this work needs to link into a three to five year plan, so that on completion of the priority work the group continues to develop and improve the park whether it be new features or major events or activities which invariably have longer lead times.
- The formal areas of the park have so far rightfully received the attention and enthusiasm of the group. It would seem prudent at this time in the venture that the third of the park at its northern end abutting the railway line receives consideration. Linking with organisations such as the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, who again have much experience and support with other similar organisations would see the opportunities offered by what is a large tract of land realised in the future.

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## **Friends of Wombwell Cemetery      Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

The Friends have done an amazing job and continue to do so! The cemetery is kept to a high standard and there is so much history, heritage and understanding on show. the restored chapel is stunning and can be used for many different events for the community. The knowledge of the volunteers, led by Karen is very good and their commitment is shown in every aspect of the cemetery

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Consider re planting near to the gate the bed under the notice board , using gravel with planters on.

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## **Friends of York Cemetery      Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The Friends of York Cemetery were set up in 1988 and help maintain what was the first cemetery outside Yorks city walls. and has over 125,000 graves. with both Victorian and Traditional burial sections. Burials are still carried out today. The group have over 60 volunteers, (25 gardeners) and four full time staff who carry out regular maintenance. Funds are raised through donations, events and walks which take place throughout the year. There is so much history connected to this wonderful cemetery.

Judges were particularly impressed by the way the trust have uncovered and preserved little gems around the cemetery. Rock garden, Lime avenue, Victorian Fernery and herb garden developed in the 70s. as well as adding other areas such as orchards and bee hives to the

site and masses of bulb planting in the entrance and surrounding areas. Good to see the trust have got Schools, disabled and Voluntary groups involved in what can only be described as a major maintenance task.

**Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Install directional finger posts around cemetery. (Aware part of long term plans )
- Add information boards around cemetery, Wildlife, History, Areas of special interest.
- Improve steps and paths, include handrails as finances allow.
- There is so much work already done and so much more to do. A lifetime's work in this wonderful cemetery and so many more treasures to uncover where sure.
- We would also like to thank Hazel and Clive for sharing their knowledge of the site with us. Could have spent all day there.

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**Golden Acre Park, Bramhope**

**Platinum**

**Overall Impression**

Led by our host and very knowledgeable Head Gardener, Dean Lockwood, the judges were almost overwhelmed by standards set in the park's public gardens. The condition and variety of plants on show and the attention to detail was very impressive. Among many attractions, the gardens proudly display national collections of Hemerocallis and Hostas, hosts the National Dahlia Society Annual exhibition Trials, and a display of pelargoniums. There is a Limestone Garden, a demonstration garden, a display house, a garden dedicated to the Suffragettes, a hanging basket display and remnants of the old miniature railway which has cleverly been transformed into a pictorial wildflower meadow. All this is complimented by excellent interpretation boards to inform the public. There is then the 'Sheep Eater' bursting through the green house roof to tell friends about!

Considering the obviously high volunteer involvement, we can only hope Leeds City Council recognizes the work Dean and his team do here and ensure future resources are secured.

**Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Planned restoration of the waterfall in the sandstone rockery will further increase the wow factor. Could a grant-funding bid be put in for this? HLF?
- Perhaps one or two nest boxes and/or bug hotel around the cafe to add a bit of interest
- Consider inviting the neighbouring In Bloom groups to share your planting expertise. Both judges are going to revisit.
- Consider inviting Leeds University postgraduate students who are studying pollinators to quantify birds, pollinators and butterflies your wild flower meadows.

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## Harold Park

## Gold

### Overall Impression

A very welcoming 'Friends of Harold Park' met the judges on a warm and sunny summer's day.

During the tour of the park it was apparent that all the volunteers involved indicated a great sense of pride in their local park and demonstrated a good level of historical knowledge of the area. The group have established a healthy relationship with both Bradford Council in relationship to park upkeep and other stakeholders who have an interest in the park.

A beautiful sensory garden is a focal point of the park showcasing a good variety of sustainable planting which despite the drought conditions still offered some colour and vibrancy. The fund raising efforts and array of established year round events ensure continuity.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Some path defects were evident during the tour of the park specifically behind some of the park benches.
- A more managed approach to the 3 'school beds' could be implemented to ensure year round interest.
- Improved relationships with Bradford PA in relation to building maintenance would be beneficial especially to clear graffiti.
- A renewal programme of park furniture- benches / bins should be considered.
- A more relaxed approach to pruning of mature shrub beds could be introduced to detract from the 'formal' pruning regimes adopted throughout the park, going forward a shrub bed renewal programme could be planned and implemented in collaboration with Bradford Council.

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## Keighley Town Square

## Platinum

### Overall Impression

This area of open space is important as an open area in the centre of town but more especially because it is the memorial garden. The largest memorial is the war memorial which is well maintained being cleaned and waxed each year. The Town council has managed the area for some time during which the area has been re planned and railings added.

There is a program in place for painting the railings and seats , which has been implemented to good effect. The area is surrounded by buildings on three sides, and gets very hot this year that has created problems. The seasonal display has been well planned and planted, and well watered but the high temperatures in the square have limited plant growth. In an average season the display would be excellent, but weather has limited this years display.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- A minor point the lamp post closest to the council office would benefit to some attention to the paint work.
- Again attention to detail, there are hanging basket brackets on lamp post that are not in use, if not to be used again they would improve the areas appearance if they were removed.

## **Knarborough House      Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

First impressions on arriving at this splendid building is one of cleanliness & colour, the superb bedding displays in finely manicured lawns coupled with the baskets and troughs adorning the house give off an air of grandeur and importance.

Horticultural standards were high and the grounds were well kept by the experienced gardeners who obviously have pride in working in such a wonderful location in Knarborough.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Consider placing a couple of picnic benches on suitable surfacing towards the bottom of the lawn.
- Consider erecting Bird/Bat boxes on mature trees around the perimeter of the site.
- Develop a planting plan for the small rockery area at the front of the house.
- Consider developing the hard standing area towards the rear of the raised beds.
- Ensure the habitat mound is regularly checked and is serving its intended purpose.

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## **Royston Canal Club      Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

Royston Canal Club are a small group of enthusiastic individuals who are doing a great job under difficult circumstances. This is quite specialised and skilled volunteering combining water management, the natural environment found on the bank sides and having the ability to keep canal users, fishermen, walkers and cyclists content that the area is being well looked after. What a joy for nearby residents to have such a wonderful and well maintained amenity on their doorstep.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Continue to maintain the path network as you are doing and this will encourage more footfall. This, in turn, will reduce anti social behaviour.
- The seating area at the bridge could perhaps be considered for some pruning in winter to open up the view from the seat down the waterway.
- Would the group consider a notice in the board explaining to the general public about the algal bloom on the water and what measures the Canal Club members are putting in place to control it?

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## **Spofforth in Bloom - Ginny Greenholes Environmental Play Scheme**

**Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

This is an impressive community-driven project with very strong environmental considerations.

In only five years, this locally designed environmental playscheme has become a well-loved and used part of the village, not only by local residents but also by visitors from far and wide. It is now a protected open space and deserves the status. Previously a wetland site and village tip, it has an amazing bio-diversity with sixty wildflowers recorded and numerous bat, bird and owl boxes. There are distinct planting areas, driven by childrens' desires and surrounded by native hedgerows. There are excellent display boards made by Jennyruth workshops and additional identification boards provide the best possible encouragement for children and adults to observe the flora and fauna on site. Its most recent play equipment links to the railway heritage of the village.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The addition of edible flowers/wild flowers to the Orchard area would be a fantastic way to educate.
- Encouragement and introduction to natures benefits to our health and wellbeing with regards to bird song, Forest Bathing and barefoot walking. This could be simple signage or perhaps leading classes here for all.

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## **Spofforth in Bloom - Millennium Garden**

**Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

The village was immediately impressive and had an excellent standard of planting from one end to the other. The variety of containers had a tropical theme this year and were designed, planted and maintained by the YIB volunteers. They were in excellent condition, which was a triumph given the recent heat, and truly enhanced the village. There is strong community involvement and appreciation. A credit to all involved.

This tranquil focal point of the village is maintained to a very high standard and planted with harmonious colours. The Lavandula border, in keeping with the theme throughout the village, was sublime and attracted a lot of wildlife. The trees on site were particularly healthy and well maintained. There is a good information board and leaflets for the Heritage Trail and Castle promoting the history of the village.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Planting for scent would really lend itself to this already tranquil space.
- Perhaps consider highly scented Roses, if these are deemed to harsh for the garden perhaps rambling over the walls at the rear of the garden or carpet Roses could be considered.
- The Hydrangeas would do best staked as the heads are incredibly heavy and thsi would prevent damage.

## The Lawns Cemetery

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

The entrance to the cemetery is planted with a good choice of perennials to give all round interest. The drive has well kept rose beds on each side, some being memorial roses, with a cherry tree in each giving colourful blossom in Spring. An information board gives details of the areas for the different denominations. The roundabout is the site for scattering ashes. The central bed, attractively planted up with shrubs and small trees, is surrounded by a neat lawn edged by memorial plaques. The cemetery is a tranquil and well maintained area, thanks to Paul, with bins and water points in keeping with the area and new trees have been planted to replace those lost over the winter. Funding for the cemetery comes from the council and the burials. New drains have been laid to deal with the flooding in Spring. The grounds are inspected twice a year for Health and Safety and checked before each burial.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The main gates have been repainted and the railings are next to be done. Most of the benches are in good condition but some could do with sprucing up.
- There is some wildlife and perhaps more could be encouraged; perhaps a bee and butterfly bed.
- As well as the map near the entrance, signs at the entrance to each area may be of benefit.
- A 'Friends' group may be an idea who could help with tidying any untended graves and perhaps plant up and care for some tubs.

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## The Pinewoods Conservation Group

## Platinum

### Overall Impression

The Pinewoods Conservation Area is a 96 acre site on the outskirts of Harrogate comprising established woodland, more recently planted woodland and an open field area. All of these areas are well-used by the local community with a network of paths and a bridleway allowing access to the site and beyond. New signage and clearance of the bridleway should enhance usage of these. The Group are closely involved in the maintenance of the established habitats and the enhancement and provision of new habitats in the more newly developed areas.

This committed, well organised and active group have close links with the local community through their membership (around 160 members), involvement of local schools and youth groups in activities such as litter picks, local businesses (sponsorship and volunteering) and other local charities such as Horticap and Open Country who assist with maintenance on a paid basis. They run a variety of events throughout the year. At the time of the visit a "mystical doors"™ trail had just been set up to run through the school summer holidays. They have been very successful at fundraising and communicate with their membership and the wider community through an informative website as well as facebook, twitter and local press etc.

They meet regularly with Harrogate Borough Council who own the site, to put planning in place with a new ten year management plan having just been published.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- A number of interpretation panels across the site provide general information on paths, flora and fauna as well as the wider landscape. Perhaps an additional panel could be added to the dedicated bird feeding area to assist visitors with identification?
- The group are currently facing some challenges in regard to the designation of some of the land which falls within their remit and this will undoubtedly be a major focus in the short and medium term until matters are settled.

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## **The Recreation Ground, Bewerley**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

The Recreation Ground in Bewerley is a very clean and tidy area, the grass is cut to a high standard and the planting is good. This is a large area which is a benefit to all members of the community, and which is well used by community and visitors to Bewerley.

It is commendable that with the high level of use the whole area was litter free and exceptionally clean making it a lovely place to visit and spend time in. The Youth Shelter is inspirational and well used.

We were very interested to learn of the history connected to the war memorial and the funding for the bandstand.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Consider further sustainable planting around the war memorial and bandstand, plants such as lavenders, astrantia, possibly peace roses in the war memorial. Other suggestions to consider may be; Potentilla which have a lovely poppy like flower, Crocosmia 'Lucifer', Lynchnis Coronaria 'Alba', Chrysanthemum maximum 'Alaska', Nepeta, Aquilegia, Coreopsis verticillata. We wondered if a red, white and blue theme or a red, white and yellow to reflect the East Riding Flag?
- Is there scope for your local authority to consider placing recycling bins for cans and plastic?
- Consider creating a wildflower meadow on the banking at the back of the war memorial to blend with the natural environment and possibly soften the area.
- Perhaps an interpretation board for the war memorial and the bandstand, both have fascinating histories which visitors may be interested in reading about.

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## **The Rose Garden , High Green In Bloom**

## **Platinum**

### **Overall Impression**

The rose garden forms part of Mortomley Park, which is managed by Sheffield City Council. The bloom group took over maintenance of the garden some time ago and are now working in about a quarter of the park. Projects have included tree planting, fruit tree planting and various projects with local schools. The latest project being helping the Brownies group to gain gardening badges.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The very hot weather has inevitably had an impact on the planted areas, a re assessment of the damage will need to be carried in future.
- Continue to develop plans for the container tool store as this will provide a base for bloom and save time when carrying out maintenance.
- As the opportunity occurs press for the path at the side of the park to be resurfaced to enable access for all to the park.

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## **Thurnscoe Park**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

Thurnscoe Park is a lovely oasis of green in the centre of the village. The Friends group was set up four years ago and in that time they have transformed a somewhat overgrown park which was not well used because of antisocial behaviour issues, to one that is open, welcoming and now encompasses floral plantings in addition the green backdrop of the trees and shrubs. These plantings include bulbs for spring colour, a wildflower meadow, more traditional roses, and a raised sensory bed with adjacent bench seating.

The more formal areas such as the war memorial, local history memorial and events/seating circle are to be found in the centre of the area with the outer edges of the park being managed more for the benefit of local wildlife. The group have been successful in obtaining a large Public Open Spaces grant for play equipment which had just been installed and was awaiting new fencing to ensure the area could be made secure at night. A number of community events are held through the year, some being organised by Big Local Thurnscoe, and these are used as opportunities for fundraising.

The group have good links with the local schools and other community groups.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- A new interpretation board provides an overview of the history of the park and the birds that can be seen in it. Over time it would be good to extend this interpretation into other areas of the park, particularly the wildlife areas, possibly even creating a trail around the site?
- The sensory bed could be potentially be labelled in a suitable fashion so that visitors can identify the plants in it and in the case of the herbs, make the connection between those they may have heard of and the actual plant.
- The group have done well to have substantially chosen plants which have coped reasonably well with the recent drought. The acquisition of some sort of rainwater harvesting will help with the potential need for watering in subsequent years.
- At an appropriate time, dependent on resources, the group might like to consider a web page in addition to the current Facebook page

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## Valley Gardens Harrogate

## Platinum

### Overall Impression

Valley Gardens is a well maintained Victorian Grade two listed park in the centre of Harrogate which has many quality features within it, providing outstanding bedding displays and sustainable planting. Best of all is that the park is well used by all age groups both local and visitors with the Friends Group providing long lasting support to the park.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- While there are a number of promotional leaflets it was not clear whether the park was being promoted sufficiently to the visitors.
- The area around the model boating pool was drab and not promoted and may be considered for a future project.
- Consideration could be given to improving biodiversity, composting, water and solar harvesting of the park.
- The judges agreed with members of the friends group that recruiting a broader age-group of members would be most desirable.

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## York Museum Gardens

## Platinum

### Overall Impression

Formed in the 1830s and with over 1,500,000 visitors a year York Museum Gardens sees a lot of foot fall with visitor from around the world coming to see its museum, ruins of St Marys Abbey and historical Roman and Medieval walls. That's before you look at the gardens with their rolling lawns and well established specimen trees many of which are Champions in their own right. Alison and her team of two gardeners who care for the grounds not only maintain the gardens but need to be aware of the historical artifacts that lay below the surface, be mindful of visitors and working around numerous events which take place throughout the year. The garden is evolving and new attractions like the edible garden linking the museum's garden to the art Gallery are an excellent use of space not previously seen. There is also great use of sculpture in the park and outdoor exhibitions such as the wild life photography exhibit. Good to see natural areas appearing under trees with the use of wildflowers and bulbs. York Museum gardens is steeped in history and we are sure it has lots more secrets to uncover but is in good hands thanks to the hard work and dedication of Alison and her staff.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- More information boards around gardens in and around borders. Highlighting plants their history, medicinal properties, scent, insects they attract etc.
- Continue to develop exciting wildflower areas, care needed if you are to extend these themes. Not sure if bankings mentioned would make good wildflower areas.
- Continue to use composted material collected in gardens around beds and trees.

## Category C7 – RHS 'Its Your Neighbourhood'

### **Barnsley Main Heritage Group**

### **Advancing**

#### **Areas of Achievement**

This small group of extremely dedicated volunteers have transformed what was a badly overgrown heritage site into a welcoming space. This achievement is remarkable when considering work began less than two years ago.

The group have had to learn new skills, develop a wide range of partnerships, have become well practiced at securing funding contributors and are well organised.

In seeking to help preserve the Grade II listed pithead structure and its environs, the group have clearly got the support of the Barnsley community and have helped resurrect the profile of the site which it richly deserves.

The groups plans for the future are sound and when realised will undoubtedly attract more visitors from both the local community and wider population.

A terrific effort with some very hard work and some very positive results, a very well done.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- The selection of the plants for the next project, the future planting of the extensive shrub bed adjacent to the car park, needs to be directed at its wildlife benefit rather than any aesthetic benefit. It should include species suitable for nectar loving insects and species with edible fruit and berries attractive to birds.
- Developing additional interpretation aimed at school key stages would encourage greater numbers of school groups to visit the site, not only for its historical significance but also its wealth of nature and environmental educational opportunities as a living classroom.
- It may be beneficial for a pictorial representation of the site showing the zones of proposed development to be displayed at site to give the casual visitor an introduction to the programme of improvements which can easily be understood.
- The site will attract more visitors as more people become aware of the features and facilities at the site. Therefore the longer term infrastructure proposed may need to be considered earlier, particularly services and improved site security.

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### **Cudworth Environment Group**

### **Outstanding**

#### **Areas of Achievement**

The Cusworth Environment group Plays an essential part in the wellbeing of the whole community area without their involvement the area would not be as vibrant as it is today. They tackle large and small jobs alike with enthusiasm to make the area attractive for everyone to live and work in. They have made a significant difference to the clean and tidy high street over the past few years encouraging the use of hanging baskets and planters which brighten up the area in summer. The brick wall bed near to the co-op has been cleared out and winter and summer bedding plants are donated and planted annually, The group undertake work in Cusworth Park and have turned the old bowling green into a pocket peace garden along with a locally researched memorial which fits well into the area

for all to see and remember the past. Professional tree pruning has been carried out on the old weeping willow and well-maintained flowerbeds have been planted. Numerous events take place in the park and the old bowling pavilion has attractive art work on the front walls.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- May be an idea to include some historical facts on signs or leaflets to remind people of their past.
- Continue with the work you do and keep encouraging others to participate in events as well as helping with some of the hard work.
- Much energy and work had been spent on the high street and in the park, which is helping to sustain a vibrant community both on the high street and in the park
- Very well done

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## **Dovercourt Surgery Garden**

## **Improving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

The idea of using referrals from the doctor is a good one, as it the idea of the Wednesday patients group.

It was lovely to see the enthusiasm of the young volunteer we met. She should be rightly proud of her efforts.

The beds were in good condition and there was good labelling in them.

It is good that organic principles are followed.

We were pleased to hear that there is cooperation with the group at St. Swithuns.

The idea of sharing produce and giving out seeds are lovely

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Consider further seating, nearer to the beds and taking advantage of the view.
- Consider using the fence to grow more climbers.
- Consider installing scented planting near seating areas, bee friendly planting which would also bring in butterflies.
- Make further efforts to increase the number of local volunteers working on the site.
- Consider small community activities, perhaps a strawberry tea?

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## **Earswick Scented Garden**

## **Thriving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

Despite the terrible dry soil conditions the group have developed a delightful garden on a former disused bowling green.

The group are well formed with 12 full time members as well as volunteers. Younger members welcome

Succesfull plant sales and numerous activities help fund the gardens maintenance and upkeep.

Despite no water on site volunteers have done well to maintain the area but plants have suffered due to severe drought conditions,

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Look to mulch beds to help with maintenance and retain precious moisture resources in beds.
- Add organic matter to soil to improve what are very poor soil conditions for plants to grow in.
- Incorporate some evergreens to give garden all year round colour.
- Look to add more herbaceous plants to beds providing more colour and scent.
- Gapping up open spaces again to reduce water loss and reduce maintenance..

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## **East Ardsley**

## **Improving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

An enthusiastic group, who have made good in-roads to improving their local area over the last few years. There is some good planting with colourful floral displays and it is obvious that a lot of hard work has been done to achieve this. Particularly the colourful bed under the notice board, the flower tower in the community centre grounds, the redevelopment of the old council shrub bed and the borders on the side of the main street.

There was a good variety of plants both sustainable and seasonal and the beds were well mulched.

It was good to hear that local children have been involved in some of the planting, in particular spring bulb areas and this is to be commended.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- The bulb planting has produced some lovely spring displays but it would have been good for the judges to have seen some evidence of this. It is always useful to be able to see some before and after pictures as this really demonstrates the amount of hard work that has been done across the years.
- The future plans around the community centre such as the herb bed and wildflower border are simple ideas that will help to enhance the entry and by encouraging some of the other users of the centre to get involved, and local children to help with the planting and maintaining will add to the entry. This is an ideal centre at the heart of the community for the group to produce something really special here for all users to enjoy.
- The Gala is an excellent community event and the group should capitalise on this to raise the profile, encourage new members and help raise funds.
- If resources are scarce concentrate on a few key areas. Don't spread yourselves too thinly.
- The idea around the group meeting at a regular time each week, rather than an ad hoc approach should benefit the coordination of some of the workload, and help with some of the larger tasks. Keep talking to other groups in the area, sharing ideas and funding sources is priceless. Build on your successes and we'll look forward to seeing this entry grow over the coming years.

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## **Elland and District Partnership**

## **Establishing**

### **Areas of Achievement**

Plans for the War Memorial sound very impressive. I hope that current difficulties will be over come.

The hanging baskets on the high street and around the Wellington Pub were very colourful.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- I welcomed meeting two Directors from the Partnership, but would have appreciated knowing what other groups in the area were undertaking in Bloom activities.
- It was disappointing to see empty barrier planters, especially as they had been sponsored.
- I wish the group all the best in developing their ideas, especially encouraging members of the local community to take part.

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## **Firth Park Community Allotment**

## **Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

It was impressive to hear about the Green Flag which the site has achieved.

The atmosphere on site is lovely, a little area of the country in the heart of the city.

The involvement with other groups and volunteers was good to hear about.

The use of solar lighting and irrigation was innovative and a great credit to the site.

The enthusiasm of organisers and volunteers is a credit to them all.

The impact the site is making on local families is impressive.

It was good to hear of your commitment to helping wildlife.

The greenhouse with its 20 varieties of tomato was lovely and the greenhouse plants were in really good condition. Using so much of the produce with the children is valuable.

The varied activities for children, singing etc. were lovely to hear about.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- The fruit is lovely, try to keep varying the other crops grown.
- Keep building up the awareness and use of herbal products.
- Perhaps encourage other local groups to see your use of solar lighting and irrigation, it could benefit a lot of people in difficult situations.
- Perhaps try to continue the involvement of the police and fire departments with the site. It could be valuable later.
- Try to explore the idea of further sources of funding.

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## Friends of Brighthouse Station

## Outstanding

### Areas of Achievement

The station has a welcoming approach with good floral displays and information boards at each entrance. The team had also done much to influence the station with bughouse and planting for the natural environment.

The best achievement was probably pulling together of a very wide and diverse group of people within the community to work upon the project.

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- Consideration could be given to planting of a desert gardens in areas under footways and areas where light and water were restricted
- May be more could be achieved with water harvesting and composting

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## Friends of Crow Wood Park

## Thriving

### Areas of Achievement

Congratulations should go to this friendly group, which involves a broad spectrum of the community and local businesses in activities around the park. The use of notice boards, social media and the local press, together with coffee mornings and events attracts and supports community involvement. Welcomed improvements have been made to pathways, also the provision of picnic benches and planting crocuses.

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- It is good to hear that bird and bat boxes will be replaced.
- The involvement of the British Legion for the WW1 Centenary event will be a great boost to the park.
- This has been an exceptional year but in future water collection and conservation, for use on bedding plants, could be considered.

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## Friends of Sandringham Park

## Thriving

### Areas of Achievement

This community group has done wonders for this once very neglected area. A real coming together of local people for all ages and walks of life to improve an area once devastated by vandalism and neglect.

Funding from many different organisations has been sought and used to create a hub for people within this community to use. A playground for younger children, to a hang out area for older children and teenagers and a safe holding for dog walkers and such like to enjoy. A wonderfully safe feeling environment that has benefited from lots of different partnerships in the past, the present and going forward to the future.

The before and after effect is pretty amazing and it's very clear a huge amount of effort and work has gone into the mass tidy up that has occurred from the very start of this project.

It's great to see gardening knowledge being sought to improve the planted areas and in the creation of the wildlife habitat this is sure to become in the future.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- It would be great to see more perennial planting for local wildlife in addition to bug and beastie habitats.
- Birds would also benefit from this wonderful environment, perhaps some feeding stations and appropriate planting.
- The addition of wildflowers to the site as a whole would be wonderful for the natural environment and wildlife.

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## **Gleadless Valley Methodist Church      Advancing**

### **Areas of Achievement**

We were pleased to hear how the church congregation and local people are involved with the garden. Obviously the people litter picking around the site are doing a really good job. Harvesting rainwater is a good idea. There was a good variety of produce which was being well cared for and the site is very well organised. The initiative is a credit to the volunteers from the church who organise the garden and working groups.

The connection with Heeley City Farm is a very valuable one.

It was pleasing to hear that the church Kitchen makes use of the produce.

We were glad to hear of attempts to involve local people further in the site.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Continue to work to make more of the local people aware of the garden and how they can be involved.
- Perhaps use the site for social events such as a strawberry tea in summer months to bring in local people who may not be actively involved with the church. Perhaps using social media to make people aware.
- Consider growing more salad crops which might be useful in the church kitchen.
- Consider developing a little seating area, perhaps with scented planting, lavender to bring in butterflies.

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## **Grimethorpe War and Miners' Memorial    Improving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

The improvement of the area adjacent to the Grimethorpe War Memorial and Grimethorpe Miners' Memorial is unquestionably a community effort involving those who look after the memorials (Grimethorpe Memorial Trust and the British Legion), the Barnsley NE Ward Alliance, a local school and local volunteers in various capacities.

Formal beds have been created in the grassy areas alongside the memorials and these have been planted with summer bedding by pupils from the local school with the help of volunteers. This type of planting reflects the formality of the memorials and what they each stand for.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- The exceptionally dry conditions of the current summer have highlighted the need to give some thought to the planting.
- Perhaps the introduction of small conifers or box would give some permanent structure to the beds without changing their formal nature and reduce the amount of bedding required.
- It might also be worth giving some consideration to creating a water source for watering should this be necessary. Might there be an opportunity for a water butt in the grounds of the adjacent church? Mulching the beds would help reduce water loss.
- If the group were happy to make a further move from bedding to at least some flowering perennials, there might be the opportunity to use plants which would attract insects to the area.

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## **Heeley City Farm**

## **Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

The number of volunteers at the farm is impressive and especially the work to involve young people.

We were pleased to hear that the sites the farm are involved with are run on organic principles.

We were impressed with original ideas such as the repair cafe and the energy house  
It was good to hear about the commitment to recycling.

The year round events and activities organised must really engage the local community.

The outreach of the farm to other local organisations is very impressive.

It is a great idea to involve social media so much.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Consider adding signage about the animals on site to make it clear to visitors why they are there. Consider adding information about the particular kinds of animals, this would be appreciated by children and families.
- Be careful not to become too stretched in outreach activities. There are a lot of developing projects at the moment, perhaps concentrate on them at the moment.
- Consider signage about wildlife which is attracted to the site.
- Perhaps consider maps of the site on leaflets which visitors could carry with them.
- Look further into the idea of green roofs and research sites with successful planted roofs, perhaps Bradford University for one.
- Increase the amount of insect and bee friendly planting.

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## High Green In Bloom

## Thriving

### Areas of Achievement

On entering the village there is a flower bed with a good mixture of plants and shrubs. Further on is another flower bed with a healthy Xmas tree and were shown photos of it lit up at Xmas time. As we entered Mortomley Park we were welcomed by an enthusiastic and committed group of volunteers. At the entrance was a notice board providing information for residents.

Steady improvements have been made to the park. The small orchard is now maturing, spring bulbs placed along the pathways, the rose garden with its gravel bed and seat. Again photos {Thank you Jo}, were shown of the area at its best earlier in the year.

A walk around High Green evidenced plenty of locally made wooden planters filled with a mixture of shrubs, perennials and seasonal bedding plants. Many were sponsored and watered by local businesses. The tour finished at the Methodist, with a striking bedding display which was a credit to David and Janet.!

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- Further attention to the area alongside the wall in Mortomley Park.
- Try to re engage the local primary school to participate further if possible.

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## Highgate Community Allotments

## Improving

### Areas of Achievement

Excellent involvement by all areas of the community. The selling of produce to raise funds and to provide for The food bank. Excellent fund raising and commitment to the project by all involved

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- Continue to encourage all areas of the community . Continue to develop the site to promote all aspects of fruit and veg and horticultural practice

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# Hookstone and Stonefall Action Group

# Thriving

## Areas of Achievement

The surveys of plants done by the group is impressive.

The painting of the entrance fences is a valuable task done.

It was pleasing to hear of work with local groups. using the online newspaper is a good idea.

The tree planting is impressive especially as British natives are being used.

It was good to hear of attempts being made to increase the range of wild flowers on site and the involvement with Grow Wild at Kew.

The path around the playground which the group were involved with is a very useful addition. The enthusiasm of the group for the park and their commitment to making it a wonderful place for the community as a whole was very impressive.

## Judges feedback on areas for development

- Perhaps consider increasing the number of seats in the park, especially along the cycle path and in the wooded area. This would enable people who need to stop and rest to enjoy the side.
- Perhaps think of installing a noticeboard letting people know what wildlife they may see. It would also be a good idea to install a sign about the range of flowers, trees and plants on site.
- Consider launching a survey of bird and insect life to go along with the plant survey.
- Perhaps introduce more picnic benches.
- Consider more adventure playground equipment for older children

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# Langdale, Woodlesford

# Outstanding

## Areas of Achievement

If there is a fragrance called ‘Pride in our Community’ Pat and team were wearing it in buckets combined with the smiles from ear to ear it was evident that Langdale’s is a source of local ownership and is making a huge difference to the residents. We were impressed with the communication by Pat & team championing the common cause of making Langdale’s a better place to reside by engaging and involving the community. Working in partnership with others such as the Police Community officer whom it was great to meet, and other initiatives such as giving a certificate to the children for helping. All areas were tidy, weed free and planted up well. The resident’s gardens had eye catching blazes of vibrant colour of good quality well-maintained plants, going up and across in all directions using every bit of space for their floral displays. We commend you on making the most of your resources by using seeds and plug plants to sell and use in the displays.

It was a delight and joy to judge, congratulations on your achievements, well done.

## Judges feedback on areas for development

- Support the increase in sustainable plantings but balance with annual bedding for impact.
- Consider planting to encourage pollinators such as Lavender, suggest looking on the RHS website for a plant list.
- There was a good example of an environmental

## **Loxley Community Garden**

## **Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

This garden is a little gem ! Hidden away in the middle of the estate. It has transformed this once derelict site. Well used by all areas of the community. The knowledge and commitment shown by Jeff is amazing and this garden is a credit to all involved

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Provide more water butts round the garden .
- Consider a seating area under the pergola and installing planters around this area

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## **Mirfield Promenade**

## **Thriving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

It was clear to see the great improvement compared to last year on the Canal. The whole area was cleaner and tidier. There have been environmental cleaning up and support from businesses, in particular Darren Smith Homes and the Co-Op.

The tow paths were well kept and have now been cut back taking away the overgrown brambles. The journey down the canal clearly showed how much work has taken place over the last 12 months and credit must go to the community team who have clearly work extremely hard to bring the area to this level.

It was lovely to see the tow path being used from young people to the not so young.

It was good to hear the funding that has been secured for information boards along the canal.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Continue to improve the beds at Gill Bridge, as discussed, consider adding lavenders to this area and further ground cover.
- Continue to work on the wildlife areas. Consider mulching some areas and incorporating further sustainable plants.
- There was a little bit of graffiti but the team are working with the Canal and Rivers Trust to eradicate it.

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## Mirfield St. Mary's Community

**Outstanding**

### Areas of Achievement

The colour and standard of this garden is fantastic. However, the real benefit has been the drawing of the community together to create it. It is easy to see how much hard work and effort has gone into the baskets and planters, the garden areas are also well planted and it is clear they are regularly maintained as everywhere you looked you saw healthy vibrant plants.

The planters were really well thought out and full. It was good to see a water butt and composting area.

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- Consider putting in a watering system, as discussed, along the side of the community hall, this will save you time during the long summer months.
- You may like to consider putting a few perennials into the baskets which may keep over the winter and save on replacing the annuals. Though it was good to hear that the annuals would be composted

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## Mytholmroyd Station Partnership

**Thriving**

### Areas of Achievement

The members of Mtholmroyd Station Partnership have continued through difficult times over the past years to the present day where they are dealing with a major redevelopment of the station buildings and surrounding areas to continue in these circumstances is commendable.

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- The group has contracted overtime and requires more members of the community to join the group if it is to flourish in future years

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## Northallerton Secret Garden

**Thriving**

### Areas of Achievement

An amazing transformation has taken place in the last 2 years by the team at the Secret Garden. The space, just behind the High Street is a restful area for the locals to use to take in the local nature and enjoy the garden space. There are various features within the garden such as a camp fire area, planted ornamental areas, vegetable production, a small polytunnel, compost bins and plant sales. Regularly looked after by a team of volunteers, the space is also used by other groups such as the Cubs, Rainbows and Guides, Help the Heroes, a local school and there are further links to other groups as the produce is donated to the Food Bank. Another use of the garden starting in September will be as a forest school for toddlers. Local funding is available from various quarters either as in monies or in kind and has been added to with the United Reform Community Project Award win of Â£2,000. The garden and facilities can only go from strength to strength

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- There is maybe an opportunity to link with more local groups such as an art group to use the space. Th
- ere are thoughts to put in a larger pond to increase the wildlife and maybe there are opportunities to do various surveys such as butterflies or a bug survey or host a moth evening.
- So much has been achieved in the last 2 years but it is early days on some of the planting areas and there is further development to increase the diversity. T
- here are plans to refurbish the potting shed which will increase the facilities year round.

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## **Owd Marthas Yard**

## **Thriving**

### **Areas of Achievement**

This is an interesting group that has tidied up and developed what was a rather overgrown area. It now has become well used by the community for many and varied events.

The new pergola and landscaping with some open grassed area have made this a lovely place for people to enjoy. It was good to hear about all the events taking place including the teddy bears picnic and maypole dancing. There is good support from other groups and organisations

This site has been developed taking into account itâ€™s history and heritage with good signage as appropriate, as in the case of the 12&6 path. The commemorative seat, and the recognition of the Tour de Yorkshire good examples of current activities.

The eco friendly greenhouse, made of 2 litres bottles is an inspirational project. Well done. There is good environmental consideration with bug hotel, bird feeders, a new water barrel etc. There was some attractive planting which was looking good in spite of the difficult conditions. Communication is successful using facebook and local shops etc.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- This is a large area and there is still a lot to do. Maintain what you have done, and then develop other areas of the site. Your plans are good so keep going but donâ€™t take on too much. Do what you can as time and resources permit.
- More help would be beneficial so continue with activities to raise the profile of your group and with fund raising. This is always a good way of recruitment.
- It might be that you could find some groups of younger people who could carry out specific projects.
- Well done for what you have achieved.

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## RIPON WORKHOUSE GARDEN

**Outstanding**

### Areas of Achievement

Met by Catherine Baxter we viewed this wonderful Community provision which has been greatly restored since 2008, headed by Nick Thompson who helped by numerous volunteers. The Workhouse Gardens and Museum welcomes numerous Community Groups of all ages and abilities. It is supported by *RIPON ROTARY CLUB*, and *GOLF CLUB*. *RIPON LIONS* and *FREEMASONS*, *YORKSHIRE GARDEN TRUST* and advised by *NEWBY HALL* Gardeners. The gardens earn funding by supplying *LOCKWOODS RESTAURANT* with Victorian Produce. The whole site is a haven for Wildlife and Conservation with whole area being returned to its Victorian Splendour including the wild flower area and the newly Herbaceous Border with Victorian Plants and Flowers. Ongoing plans are to be Commended

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- Just continue with the restoration of the Vegetable Beds and the Wild Flower area to return the whole site to its original form.
- A wonderful Community facility-well done.

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## Robert Street Allotments

**Outstanding**

### Areas of Achievement

There are many allotments on the site, most of which are being well used as conventional good quality allotments some growing food and others use it as a home from home and somewhere to relax in all weathers. The first allotments the judging party saw were used by Mick White Secretary for 12 years and his wife. High quality fresh produce was displayed at the entrance for people to collect and the covered accommodation was almost luxurious the soft fruit grown there was of the highest quality. Across the central path was the second allotment with raised beds, polytunnel, composting area and a large paved area to enable people to use the site all year round. Much funding has been obtained to help build the site and many different groups have helped with construction and growing the different crops. There is plenty room on site for groups to work and grow their produce and most importantly get hands on experience which can be used by all who learn there.

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- It has taken a great deal of hard work and commitment to obtain grants and get the site up and running.
- The allotments are a good example of how team work can enhance the lives of all who use the allotments whether for learning or leisure or fitness and well being this site is certainly paying off.
- Bulk buying of fertiliser and compost was a good idea to enable people to pay less for their supplies.
- Most of the sites were occupied but still one or two vacant sites remained. Consider a tidy up on the vacant sites to make them more attractive to new members.

## Royston in Bloom

## Thriving

### Areas of Achievement

A tremendous community effort encompassing all sectors and age groups.

The Wells project makes a great focal point in the middle of the village. The planter was bright and colourful, clean and well maintained. Congratulations to Betty Fawcett who is the oldest volunteer in Royston and continues to do great work at the Wells site.

The apple mural was a nice nod to your local heritage and it will be nice to hear about the progress of the orchard in future years.

The involvement of the local school, Parkside Primary Academy was good and they had produced some colourful planters outside their school gates. The Flame Flower railings throughout the village were most unusual and gave a feeling of unity to the whole area.

The Co-op had made a good effort in planting up their premises.

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- There are flower beds at 28 locations throughout the village mostly looked after by village volunteers. Although this appears to be sustainable at present beware of spreading yourselves too thinly.
- Maybe the group could consider some information boards at the Well Site to tell the story of the area.
- Perhaps the group would like to give some attention to appropriate planting on the bank behind the well which, with the right plant choices, would reduce work load and make a feature of the area in its own right.
- Additional baskets around the crossroads at the Wells site would enhance and add to the overall impact of this area.

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## Shadwell

## Thriving

### Areas of Achievement

Excellent floral displays including the barrier baskets, 80 hanging baskets, the beds around the bus stop area and the Well and the mixed beds of sustainable and summer planting.

Good community participation ranging from residents watering beds in their local areas, taking pride in their own gardens and showing their support with posters in their windows. All private gardens seen were well maintained.

Throughout Shadwell there is good signage and publicity of your In Bloom efforts. Good communication of all your efforts including a weekly column in the local press.

We were impressed by the herb beds for all, the allotments and the Red Lion florals. There is no doubt that you are enhancing the area through gardening including involvement with the local school.

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- Using more sustainable permanent planting in some of your more difficult sites.
- Evidence of planning for the future - perhaps a short description of ideas/plans of how Shadwell will maintain or develop in the future.
- It would have been nice to see the involvement you told us about in the school - perhaps some photographs would have illustrated this even if a school visit was not possible.

## St. Swithins Church Garden

## Improving

### Areas of Achievement

The link with the city farm is very valuable.

The half hour volunteer sessions when the food bank is open are a good idea. The beds were well cared for.

The idea of a community orchard on site is interesting

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- Make efforts to increase the number of local volunteers.
- Look to further areas for funding.
- Consider taking more suggestions from local people as to how they would like to see the site developing in the future.
- Consider the use of more salad crops, which are quick to grow and easy to share.
- Consider the use of scented and insect friendly planting on site, perhaps with seating so the congregation and others can enjoy the butterflies.

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## The Royal Development

## Outstanding

### Areas of Achievement

It was good to hear of the group's efforts to bring the residents together and to enable new residents to play a full part. The community events undertaken are a good idea.

We were pleased to hear that residents are helping each other out with any difficulties.

The overall standard of individual gardens was very impressive, especially the excellent condition of pot grown specimens. The new greenhouse is a valuable addition to the site.

It was good to hear that water harvesting is carried out and that composting takes place.

The restoration of a former hospital site in to a high-quality housing development with a wide range of colourful gardens and landscaping. The stone historic architecture which has been retaining is of historic value to the town and is now protected for future generations.

The community interest of the residents has to be commended and the different styles and colours of gardens and landscape treatments across the site.

The forward plan development to maintain and develop areas of structural planting across the site which will see an on-going plant replacement program over the coming years.

The high maintenance standards of the total site

### Judges feedback on areas for development

- Continue developing herbal beds and encouraging residents to make use of them.
- Consider scented planting around communal seating areas, especially plants such as lavender which will bring in butterflies.
- Consider adding hedgehog houses to the wild area on site.
- Updating of the community composting area and establishing additional bays to ensure a composting cycle can be established.
- Control of ivy on some buildings to avoid long term damage to stone work
- The ongoing development of the community greenhouse area with future of outdoor frames for over wintering and propagating plants.
- Encourage more water butts around the site to aid plant watering and reduce water costs.



# The Shay Garden Project

# Thriving

## Areas of Achievement

High profile project on a busy route in to Halifax town centre which will be seen by many thousands of people every day. Obviously the hard work has greatly added colour and interest to this gateway to the town. It was especially pleasing to hear of the spring planting. The planting was varied and interesting and it was good to see that grasses were being used to increase interest and diversity. The use of Cornus to add winter colour was a good idea. The idea of planting bluebells around the trees is an interesting one.

We were impressed to hear of litter picks carried out by the group.

Painting the fence in team colours was a good idea.

Overcoming a difficult site in multiply ownerships on top of a steep tree covered bank which provides areas of shade and dry conditions for under planting.

A well organised and lead project by the Halifax Rotary Club which has established partnerships with a number of group including the local football club Calderdale council, colleges and local people.

The project establishes a planted green space which provides year round colour and interest re vitalising a derelict area of land.

## Judges feedback on areas for development

- The dry summer has causes some plant failures particularly under the heavy shaded areas consider replacing over winter as well as incorporating additional organic matter and mulch.
- Look at plant types which have done well to establish and use these when bulking up the displays.
- Consider the use in certain areas summer flower bulbs to add additional colour.
- Ensure that the area is mulched to retain soil moisture and try to do this before the spring bulbs start to emerge.
- Repair a small section of fencing near to the football club fence to improve safety.
- Carry on adding suitable insect friendly planting to the site.
- Consider the introduction of scented planting around the seating area.
- Increase the amount of sedum around the seating area to bring in butterflies.

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# Tidy Gardens

# Thriving

## Areas of Achievement

Tidy Gardens are a group of green-fingered members who give an excellent basic garden maintenance service to a number of elderly residents and communities in the Harrogate area.

They have worked tirelessly to build a garden and vegetable patch at their Stonefall site and they have been planting, painting and watering for community groups including Springwater School and various projects in association with Starbeck and Harrogate in Bloom.

The Stonefall site is full of recycling projects with the intention of promoting wildlife which features in their policy. There are bug hotels, wormery, a pond, bird boxes, composting,

planting for pollinators, log banks, hedgehog house and butterfly boxes. It is great to see that nothing is wasted on this site. The small number of part time staff does a great job with restricted resources to provide a caring environment for not only plants but people to flourish. Additional support comes from gifts from local garden centres and sale of plants etc. The raised beds with space for each individual to grow and crop their own choice of vegetables and flowers are a delight along with the various extras created in the craft sessions giving additional interest. The gardener sculpture made with spare plant pots and topped with spider plant hair is great fun. The newly created seating area will provide a quiet place to look over the garden and the nearby field, a lovely tranquil spot. The greenhouse also was producing a good crop. All round a fascinating and enjoyable visit.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- Consider the wisdom in levelling the area around the new seating area and by training the nearby apple tree a living fence could provide screening whilst assisting the fruit bearing branches.
- A project could be the bed next to the pond which would benefit from refurbishment having become overgrown with a couple of “thug” plants.
- Consider repainting and planting the raised planter which would give opportunity to make a statement focal point.
- Review the choice of varieties for next years seed purchase for example growing mini cucumbers would provide more fruits to share with amongst the members.
- The constant battle with weeds trying to invade from the adjacent field may be assisted by a better choice of fencing depending on budget.

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## **Woodlands Community Garden**

## **Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

The garden was started in 2014 from a green field site and the design evolved with input from a number of local groups. Fund raising has been excellent with £35k raised in 5 years through sponsorship and grants and much of the construction materials were donated. Involvement with the local community is extensive with wild life and stargazing nights, vintage tea parties etc. the main aim being to bring people together ranging from toddlers to the elderly. The breakfast club weekly on Fridays brings together year 6 students and the elderly. The work with schools is excellent with planting and then harvesting and cooking the produce. The planting is very insect friendly with a large percentage of nectar rich flowers and the vegetables were to be commended in a difficult season, the cordon apples planted by the school children were developing well.. There is a regular weekly gardening group maintaining the area - at planting time there were 40 helpers ranging from 2 years old to 80. The perimeter has wild life areas and the schools come and have bio-diversity projects. The group also have regular litter picks in the area. Social media is used to raise awareness of the garden and the Sharing Ideas Day involving 15 different local organisations was excellent. All in all this is an excellent project and is achieving it's aim of bringing the community, young and old, together in a pleasing environment.

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- The group continue to look to the future and is on a sound practical and financial footing.
- The plan to develop community events, an interactive web-site and produce interpretation boards will raise public awareness even further.
- The plan to increase bio-diversity will also increase the ability to educate the local school children.

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## **Wortley Hall Walled Garden**

## **Outstanding**

### **Areas of Achievement**

This garden is very special. It was originally founded in 1797 and was the main kitchen garden for the Wortley Hall. It fell into disrepair and was taken over by Heeley City Farm in 2004 to be restored. It is now a certified organic kitchen garden contributing to the local economy, with a good variety of produce.

Darrell, who is in charge is extremely knowledgeable in all aspects of the heritage of the garden as well as the practical issues. He does a tremendous amount to continue the restoration in a sympathetic way, as well as producing organic products for use by the community. Good use is made of volunteers, without whom the garden could not function. Education takes place for schools and community groups, and the garden is open to the public during the season and for special events.

All aspects of the environment are taken into account to great effect making a haven for wildlife. The orchard includes 16 varieties of heritage apples

### **Judges feedback on areas for development**

- There is still so much to be done in this remarkable garden, but the progress up to now is to be commended.
- There are lot of plans for the future so we wish you well with these.
- It was interesting to hear of the search for the original Wortley Hall grape, but realise the cost to get one seems prohibitive but hope you find a suitable organic alternative.
- Good use is made of the old walls with plans to initiate some original planting schemes.
- We wish you well

## Category C10: - Charitable Establishments

### **Barnsley Hospice**

**Gold**

#### **Overall Impression**

A pleasant and colourful entrance greets all visitors to the hospice, with a stunning and also fragrant display of seasonal planting in a myriad of containers and hanging baskets. The grounds were extremely well maintained with predominantly perennial plantings and some strategically located seasonal displays. The newly landscaped patient garden extension is maturing well. The stand out centrally placed water feature draws the visitor into the garden creating a calming and restful place. The two stalwart volunteers Paul and Terry have persevered during the summer to maintain standards, not easy with the vast number of containers requiring virtually daily attention. Wildlife is also considered with nectar plants, bird boxes, and bird feeding points, berried perennials, bug hotels and a small pond. Overall a terrific effort and congratulations to everyone involved.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The floral display seen at the entrance was staggering. However minimising the number of containers and replacing these with a small number of much larger containers could have the same impact but require much less maintenance. A train of coalmine bogies or wooden facsimile would be impressive and with trailing perennial plantings support an all year round impact.
- The potential to have the replacement plants for the refurbishment of the Limes Day Therapy Unit Garden sponsored should not be missed and could support purchasing of more exotic plants, not usually seen in the hospice grounds.
- It was noticed on the day of judging that the wooden blocks supporting and forming the steps to the small elevated sitting area are rapidly decaying. A replacement with a more permanent material needs to be programmed for the future.

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### **CASE Training Services Gold**

#### **Overall Impression**

CASE Training are a Hull based charity providing training and support for adults with learning disabilities. The judge met with the enthusiastic Grow with CASE members of the Friday morning group led by Matt and Sally. The group now have three allotments, one mainly given over to productive growing and propagation, the second one more ornamental in nature with both indoor and outside seating areas. It also includes a themed garden area which is planted up each year, with this year's theme being a rainbow of colour cascading out from paint pots. The third allotment, acquired earlier this year, has been cleared ready for development to include a fruit cage, bottle greenhouse and pumpkin/squash patch (already in place).

Trainees are clearly involved in the running of the plots, from choice of seed, through the propagation of plants, siting of plants, design of certain areas and construction of the various

structures. Food from the productive garden is either taken home or sent to the catering section and this year the group will be taking part the Hull Freedom Festival. An annual open day is held for members and their families and other allotment holders.

The group are mindful of environmental issues and take measures to encourage wildlife on their different plots.

The greatest impression, however, was of the huge enthusiasm of the all the members of the group, both new and longstanding and also of the team leaders.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The development of the new allotment will provide challenges. The group will need to ensure that the upkeep of other plots is not affected by this additional commitment
- It was good to see the noticeboards with photographs of the trainees in action. It might be nice to have one for each allotment explaining their function and perhaps highlighting new projects?
- The ICT department did the plant pot labelling for the rainbow display. Perhaps they could provide pictorial/text labels for some of the vegetable plants/fruit bushes.
- It would also be good to see some interpretation/signage of the various measures in place to increase biodiversity along with some idea of what might be seen in the different areas.
- If it doesn't happen already it might be nice to invite some of the other trainees/staff to visit the allotments

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## **High Green Methodist Church      Gold & Joint Category Winner**

#### **Overall Impression**

the relatively small garden at the front of the church, is maintained with a mixture of perennial and seasonal planting. However the modest entrance does not prepare you for the extensive well maintained grounds to the side and rear of the buildings. planting includes fruit trees a vegetable garden, and perennial borders. Along with all this there are greenhouse used for propagation for the church and village planting projects.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

The church garden is well plated and maintained to a high standard, it is also a large area of land to maintain. This a case of carry on with the work, and view options for the seasonal planting at the front.

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## Horticap

## Gold

### Overall Impression

It was a pleasure to visit Horticap on a lovely sunny day. It was pleasing to hear about the support given by businesses and organisations. The tearoom and shop are a valuable part of the site and the plans to change and enlarge them are exciting. The opportunities given to students are varied and provide an opportunity to develop in depth skills. The amount of recycling going on at the site is impressive. The efforts to conserve energy such as the wind turbine were impressive. The gardens were full of colour and the vegetables were obviously well tended and in very good condition. It was good to hear about the volunteers giving time to help. The concern for wildlife is very impressive and the alterations to the pond area are going to be very valuable. The provision of binoculars in the bird hide is a good idea.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider doing a survey of plant, insect, bird and mammal species on site.
- Continue developing the range of sculptures in the site.
- Consider extending the range of food on offer in the tearoom to simple items such as toasted teacakes or prepared sandwiches.
- Consider selling the vegetables in the shop.
- Consider introducing scented planting around the patio area.

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## Just The Job

## Gold

### Overall Impression

What better way to empower adults with disabilities and achieve their potential than become part of Just The Job Environmental Enterprise Ltd. A dedicated and enthusiastic team (of 20 members and 7 staff) who work all year round nurturing individuals of Richmondshire, by developing a sense of worth and personal development by giving access through work based skills. The judges were very impressed with the work done in the Orchard, as well as the work based skills developed in the poly-tunnel, sales area and plant nursery. The judges commend the team for the work they do within the community. One off gardening projects, regular maintenance contracts, assistance with Richmond in Bloom, and the collaboration with many other local groups show the extent to how the group engage with their community. It was a pleasure to be escorted on a tour by enthusiastic, joyous members who were happy to share with us the knowledge and skills they have gained, and demonstrate the work they do. We also loved the crafts from natural materials in the coppice, the dedication to wildlife and the environment with the many projects ongoing and using the outdoors and the environment to develop work based skills. Well done to Steve and his staff for fostering a sense of pride and engagement with the environment.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- With many ongoing projects and work in progress it would be good to see all come to fruition. Keep continuing as you are and developing the site and skills base in this unique and worthwhile enterprise.

## **Kirkwood Hospice**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The hospice was established over thirty years ago, since which a major building unit has been constructed and the grounds landscaped. The garden`s serve the hospice in many ways being used for patient therapy, visitors to relax in and providing space for events. The main garden has been landscaped to a very good design and standard, which in turn is being well maintained.. The pond area provides water for animals and insects as well as a place of beauty for visitors. When viewed from the terrace the full beauty and functionality of the garden can be seen. Working with local companies has resulted in growing box`s being constructed these are used for a variety of growing styles including tomatoes and vegetables.

Congratulations to the staff and volunteers who carry out such excellent work.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- As we disused the hanging baskets were introduced this year and were a little late. As they are in such a prominent position all be it difficult for space and overhangs some thought could be given to how these are produced and displayed in future.
- As the large terrace boxes are replaced it is worth considering watering issues, along with the planting style needed in this area. help can be found at [RHS.org/plantfinder](http://RHS.org/plantfinder) if any help is needed.
- The mix of planting works on the narrow road borders to the visitor car park as room is limited it could be worth considering encouraging the ivy to become the main planting but kept under control.

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## **Northcliffe Environmental Enterprises Team (NEET)**

## **Gold & Joint Category Winner**

### **Overall Impression**

On a lovely sunny day, we were met by Ian and Suzanne, and wonderful displays of bedding plants in wheelbarrows, a wooden train and even a sailing boat all made by the helpers who also make bird boxes. a wishing well and fairy houses. Most are made with reclaimed wood supplied by a local firm, which also sells the delightful finished products on their behalf.

NEET is a social enterprise group, working with people with learning and other disabilities, who all perform worthwhile tasks including cooking and serving in the charming cafe which also produces jams and pickles with fruit which they grow or is donated. They grow at least 50,000 bedding plants annually plus perennials, hanging baskets and all the vegetables used in the cafe.

The neighbouring allotments are donating polytunnels to add to the ones they already have. There are underground water storage tank which hold almost 60,000 gallons and wildlife pond with tadpoles and newts - a lovely place for visits by the Rainbows and 240 children who come for pond dipping and foraging and to enjoy the bees and butterflies which abound in such a green area. Everything which Ian somehow manages to get donated is repaired,

renovated and resold - including lawnmowers, Victorian lampposts and even a Barnes Circus Carousel.

The group has recently started setting up 'Pop up' cafes in the locality selling burgers and other treats all made by the chef and have recently won 1st prize at Harrogate Flower Show with their delightful 'Secret Shed' which they designed and built themselves.

Funding is provided by their own sales and from local organisations and a bid has recently been made to the Council to buy the Freehold from the council instead of paying an annual peppercorn rent. It was very heart-warming to see so many happy people learning skills - this is an incredible organisation which transforms people's lives - Congratulations - very well done.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- It would be very nice to have photographs of the plants grown throughout the year with some of hanging baskets and planters.
- With the recent employment of the perennial expert, it will give scope for more year-round interest and expand selling quality

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## **Overgate Hospice**

## **Silver Gilt**

#### **Overall Impression**

I was giving a warm welcome by Phil Allworthy. This is a calm and relaxing garden, with an excellent mix of bedding plants, pots, shrubs and a wild area. The use of seating, sculpture and bee loving flowers, adds to the gardens overall enjoyment.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The layout of the garden, with user friendly paths, encourages visitors to wander and experience the different areas.
- The Day Center Garden will benefit from the new green house and the repair of the fountain.
- I would encourage the replacement of benches as needed, to enable the continued provision of outdoor quiet sitting spaces.

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## Prince of Wales Hospice, Pontefract

**Silver**

### Overall Impression

The Prince of Wales Hospice has a lovely tidy and clean garden, there are many peaceful areas and corners where patients and family can sit and enjoy this quiet calm space. The garden is large and wraps around the whole building.

Considering the very tight budget, the garden is well maintained.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The Garden would benefit from more plantings in the borders to add more colour but also help with maintenance as the more open soil the more weeding!
- Consider more interest in the planting, plants which aide the senses so consider adding more scented colourful, textural planting.
- Look at the overall improvement on basic maintenance of hedges/ grass then build upon plant collections
- It is clear you don't have a problem recruiting volunteers for the hospice so try, if possible, to bring in more garden specific volunteers
- This is a large garden which wraps around the hospice, not all of it are at the same standard but there are plans to slowly improve these areas when funds become available.
- There is Viburnum beetle on the viburnum tinus ask your gardener to have a look at this and spray with appropriate insecticide.

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## St Gemma's Hospice

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

A wide variety of plants grown to a very high standard and a very knowledgeable gardener.

Good use of recycling including bark from some trees removed used to create path ways.

The alpine garden and labyrinth are outstanding.

The gardens achieve their aim of providing a calming environment for patients and their families.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- We look forward to the redevelopment of the Counselling Dome roofing.

## Category B1: - Small Business

### Basin Howe Farm Cottages Gold

#### Overall Impression

A beautiful and much loved garden created by owners Heather and Richard Mullin which is, no doubt, a huge selling point in the marketing of the holiday cottage business. The garden is divided into distinct areas each with its own character and is, in many ways, still evolving. High horticulture, lots of imagination, a skilled plant lady who knows how to group plants together. Beautiful!

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to work with the seasons as you are doing and continue to work for the good of the natural environment around you. This is a lovely garden where wildlife are very welcome.
- The developments you are working on and your future plans will enhance your garden even further.

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### Carpenters Arms Gold

#### Overall Impression

As you come into the village your eyes are attracted by the topiary feature outside the Carpenters Arms and this draws you in to the garden area, complimented by the colourful hanging baskets and mangers. To the rear there are some seating areas which overlook the herb garden which doubles as seating space in front of the rooms with laurel to screen the view of the rooms. The herb area gives a different style of planting but is also used by the Chefs, reducing air miles. Recycling is taken into account, all green waste is removed to a local compost heap and seasonal planting is chosen to reduce watering and containers for cigarette stubs are provided

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Would you consider adding some swift boxes due to the numbers of swifts flying around There is more information on the swift conservation web site [swift-conservation.org](http://swift-conservation.org) and I think there is a local group at Helmsley

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## **Filey Bistro and Coffee Bar**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The Bistro is owned by Joanne and Steve Knox and the garden is tended by employee Janet. In four years she has created a fabulous outdoor area. The stunning courtyard garden has mixed borders on three sides and a higher tier of vibrant hanging baskets and pots. A pergola is clothed in Wisteria and the adjoining alley way is decorated with pots and troughs. All the plants are well maintained. Janet waters, hoes and deadheads and keeps the Wisteria under control. The courtyard has a trompe-l'oeil to disguise the gate to the storage area and each table is named with a nearby plant or flower with its full details. The owners are very supportive and certificates are displayed on the Bistro wall and the front window advertises the award winning garden as does the sandwich board by the alley.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Keep up the good work.
- The only suggestion I would make is to incorporate a nautical theme and consider a watering system for your day off.

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## **Huddersfield Irish Centre**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

Small but perfectly formed would be an excellent description of the garden at Huddersfield Irish centre. It should provide inspiration to others who have no soil areas and only paving to work on..Planters of various types line each side of the garden, using seasonal planting to good effect by matching plant types and colours in an even pattern. This is further enhanced by the use of mini tower planters and wall baskets providing a very colourful display of well maintained plants. To complete the scene a small Irish bog garden has been installed. Whilst space is at a premium water is collected and recycled, and a insect house has been build.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- A very minor point in a couple of wall baskets the polythene lining was showing, consider using a few more trailing plants to provide full cover in future years.
- Given the size and type of space available the garden is excellent and do continue in the same way. in future years.

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## Hutton Cranswick Fisheries

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

This small family run business was a pleasure to visit with its well planted and colourful displays. A variety of containers had been used, these included a window box, tub, hanging basket and a wheel barrow which was overflowing with white Petunias.

The owners take an innovative approach to watering the plants by recycling the water used to prepare the chips.

The planting had been extended to the fisheries owner's owned property next door, creating a matching double fronted display which was very attractive. The provision of a bench located at the side of the fisheries for use not only by customers, but for wider community was generous and reflects the owners commitment to participate in the village entry to the in bloom competition. A very well done.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The severe conditions experienced during the summer has highlighted where some plants tolerate the conditions and others fail to.
- Consideration could be given to replacing any plants which have died or suffered the conditions. Also for future years creating more height within the displays by having tiering and greater use of trailing plants.
- The two unused mangers could be relocated to the corner of the side of the building, and matched planting with the hanging basket could create a stunning display if planted with bold coloured seasonal plants.
- The bench would benefit from an Autumn renovation which could be complimented with carefully placed screening around the recycling bins

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## James White Butchers Hutton Cranswick Silver

### Overall Impression

This family run business takes great pride in their shop frontage and as you would expect from a butchers premises is pristine and well maintained.

The densely planted and highly colourful trough and containers outside the shop, give customers and passers by an enjoyable and cheerful floral welcome. The level of commitment was clear, a lot of time and effort has been invested. Within the shop, pink and white Orchids decorate the shop window. With the red awning over the shop window adding to the visual impact, the whole ensemble is striking and stands out from amongst the cream and white painted buildings. A sterling effort, keep up the good work.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consideration should be given to using plants with more height in the planters, particularly away from the window frontage.
- There is opportunity to continue to develop the colourful displays and utilise the whole space available outside the shop with additional containers and possibly manger baskets utilising the adjacent fence.
- Following the autumn refurbishment of the containers and trough. It would be an ideal time to plant an additional small number of perennials with all year round coloured foliage to help sustain the colourful presentation of the shop.

## **King Street Kitchen & Gift, Richmond Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Set off the Market Square is King Street Kitchen & Gift. A small shop it maybe, but has presence and kerb appeal. Well-built and designed window boxes with hanging baskets make the shop frontage appealing and enhance the street feel.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Publicity for Richmond in Bloom and Yorkshire in Bloom, either by posters or flyers would help to promote the awards scheme. Continue with your support – well done Alyson.

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## **Millgate House and Garden Gold & Category Winner**

### **Overall Impression**

The Regency looking façade is a great opener to what hides behind the door. This 1720s built house has extensive gardens to the side and rear of the property being walled on both sides and with views of the Swale. As an acclaimed guest house B&B, with self-catering facilities the gardens are a great attraction. Having such a diverse range of planting, design features and plant rarities the owners have to be commended for wishing to share this delight. Open to public access from April to October, this garden and house is a hidden gem in Richmond. Tim & Austin (the owners) exude passion for plants and also people. An impressive collection of hostas, roses, clematis scrambling through trees, and even offering private tours to show their snowdrop collection. Millgate House and Garden has to be on everyone's list who visit Richmond, as witnessed by the many enthusiastic reports and comments and has featured in many magazines, books and articles. Well done.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The judges were over awed with the atmosphere, and hospitality of their visit. It is clear that after many years doing this the owners know there stuff.
- We feel it would be difficult (but also subjective) to suggest ways in which you can expand on the work you have done.

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## **Mount Pleasant Kennels Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The kennels are situated in pleasant and well maintained grounds. A lesson in being prepared was shown by the fact that all the dead grass had been raked of the lawn areas, a reasonable shower of rain resulted in re-growth occurring within days, the dead grass had not interfered with the rain.

The weather has of course effected the plants used in the kennel gardens with some shrubs suffering and odd ones had been removed because they had died.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The stream side area by the cattery is possibly becoming a little un-kempt, whilst some of the appearance could be due to the weather, consideration could be given to undertaking some restoration work.

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## **Paul Harrison Cars Hutton Cranswick**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Paul Harrison Cars has created a very colourful forecourt with purpose built planter supports, a large trough, baskets and pots. All planted with seasonal flowering plants giving a striking display.

The security fencing at the boundary of the forecourt has been screened in places by a variety of perennial plants, some donated. These are maturing well, a number of them hosting nectar loving insects and butterflies. The limited opportunity to capture water to use on the plants has also been considered, together with recycling of waste materials from the garage operation. The efforts made to boost the appearance of what could be a very sterile environment is noteworthy and deserves credit.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The success of the planted boundaries needs to be developed further with additional evergreen perennials and climbers.
- The utilisation of the garage canopy structure supports is an opportunity which could have great impact on the forecourt. Securing large hanging or manger baskets to the uprights and using a mix of trailing and upright plants would give immediate presence and a focal point at the garage entrance to both customers and those travelling past the forecourt.
- The current display in the mangers and troughs could be further enhanced with additional plants, some trailing to build even greater impact and colour.

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## **Richmond House, Felixkirk**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

Richmond House has been well designed for holiday stays but still give colour and interest all year round allowing the families to use the area. There is a small amount of lawn and a seating area with perennial areas which are planted to attract insect pollinators which were very evident on the visit. The climbing roses on the property give colour and scent for the visitors. The Malus Everest hedge provides blossom and autumn colour as well as providing food for the wildlife and shows the site has been planted for biodiversity and there are insect boxes on the property.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- It is difficult to suggest improvements to this site as the design provides interest and colour year round.
- I guess there are spring bulbs planted which might be an option if not.

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## **The Barrel, Walkington      Silver**

### **Overall Impression**

The Barrel Public House is located on a busy through road in the village of Walkington. There is an immediate visual impact as you approach this establishment. The baskets and planters are of a high quality and in keeping with this old traditional building. It was good to see there was a watering system in place.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Sadly, even though we attempted to contact him on the morning of our visit, we were unable to meet with the Landlord, Graham, so we have only been able to award average marks in Category C Community.
- The front of the establishment may have benefited with a quick sweep prior to the judges arrival.
- The choice of plants for the baskets were good and in excellent condition. Some of the petunias required a little dead heading.

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## **The Box Tree Restaurant      Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The Box Tree is situated at an angle to the main road, in such away that the displays and planting serve not only to enhance the restaurant but act as a welcome to Ilkley. the garden also contains a series of raised herb beds, producing for the restaurant. The planting design includes box tree`s.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Given the pressure box is under continue to monitor and carry out the maintenance program you have established
- Ccontinue to provide this display both for the Restaurant and as a welcome to the town.

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## The Commercial Railway

**Silver**

### Overall Impression

The Public House and pleasing and welcoming entrance with comfortable floral outside seating areas and an array of well furnished hanging baskets.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The one thing that could improve the condition of the floral displays and the life of the entrants would be the installation of some form of automatic watering.
- Self watering tubs and containers may also be a useful addition to the floral displays

## The Farm Shop at Cranswick

**Silver**

### Overall Impression

The Farm Shop underwent a major expansion in very recent years and the site is still developing. The new building hosts a very smart cafe area which can seat up to 80 people, and this is matched with a large shop selling a range of locally sourced produce. The car park is extensive with an overflow car park proposed adjacent, just to keep up with demand for this locally popular venue. A number of large containers have been used in front of the building, giving a bold splash of seasonal red. At the rear a mixed range of smaller containers and colourful seasonal bedding has been used to brighten up the patio area amongst the picnic tables. There is an expansive grassed area to the rear of the building, used for a small number of go carts with a play area being considered for the future. The business has clearly blossomed since its expansion in 2016 and is attracting visitors to its shop from a much wider area than just the immediate vicinity. It looked impressive and those in the team we met were enthusiastic and keen to see the business grow, good luck with what is an interesting and challenging venture.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The Box hedging and containers at the front of the building could be complimented with the addition of hay racks, planted with a mix of perennial and seasonal plants, secured at strategic locations to help add more colour to the large amount of brickwork seen.
- The rather ordinary appearance of the entrance to the site does not reflect the bold appearance of the new building and consideration could be given to enhancing this area. A simple start would be the trimming of the hedges and better signage.
- Both judges were impressed with the investment that has taken place and the level of commitment shown for the future, but felt that more needs to be done towards screening the car park and landscaping and screening of the large rear open grass area, in advance of any further major investment is programmed.
- The shop and cafe were recognised as being wheelchair friendly and this could be further improved with additional picnic tables being provided which have facility for wheelchair users.



## The King's Head, Hedon

## Gold

### Overall Impression

This first time entry for Yorkshire in Bloom is outstanding. The hanging baskets, window boxes and wall planters overflowing with blooms provide a welcoming riot of colour to the two walls of the public house facing the street. The landlord and landlady have been managing the public house for less than a year and the floral display is evidence of the time and enthusiasm shown by them in maintaining it to a very high standard.

To the rear of the public house a section of the car park has been used to create an attractive beer garden and smoking area with an imaginative use of containerised shrubs and hardy perennials to create an inviting year round outside space.

The beer garden, some of which is under cover, has been constructed by the landlord himself with an extensive and imaginative use of recycled timber and materials. Most of the many containerised shrubs and plants have also been recycled from a previous public house managed by the couple. Rainwater catchment from the covered area of the garden is used in maintaining the plants.

Further recycling is planned for another under utilised area of the car park with the construction of a raised bed to over winter some of the planting from the current floral displays. The landlord and lady are keen to promote their business with the local and wider community through press coverage, and involvement with the annual Hedon Festival.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Possible inclusion of pollinators amongst the planting could be considered.
- Bird boxes and insect hotels could be located within the car parking area

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## The Old White Horse Brasserie

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

Stepping through the entrance to the Riverside Beer Garden and walking on the cobbles of one of the oldest buildings Bingley dating back to 1379 gave a sense of what Tracy and team had achieved in the 18 months of taking over this establishment. The outside seating area was clean, litter free and inviting with tables and benches all in good condition surrounded by raised beds of edibles and herbs which are of good quality, we liked the names of the herbs painted on stones. After the floods in 2015 it was an opportunity to give all the beds a revamp with new soil and well-rotted organic matter and replanted. There are a few insect boxes. The hanging baskets, troughs were combined with some sustainable plants of ivy, box and conifers all looking good and 2 bay trees standing sentry at the front door all supported with an irrigation system.

The pub has been sympathetically renovated with support Bingley historical society providing pictures which are on show along with the YIB 2017 certificate. Well done

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider portfolio/photos to show year-round activity highlighting any events that have taken place e.g. The possibility of Community Downs Syndrome group helping with the garden would strengthen your entry.
- It was mentioned that you have spring bulbs

# The Stansfield Arms

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

What a treat for patrons and visitors to this family run business, all weed and litter free. The whole frontage of The Stansfield Arms is a beacon of vibrant colour giving 5-star impact with hanging baskets, window boxes and troughs dripping with good quality well maintained plantings on a backdrop of wall covered ivy, also a habitat for birds and insects and we were impressed that the maintenance programme for pruning the ivy was timed after the birds had nested & fledged including wagtails. Environmental initiatives were being used such as bird & insect boxes, trees at the rear for the nesting owls and irrigation systems. The Herb garden at the side was well stocked for the chef to use. The cart located by the roadside, recently repaired, had a cottagey planting theme which worked well and is a link to the heritage of the old coaching inn dating back to the 16th century, with historical photos being shown inside the pub. It was great to see previous YIB award certificates being showcased. Well done to Tracy and the team, it was delightful for us to visit.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider a portfolio/photos to show year round activity highlighting any events that have taken place and forward planning would strengthen your entry.
- It was mentioned that you have spring bulbs and pansies/violas planted in the containers for a spring show, again evidence of this would show all year-round interest.
- Perhaps have some plants on the south facing terrace to encourage pollinators to visit and have a drink of nectar along with your patrons such as bees and butterflies, could look on the RHS website for a plant list.

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# Three Horse Shoes, Oulton

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

While driving along the road towards the Three Horse Shoes public house the judges knew they had found the right place because of the outstanding floral displays and hanging baskets which would encourage any passer by to stop.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consideration could be given to water harvesting from roof of the buildings
- More composting and areas for biodiversity would it make the area more interesting.

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## York House Richmond

## Gold

### Overall Impression

Anyone visiting the Market Place in Richmond cannot fail to miss the beautiful floral displays that adorn this Georgian fronted shop. A treasure trove of rooms selling vintage, shabby chic and reclaimed garden wares, which spill out through the courtyard and into the garden. The garden acts as a backdrop for all the many salvaged garden artefacts that are sold. The displays are used to inspire and promote the garden objects that are for sale. Christine's imagination and skilful garden design make this place an inspiration for all who visit. From compost bins and wormery in the vegetable garden to pond and flower beds spread all around, the judges had to be rushed along otherwise we could have spent all day there. The planting, quality of maintenance and upkeep was of a very high standard. Well done Christine & Laura.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It would be good to see constant promotional material for Richmond in Bloom and Yorkshire in Bloom. Please display your award in a prominent position to showcase your achievement.

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## Yorkshire Country Holidays Ltd

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

A series of small holiday cottages centre around the former walled garden built in 1770's. Originally the garden was part of John Yorke's Richmond estate, and latterly as a market garden, and tree nursery before falling into disuse. Reinstating this walled garden and associate cottages has been a labour of love for Marcia & Denise. Having re developed the cottages and built their home they then only recently turned their skills to the garden. With terracing to split the levels the garden is evolving into its own style and ambience. Lovely arbour and parterre planted with traditional roses and spreading herbaceous borders, are naming only a few of the many features that are to be seen. Opening the garden for the NGS last year (600 visitors and £4200 raised) and holding 4 fund raising events so far this year, (raising a further £2000 for charity) not to mention the hosting of smaller group visits, this garden is making its mark within the Richmond area. The ongoing programme of maintenance and development of the business and garden, demonstrates the enthusiasm and work commitment that they have.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continued development of the herbaceous border and in-filling of plants as and when will enhance the appearance aimed for.
- Consider woodland bulb planting for a spring display.
- Erect bird & bat boxes in suitable locations around the garden to enhance the wildlife habitat further.

## Category B2: - Medium Business

### Abbeydale Residential Home

### Gold & Category Winner

#### Overall Impression

The grounds are maintained to the highest standard, consisting of large trees, perennial planting and spectacular seasonal planting set off by grass maintained again to a high standard.

The quality of the individual plants, and the over all display can only be described as outstanding. The residents assist with some growing and planting, and are immensely proud of the displays. A new shed/greenhouse is providing improved facilities for staff and residents are using the green house as well.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The quality and attention to detail of every aspect of the grounds is such that the only comment is to carry on with the successful formula that has been developed.
- Congratulations to everyone involved.

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### Country Style Foods LTD

### Gold

#### Overall Impression

No one could not be impressed by the floral displays around the entrance and other buildings which can only be described as outstanding.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The grassed area had a high percentage of weeds within it which detracted from the otherwise excellent entry.
- Consideration could be given to water harvesting from the roofs of some or all of the buildings.

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### Middlethorpe Hall & Spa Gold

#### Overall Impression

Beautiful parkland and formal gardens. Horticulture was very good in all categories. The vegetable garden was a delight and planted with innovation. Andy Leighton is a real asset to the business and knows his parkland like the back of his hand. Nice feature fruiting trees really add to the garden. Lovely formal garden for the spa and hotel. Woodlands well establish with a great variety of trees including some rare species. Some rare and old species of plants which are nurtured. Areas left to Wildflower and conservation. Works in partnership with RHS for garden groups and talks.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- All the areas were really very good, this is managed by a professional small team that are committed and know exactly what they are doing
- Changes are happening in the kitchen garden to look out for next year
- It was nice to see Andy's enthusiasm for the old style of planting that he had learnt from others and is passing on
- It would have been nice to see more information on the background and the culture of Middlethorpe Hall and Spa
- All very good and a real joy to see. Thank you to all for showing us around.

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## **Mirfield Co-Op**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

We were shown around the Co-Op's car park and store frontage by John Marsh and his team. It was clear how much pride they all have in what they have created.

The whole area was very clean and tidy, whilst clearing the banking this year the team discovered a rockery that had become densely overgrown with old shrubs and bushes. The rockery is made up from large natural stones, the team decided that to enhance the stone they would use alpines in the rockery. A lot of thought has gone into the choosing of the plants, the effect is really good and once it has had time to establish will look excellent.

There was good use of pyracantha to stop individuals cutting across the area and damaging the plants. It was good to hear of the composting taking place and water retention.

We liked the 16 hanging baskets created from old plastic shopping baskets, there is a hose lock system in place for watering. The plants were well chosen and colourful, as were the two shopping trollies also planted at the entrance to the store.

The 'Save the Bee' campaign has been successful in drawing the attention to both young and old of the importance of pollinator plants. The 'bee hive' with the swarms of bees, 1,000 bees created by three local schools, is a lovely attraction and whilst we were at the Co-Op a number of young people visited with their parents to find the bee which they had created.

The John Marsh and his team should be commended for the work they are involved with in the Mirfield Community, we are sure that without the passion of John and his team the community would be poorer for it.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

As discussed whilst we visited;

- Consider adding dwarf bulbs for the spring such as dwarf Iris and Tete-a-Tete planting them in clumps.
- Consider further planting such as aubretia which will give a greater ground cover and comes in a variety of colours. Also consider further sedum species.
- Check the planting and maintain a good programme for cutting back when they start to get too big.
- We know your plans for the end of the banking to take out the old shrubs and bushes, this will take some hard work but will be worthwhile.
- Consider further perennials in the verge and borders such as cransbills and astrantia.

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## West Park Hotel

## Gold

### Overall Impression

West Park Hotel faces on to West Park Stray in Harrogate town centre and has a fairly prominent position on view to town visitors as well as hotel guests. Above the pavement front, containers mounted on a balustrade along the entire width of the hotel are planted with a pleasing and eye-catching display of pink-flowered trailing variegated pelargoniums and petunias. Planted pots on the tables beneath pick up this colour theme. The choice of plants and indeed the compost used has emerged from observation of previous plantings with the aim of minimising watering and maintenance. The containers are planted in the winter/spring months with shrubs and ivies (oversummered at a local nursery from where all annual plants are also bought) and enhanced with violas.

At the rear of the hotel a comparatively shady courtyard has more varied perennial plantings within deep containers, scented climbers and wall mounted coloured pots. The use of plants in this area 'green' an otherwise quite barren area surrounded by high walls.

At the end of the summer season some of the annual plants are passed to a local school or the charity Horticap.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- In the courtyard to the rear of the hotel, perhaps some measures could be put in place to support wildlife eg insect boxes (of the posh variety bearing in mind this is a hotel!), possibly bird boxes?
- Could ivy be grown up the external wall of the car park? It would make this wall look less stark as well as providing a wildlife habitat. (It is appreciated, however, that there may be issues with this dependent on the 'ownership' of the wall) If it isn't already in place, could there be some interpretation/information within or outside the hotel regarding its history as a Victorian Coach House?

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## Wetherby Manor Care Home

## Gold

### Overall Impression

A very well maintained garden. Planted only 5 years ago this garden is doing well in its youth. A large use of annual bedding creates a wow factor in keeping with the residents needs. I was impressed with the care taken in creating this garden with residents with dementia in mind, the use of bright colours to aid vision and plants used would be familiar to those living there. Creating a brilliant therapeutic environment. They had recently built raised beds and these were planted up simply by the residents with produce that could be used in the kitchen. Each plant was clearly labelled using a familiar picture ensuring residents could identify what was growing. There was a lot of bird tables clearly being used by the local birds and these were in clear sight for residents to enjoy.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Overall maintenance was great, it would be nice to see some more natural pruning on some of the larger shrubs around the garden.

- The fruit trees will benefit from being pruned this winter, keeping them to a manageable size and shape.
- It would be nice to see some of the excess plants that they have left over perhaps be offered to a local school, they are currently sold at the Summer Fayre to raise funds. Maybe offering the children a bit of a project with them like plating a large planter for the home.
- Creating a herb garden would be a lovely addition as would a water feature, these would add to the sensory environment with sound, smell and touch.
- A corner of the garden planted with 'cool' colours might be a nice soothing feature too.

## Category B3: - Large Business

### Airedale Shopping Centre

**Gold**

#### Overall Impression

Situated in the centre of Keighley the shopping area aims also to be at the centre of the community. it funds and maintains 110 hanging baskets on the outer edge of the centre giving benefit to the whole town. the planter on level one have been reonovated and replanted with shade tolerant plants that are more appropriate to this location. The area outside the offices is used to enable children from Our lady of Victory and Holy family school to grow vegetables on their weekly visit..

Environmental issues are clearly important in the operation of the centre, a program is currently in place to replace lights with LED lighting. Re-cycling is carried out and achieves 42% this is done by staff ensuring materials are correctly seperated to ensure the quality of the waste. The team also recycle un-wanted fittings from tennants to charity groups.

The support provided by the centre manager and his staff to, bloom, schools and many charities and environmental groups is excellent and sets an example that others could do well to follow.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- To continue the vegetable project, but more thought could be given to crop types and growing methods to improve the results. Something like strawberries could be grown in large gutters to increase interest.

# Crystal Peaks Shopping Mall and Retail Park

**Gold**

## **Overall Impression**

Well, visiting Crystal Peaks is retail therapy without the need to spend any money! Situated in over 40 acres and having been established for over thirty years, the site encompasses all the elements one might expect (formal bedding, tubs, hanging baskets, car park landscaping etc), but also has many more additional features including a stumpery, rockery, wildflower meadow, living wall etc. The staff team go to great lengths to encourage wildlife onto the site and into the surrounding areas and to this end work closely with wildlife groups, volunteers and others to support the work they do. They are mindful of recycling with all green waste going into a commercial 'stream' resulting in the production of useable compost.

Woodwaste is chipped and used onsite. They also have a wormery and (rooftop) beehive on site. The team very much see themselves as being at the heart of the community and organise or support relevant local initiatives. Interpretation boards around the site explain the purpose of certain areas, including what might be seen there. The website advertises volunteering opportunities on the adjacent Ochre Dike.

This was a fascinating and eye-opening visit demonstrating just what can be achieved when the will to do so is there.

## **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Given the current dry summer and the prospect of more in the future, might there be opportunities for rainwater harvesting in some appropriate areas of the site?
- While appreciating that the website is mainly aimed at shoppers, might it be possible to have a section highlighting some of the more 'unusual' garden and wildlife features and their purpose, perhaps with a map of where they are located?

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# Flemingate Centre, Beverley **Gold & Joint Category Winner**

## **Overall Impression**

The Flemingate Centre is a very impressive site. It is exceptionally clean and litter free, the planting schemes and hanging baskets enhance the centre and we are sure draw in the customers from the local area and further afield. We were impressed with the sand sculpture of the Cathedral, created by Paul Hoggard. We also took on board how the management had acted on the points for consideration last year and increased the number of hanging baskets so there is now a flow around the centre. Plantscape have provided the baskets and Wintergreen look after the maintenance - both to a very high standard.

The Manager, Graham, explained how they are working with local schools and we were shown the school beds created by the young people from St. Nicholas School. We were advised this area would be including a vegetable patch next year. There are all year round community events taking place at the centre making it an integrated community endeavour rather than just a shopping complex. Future plans are that they hope to place bee hives on the roof of the centre.

## **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Continue to encourage the schools to become involved with the centre
- We hope your plans for bee hives come to fruition



- Consider adding some colour to your hard landscaping at the back of the centre to blend in with the shrubs which are already in place
- Further explore the possibility of an area around the back of the centre to sow wildflower species to contrast the more formal natural environmental landscaping at the entrance providing some bio-diversity which could lead to further collaboration with the local schools.
- Continue the work you have started to forge further links with the town centre

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## **Fox Valley Shopping Centre**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Fox Valley Shopping Centre, built on the site of a former steelworks and designed to reflect its industrial heritage, has been open for two years. They have made a great start in improving the built environment with trees and low hedging in the car parks, deep planters at shop entrances, hanging baskets across the site and a piazza area used for events. In certain locations, particularly where there are café's/restaurants further plantings enclose and enhance the outside seated areas.

The team at the shopping centre are keen to be at the heart of their local community and hold events/activities such as a farmer's market, sixties day, children's workshop etc. Duke of Edinburgh volunteers from a local school have assisted with watering in the current extreme conditions and volunteers from the Steel Valley project have helped with the creation of a meadow at the entrance to the site. They have effective communications with the local and wider community via their website and other social media and also produce a traditional newsletter which has proved popular too.

The history of the site is effectively highlighted in number of ways including a series of panels to the rear of the car park, a photographic display with in one of the buildings and in the umbrella touting fox statue on the entrance roundabout!

The team are to be commended on their approach and what they have achieved in just two years.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Wire hanging baskets require a lot of watering and it would certainly be worth considering changing to a solid type of basket with water reservoir.
- The shrubs in an area to the rear of the car park below the interpretation boards were struggling to become established. There may need to be some investigation of the cause of this (lack of soil depth, soil contamination) before any remedial action is taken.
- It would be good to see further initiatives to encourage wildlife. The banking alongside much of the car park is grass and cannot be easy to maintain. Allowing at least some of this to grow wild would reduce maintenance and encourage wildlife. Any adverse perceptions by visitors about 'untidiness' could be addressed through interpretation and information on the website, newsletter etc.
- The roses along the bottom of this banking appeared to be struggling. If the team wish to have a floral edge adjacent to the car park they may need to review the planting with 'right plant, right place' in mind.
- Now would be a good time to start looking at more recycling and re-using initiatives eg perhaps some rainwater harvesting, again alongside information/interpretation for customers.

## Hollins Hall

## Gold

### Overall Impression

Hollins Hall is an interesting site with a variety of planting styles and formal areas along with involvement by the residents in their own areas giving them the opportunity to use plants in their own style. Tubs are planted in strategic areas to add colour around the site. There are some small growing spaces for the residents to use as vegetable production as well as a large pond which increases the biodiversity on the site. Fifty four different species of birds have been seen on the site and during the visit there were a pair of buzzards overhead. The wildflower area is a great addition by the orchard and maybe there is more opportunity to add further areas in the large areas of grass on the driveway. The key feature is the pleached limes which give an architectural element to the front of the building. Dave Hullah should be complimented on keeping the site well maintained and replanting the site as required with a wide variety of plants.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Would there be any opportunity to save water from the rooves in water barrels, to help with watering the garden areas? Maybe consider planting some of the south facing areas by the buildings with plants that are suitable for dry areas to cope with the heat from the building and it may offer a different range of plants.

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## Kings Croft Hotel, Pontefract

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

Kings Court is set in lovely grounds that are very well tended by a contract gardener. The whole area was very clean and tidy. It was good to hear that all the trees had been tagged and recorded.

It is easy to see why this is a very busy and thriving business. Guests are able to walk in the grounds as well as view them from the restaurants and bedrooms. There is a sense of peace with the planting scheme blending in with the open countryside beyond its boundaries. We liked the use of the gate and wildflowers that form a backdrop for wedding photographs. The use of a selection of shrubs rather than just one in the hedges created interest and colour.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- You have created a lovely walkway at the entrance leading to the main venue with standards trees neatly clipped on either side.
- Consider further feature planting leading to the wedding facility
- Some areas lacked in colour
- Consider investing in more pots and plants dotted through the site
- The grass maintenance could be improved with aeration and fertilisation of the lawns
- The pond area is good, consider adding further planting in the area

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## Leeds Valley Park

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

Leeds Valley Park is a large commercial development with substantial office blocks housing considerable numbers of people. The buildings are surrounded by car parks and landscaped areas which are well maintained

The outside landscaped areas are well used by staff of the buildings for lunchtime picnics and taking of fresh air.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- There is clearly a car parking problem which needs resolving
- The park could have areas for biodiversity included within it which would be advantageous
- Water and solar harvesting from the buildings could be considered
- The entrance signs to the park were obscured by planting which needs to be attended to

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## Market Cross, Selby

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

A busy and interesting shopping centre

A good full community year round activity

Improvements planned for 2018

Budget being used wisely to maintain the planted and hardstanding areas

A new sound system in place

A good addition to Selby market town

A good selection of independent retailers in keeping with a market town

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Alison Shipman is really keen to further develop the Yorkshire in Bloom offer and should be congratulated.
- Investment has been made to Market Cross, owners Dransfield Properties have also recently completed the high quality development on New Lane which now has three luxury residential apartments with shop units underneath.
- Escapologist now occupies one of these brand new units with a new restaurant and escape rooms. Dominos are also part of the line-up and announcements are due to be made soon on what the middle unit will be.

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## **Nidd Hall**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The seating areas around the hotel were colourful and well maintained. There was well planned and creative planting schemes. All around the site the plants were in very good condition and the standard of care obviously very high. The care and training of shrubs was impressive. All hard surfaces were in good condition, All grassed areas were in good condition. The variety of activities provided in the grounds for guests and other was impressive. The signage, especially wildlife related was impressive. The wildlife areas were impressively well cared for and the range of species on site is impressive. The vegetable garden and the orchard were interesting ideas. There was creative use of hard landscaping, as in the beach and dry waterfall areas. It was good to hear that the use of chemicals is avoided on site.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Consider developing planting around the car park areas.
- Consider scented planting in seating areas.
- Perhaps develop a bed of insect friendly flowers.
- Consider use of buddleias near wildlife sites to bring in insects.

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## **Proudfoot Supermarket**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

Colourful hanging baskets and wall mangers cloak three sides of the building situated on a busy main road. These are beautifully planted and well maintained. Hedges around the site are neat and tidy and there is no evidence of litter anywhere in the car park. The floral displays will , no doubt, put the customers in a happy frame of mind long before they even get into the building to do their shopping! Proudfoot supermarket are proud of their floral success as the banner outside proclaims and so they should be!

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Continue to maintain your high standards despite the extreme temperatures which must make maintenance very difficult.
- Continue with your support of the community by grant funding which is making my a difference to many small local groups.

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# Rogerthorpe Manor Hotel Gold & Joint Category Winner

## Overall Impression

As one enters the drive into Rogerthorpe Manor an array of colour it's the visitor straight away, and with the well kept carpark and surrounds this sets the standard of what is to be. Well placed stone features many decorated with seasonal bedding help to enhance the atmosphere and as a visitor the experience is enhanced with the magnificence of the bedding, baskets, mangers, borders, and not forgetting the five star bug hotel in a natural wildlife garden. The new extension to the Manor, has thoughtfully placed planters and hayracks all bursting with colour and thriving plants, many of which Vic saves year after year. No wonder the grounds are a popular setting for wedding photographs and events. Well done Vic, the level of maintenance is to be commended.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider a unified planting scheme for the new large raised bed.
- Low lying shrubs will cut down on weeding and maintenance and give more all year round attraction.
- Consider more herb and aromatic planting to enhance and cut down on seasonal bedding. This has the advantage as being able to be used within the Hotel.
- Future entries would benefit from promotion of the RHS YIB regime and will help with tourism and the wider community

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## Rudding Park

## Silver Gilt

## Overall Impression

Rudding Park is a well maintained holiday park comprising Hotel, leisure centre, caravan park and restaurants with a vegetable garden to supply the restaurants. The design of the outdoor leisure area on the roof of the building which supplies water to the plants being reused is clearly innovative.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Some of the planting appears to be inappropriate for the long term however this may be deliberate for short-term impact
- The judges were waiting to be shown an area where exotic mushrooms were being grown
- There may be a case for considering more water harvesting and solar harvesting from the buildings
- The woodland area could be considered for the improvement of the biodiversity of the surroundings
- Where was the smoke house for smoked garlic etc in the kitchens?

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## Sheffield Forgemasters

## Silver

### Overall Impression

A haven of tranquillity within the heart of this world renowned steelworks is one of the first impressions encountered.

Despite drought conditions it was evident that the garden had flourished in optimum growing conditions in spring and a wide variety of grasses, perennials and shrubs provided interest through the garden. Given security controls the garden is primarily for the enjoyment of the employees with seating strategically placed offering a surreal sense of calmness and quiet amongst the heavy industry.

The small pond with two resident ducks added to the diversity of the entry and with the correct future management / investment the garden could evolve into a truly special feature.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Develop an action plan to incorporate new planting / reduction of beds / maintenance regimes over a set period of time ( eg. Yr1, 2, 3 )
- Consider the introduction of 2 or 3 floral containers to add vibrancy and colour to summer displays.- possible sponsorship from within SF ?
- Utilise mulching materials, bark and /or gravel to retain moisture and reduce weeding operations.
- Consider carefully reducing the number of beds back to grass to allow improved maintenance / selective planting on the remaining beds.
- Consider including the additional garden at the reception in future entries ?
- Consider an area of the garden given over to wildflower planting.
- Erect bird & bat boxes in suitable locations around the garden to enhance wildlife habitat

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## Tankersley Manor

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

Tankersley Manor is a well known hotel and health club built around a 17th century manor house. It is set in fairly substantial grounds which were well kept, neat and tidy with no litter. There are some lovely traditional features in the garden and the hanging baskets provided colour around the building.

As far as the environment is concerned there are some good features. The biomass unit is a good example as are the electric vehicle charging points. There is an area for wildlife with a bug hotel. Some re-cycling takes place and there are water barrels on the roof.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- There appears to be a lot of green hedging and shrubs around the hotel, some of which needs some attention. More colour would create a more pleasing effect.
- There are a lot of plans for improving this garden to provide a better experience for hotel guests and it will be good to see come them to fruition.
- The time allocated for looking after the grounds of this hotel is rather minimal and would benefit if it could be increased. However what is achieved is commendable.
- All the plans sound good and it is hoped that the management will be supportive in these changing times for the hotel

# The Wool Shops Halifax

# Gold

## Overall Impression

The wool shops have over 100 hanging baskets throughout the arcades of shops which stretch up to the Town centre. The baskets were full of colour and of the highest quality during our visit.

The planting throughout the site was in very good condition and well maintained.

The sustainable planting was unusual and well trained.

The wool shops provide a great unique shopping experience with car parks with perennial and mature tree and shrub planting the street furniture is well maintained.

It was good to see that planting for wildlife had been included.

The introduction of seating areas among the wildlife planting was a good idea.

The hard landscaping was interesting and varied. It was good to hear of the sites involvements with many community events. The wool shops are working hard to recycle shop waste and reduce waste going to landfill, the centre management are working with shop tenants to increase recycling rates , separate waste and reduce costs of disposal which will reduce future service charges

A great mix of shops which complement the wider town centre shopping experience the recently refurbished Piece Hall has added to the natural flow of shoppers and visitors through the complex . A very good entry

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The future site for the new statue to commemorate the Towns historic army regiment will become a focal point at one of the wool shops main pedestrian routes which will transform the area.
- Removal of buses and vehicles from the main shopping street will also allow the upgrading of seating and street furniture as part of a proposed pedestrianisation scheme and improve access to the wool shops.
- Continue the fine work to reduce shop waste and material taken to landfill
- Continue to increase wildlife planting among the sustainable plants below the car park.
- Consider introducing some scented planting at the top of the site, perhaps pots of herbs which will bring scent and butterflies into the area.
- Consider looking to replace the wooden planters in the main arcade in the next year avoid changing the layout as the current arrangements works well and shoppers have got use to the arcade layout.

## Category B4: - Tourist Attractions

### **Brodsworth Hall & Gardens      Gold & Joint Category Winner**

#### **Overall Impression**

A grand stately home of the mid victorian era, Brodsworth Hall and Gardens is a spectacle well worth the visit. The house and gardens were taken over by English Heritage in 1990 and have steady restored the gardens and grounds since then. As one expects from such grandeur a number of gardens in minature create a WoW. Particular mention has to go to the Dell, with is spectacular setting and fern displays. The Victorian Flower Garden is a draw for many with its bedding designs and colourful planting. (Incidentally designed each year by the garden staff). Having 40 garden volunteers shows the love individuals have for Brodsworth and that love, and dediction to detail is self evident as one walks round the entry. Brodsworth Hall Gardens is a credit to the staff & volunteers. Well done.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Consideration to having seperate recycling waste bins in cafe and park.
- Where possible in future judging it would help the judges if evidence of protection and conseravtion of wildlife habitat.
- Installation (If at all possible and allowable by English Hertitage) in the informal areas and wild flower patches, of bird boxes, bat boxes or consideration for insect lodges in the informal areas and wild flower patches.
- Consider looking at areas that could accomodate interpretation signs and informations points to enhance the visitor experience.

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### **East Park Hull**

### **Gold**

#### **Overall Impression**

This large park is a credit to all those involved and provides an amazing facility for the people of Hull. It has a green flag award, is a Grade II listed park and has a licenced zoo. The park first opened in 1887 and has now benefited from major refurbishment to bring it up to the high standards required today. Many aspects of the park demonstrate this including the Khyber Pass and many beautiful trees. The park has also benefitted from donations by Thomas Ferens a local benefactor.

There are two large play areas for children one of which has been refurbished to a high standard and funding has now been obtained to refurbish the other one.

There are many facilities and activities to encourage an active life style including a well supported weekly park run, an outdoor gym and a cycle/walking track.

The park is also used for very many different large successful events throughout the year.

The animal education centre is well used and the zoo is there to be enjoyed everyone.

It is very good to see modern additions that will contribute to the future heritage of the park including the regimental statues and the guitar.

All areas of the park were clean , tidy and very well maintained providing a lovely parkland for the people of Hull.



### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The formal gardens were very good but quite rightly have been reduced in size due to current budget restrictions.
- The beautiful landscape offers a wide range of activities for many groups of the population throughout the year and for wildlife, including the large numbers of geese which can present a problem.
- In future the judges would perhaps appreciate an insight into the park at different times of the year
- There are some good Information boards but more would be useful.
- As budgets are tight, it is not always easy to maintain the high standards required but a very good effort has been made. So very well done.
- Additional funding would certainly be of real benefit to all those involved in park both the users and those who look after it.

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## **Himalayan Garden**

## **Gold & Joint Category Winner**

### **Overall Impression**

The Hutts Himalayan garden and Sculpture park are quite something to behold. One of Yorkshires horticultural hidden gems, 850ft above sea level, set in a large dell with a large vibrant collection of Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Magnolias, with many more species that blanket the steep hillsides that create this unique topography that generates numerous microclimates around the garden, making the perfect environment for these plants to survive and thrive. On our tour weaving around the hillsides and 3 lakes, there are stunning additional features; the Pagoda, bridges, thatched summerhouse, the recently built Kath Khuni Himalayan shepherds shelter, all enhancing the garden as will the planned Woodsman Shelter. The gardens showcase a collection of striking sculptures set in the natural landscape for the visitors to enjoy and contemplate. The judges were impressed by the teams thinking to 'nothing goes to waste' recycling principles and their integrated management approach to weed control and trialling alternatives - re plastic and peat. Nether the less horticulturally the landscape is challenging, and Phil and his team are to be commended on the hard work and dedication. Reinvesting and redeveloping the grounds, taking on huge projects and planting new areas, has seen the gardens expanded to a 45-acre garden, sensitively maintaining its sustainability and keeping its integrity and always thinking ahead and progressing forward - well done.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Support progressing towards gaining national Collection status to further the prestige standing for the garden.
- Consider extending the opening times from Spring to Autumn, a great deal has already been achieved in extending the interest with planting

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# Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Homestead Park

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

An excellent mixed use parkland of over 40 acres

Horticulture was very good in all categories

The planting concepts are interesting and full of information, e.g., Alzheimer's and Mediaeval Herb gardens

All staff had a great team spirit and were open and friendly, especially when it came to training the apprentices (the horticulturalist of the future)

Excellent feature flower display on Winnie the Pooh theme by an apprentice, so imaginative and fun

A lovely traditional Childrens play park and a green gym

A nice community library, pop up cafe area and plant shop

Woodlands establish and well used

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- All the areas were really very good, this is managed by a professional team of people that are committed and know exactly what they are doing
- Improvement work is being carried out on the pond (concrete pond dating back to 1906, only 2 in the UK that are known to be so old), so that will be good to follow next year
- The newly formed Friends of Homestead group will be interesting to follow and see the progress and sustainability next year
- Look forward to seeing the veggie plot for future years
- The Wallace and Gromit exhibition garden sounds wonderful and adds interest to the park
- All very good and a real joy to see.
- Thank you to all for showing us around.

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# Knarborough Castle

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

Knarborough castle is an open public area with bowling green, War Memorial and castle remains all framed by the horticultural features of the highest standard.

It is clearly a tourist attraction for the wider public which leaves the visitor with a good impression of Knarborough as a whole

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Seating in some areas could do with attention
- Water harvesting and composting could possibly be improved
- A wider choice of suitable planting material with sustainable abilities may be helpful

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## **KWVR**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

This year see`s the successful railway/tourist attraction celebrate it`s fiftieth anniversary, supported by many hundreds of volunteers. The railway operates both diesel and steam trains to a published timetable to all six of its stations on the valley line.

To-day each station mirrors the way they would have appeared in the 1950`s this includes gas lighting and a variety of carts and trucks.

In terms of horticulture the common theme is hanging baskets displayed at each station to good effect. Beyond this each station has garden space maintained by volunteers who maintain widely variable garden areas. These include planted tubs, seasonal planting, wildflower areas, perennial areas, and natural areas.

gardening on the railway has a number of challenges one of the common features being that the garden areas exist on thin layers of soil over ash and clinker.

An additional challenge this year has been the need to take extra precautions to prevent line side fires. It should be noted that the railway occupies large areas of land and car parks all of which were litter free and weeds were well controlled.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- We were asked about plant selection at a number of sites, as each site varies and the requirements are different we would suggest viewing [www.RHS.org/plant finder](http://www.RHS.org/plant_finder) this offers a selection process according to site needs.
- The wild flower area at Keighley has suffered in the drought, it is probably worth re sowing with an appropriate floral mix as if successful it would greatly add to the appearance at the station
- Tthe wildflower area at Oxenhope has also suffered but is worth continuing with.
- Congratulations to all involved and in achieving 50 years.

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## **Lister Park**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The fifty four acre park is a very important green space in this area of the city. The park houses the museum and provides recreational space for bowls, boating, a muga, play areas and cycling promotion. Space is also used for events and a small botanical area completes the park. planting styles have changed to meet reductions in finance but the centre bed of sun flowers provides an excellent alternative to more traditional planting

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The painting program works well and needs to continue in order to maintain seats and so on.
- The friends group has ceased but the parks managers clearly support such groups and if the opportunity occurs will support a new group.
- The hot dry weather was having an impact on the sports pitches and some of the planting.

## Overall Impression

The first impression you gain from entering the Middleton Railway Trust Car Park is of how clean and tidy the whole area is. There are three barrel planters in the corner which are planted with both perennial and annual plants. The entrance to the building also has a well planted area that has been covered with wood bark.

The platform is the WOW factor to this entry, filled with colourful planters and hanging baskets. The planters have been made by a local school and are of a good quality and have been looked after year on year. The platform fencing is well kept and in keeping as is the fencing on the boundary.

Credit must go to the team for continuing with their entry as the week prior to my visit the business, Jewsons, opposite the platform was set alight causing a massive fire, one of the railway trucks was badly damaged, the sign on the platform and litter bins destroyed and some of the plants were scorched. Michael has worked really hard to salvage the plants and the team in cleaning the area. One can only imagine how devastated they all must have felt on learning of the fire. Much of their work machinery has also been damaged. Full credit to this dedicated and committed team for the hard work they put in.

Work on the one mile lineside track has been undertaken to cut back trees and shrubs. The wood has been shredded and placed on the beds at the front of the station and around the site boundary. Some of the wood has been laid to support wildlife. There are bird and bat boxes. There has been use of water retaining granules in the displays. Plants are composted at the end of the season and there are water butts to collect - when it rains. The Middleton Railway Trust is a volunteer organisation and relies on fund raising and grants that have been awarded. It also would not operate without its dedicated team of volunteers. They work with the community, have an educational room and encourage young people to volunteer.

There is a three year project for the Moor Road site for the managing of the hedging and the creating of a wildlife area.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

As discussed on the day;

- Consider adding further perennials to the front bed such as; cranesbill (variety of colours) English lavenders, astrantia's all are insect attracting.
- The current RHS Grass Roots magazine identifies insect loving and drought tolerant plants which you may consider also.
- In your planters you might like to consider adding a bit of diversity e.g., tumbling toms for the hanging baskets.
- Continue to use mulch.
- Consider placing spring bulbs in the planters and front beds such as dwarf iris and tete-a-tete. The smaller varieties are less likely to become damaged in high winds.

## **NEWBY HALL AND GARDENS**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The very warm welcome and reception by STUART and IAN set the tone for a delightful tour. The Grounds of this beautiful attraction privately owned by the COMPTON family, gives endless pleasure to all age groups. The Gardens contain the National Collection of CORNUS, And the annually replaced SALVIA beds. There are lovely ROSE and LABURNUM PAGOLAS, beautiful coloured gardens including the Rose and Autumn. A delightful Terrace with a LILY POND and the stunning newly planted HERBACEOUS BORDER and Perennial planting throughout the Gardens. Wildlife is in abundance with LOG PILES left in the woodland area. The river with a Boat for visitors, Play area and Small Train plus Teddy Bear and Dolls House displays give endless pleasure. to every age of visitor.- a wonderful welcoming place to visit.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Congratulations nothing to add.

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## **Oakwell Hall & Country Park**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

Both Judges enjoyed their visit to this delightful country park set amongst 110 acres and offering so much to local residents and visitors.

Despite austerity cuts and challenges faced by the Museums & Galleries service the enthusiasm and knowledge of Eric, Amanda, Tony and the committed volunteers ( with the group celebrating their 30th anniversary this year ! ), should ensure that the park goes from strength to strength.

Alternative funding streams from weddings, photo / film shoots, conferences, school groups are to be commended in providing much needed revenue. There is an obvious desire to recreate areas of the original formal garden from historical documentation and photographs which although a work in progress should be continued.

Signage and interpretation throughout the park is excellent and time worn signage is being systematically replaced. Special mention should be attributed to the numerous aquatic ponds that provide a great educational resource as well as providing natural habitats.

A great network of stakeholders help to keep activities on going throughout the park realising the park's full potential in being a great educational and recreational source.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Consider erecting a 'Bird Hide' at a suitable location in the park.
- Continue with the continued development of a cycle route .
- A planned / researched schedule of work in the formal garden could be advantageous to ensure horticultural excellence.

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## Perennial York Gate

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

York Gate is such a special place to visit. The site is small but the number of varied garden rooms within the site is impressive. The planting was rich , varied and creative and clearly a great credit to all involved. Throughout the site plants were in excellent condition. The clipped shrubs were very impressive , the herb garden was full of interest, the white borders were well planted. The paved garden was an interesting contrast to the rest of the site. It was good to see volunteer hard at work. The hard landscaping was full of interest as were the various artistic items around the site. The new meadow project is really exciting and it will be interesting to see how it develops.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider wildlife surveys of the meadow, perhaps Leeds University might be a good place to approach about it.
- Continue to develop the idea of a network of paths through the meadow, with perhaps some seating areas.
- Perhaps some native shrubs with berries could be introduced to the meadow to bring in wildlife.
- Consider information boards about wildlife in the meadow and perhaps a board in the garden with information on the family who brought it into being.

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## RIPON RACECOURSE

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

Avery diverse site, maintained to an outstanding standard everywhere. The wow factor is provided by vibrant Hanging Baskets, Planters and Numerous colourful beds and two re-cycled Telephone Boxes with Cascading Summer Bedding. All the grassed areas were near perfection.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Photographic evidence of the different events that take place on site would add interest.

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## Roberts Park

**Silver Gilt**

### Overall Impression

On arrival to the park there was a buzz of people using the area, the Graffiti artist and art students were spraying the wall, and children playing, it's evident that visitors value this area. The park is an integral part of Saltaire World Heritage Site and was created for the exercise and restoration of its inhabitants and one could imagine the workers taking a stroll

along the wide promenade. Extensively renovated in 2010 which saw the bandstand replaced and the original park shelters brought back to their Victorian splendour. Today it's very clean and well looked after and incorporates some nice planted borders. There were good examples of environmental initiatives, bird and bat boxes, collecting manure, using peat free material, recycling bulbs and composting. The canons locally restored, and the Alpaca statues make real statements indicating the important heritage of the area. We congratulate Ian and the progress in the park especially the management of the trees, well done.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Consider portfolio/photos to show year-round activity highlighting any events that have taken place and forward planning would strengthen your entry.
- It was mentioned that you have spring flowering season, evidence of this would show all year-round interest
- You have a good partnership working with the community, e.g. Friends of the park, Grammar School and Community Officer consider for future judging to meet representatives of these groups.
- Support the project for the wild area on the banking area
- There was a lot of good horticultural practice but in some areas standards could be improved.
- The lavender border looked good and great for encouraging the pollinators, consider recreating this in other areas.

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## **Scampston Walled Garden**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

This is a beautiful and contemporary garden set in the old kitchen garden bringing together the best of modern garden design and old English heritage in the form of the Capability Brown landscape park. There is something of interest for every gardener, whatever their taste, from the traditional shrub borders containing some very unusual plants, to the modernistic Quiet Garden and pool, Perennial Meadows, topiary and shady woodland beyond. The garden is clearly being used as the primary tool to attract visitors to Scampston, not only to view the gardens but also to bring in customers to the wide range of events and activities programme which are organised here. There is clearly a strong sense of continuity at Scampston. The whole team have their heritage at the heart of their work.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The volunteers are well engaged and work together well supporting the small team of full time staff.
- Income generation is of prime importance and is covered in many ways through plant sales and a well thought out programme of events and activities.
- The programme of educational activities involving local schools is extensive.
- Plants are well labelled throughout the garden and plant sales at the entrance gate and conservatory are extensive. Perhaps some thought could be given to linking the two

elements so that a visitor can admire a plant in the garden and see immediately that it is for sale in the plant area.

- There is a huge amount of well documented information about the buildings heritage and the history of the garden. Would there be room for some plant heritage to be documented as well?
- There are some very special trees in the woodland. Perhaps a tree trail could be considered to highlight these rare specimens

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## **Sutton Park**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

A number of recent plantings have been introduced of which the entrance drive is a splendid example, with lavender forming a wave of blue from the road to the car park. The ice house is a wonderful feature, although the thought of having to find enough ice to fill it makes us welcome the invention of the fridge..

Grass in the walled garden is mowed to create paths and areas of high grass, this provides variation and wildlife habitats. A very productive vegetable garden, maintained to a high standard, adjacent to the orchard.

Much of the landscape is remaining from the influence of Miekle an associate of Capability Brown from the 18 century. Other features include, a fern garden,laburnum walk,bamboo garden, feature borders and roses..

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The weather has made this a difficult year to maintain gardens especially those with new plantings.Great credit is due to the Head gardener for achieving so much.
- When time is available implement the plan for the grass maze.
- As the grass cutting regime is working well in the walled garden consideration could be given to increasing the un-cut areas to increase the visual impact.

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## **The Forbidden Corner**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

Set within the grounds of Tupgill Park Estate, the judges could not help but notice, as they drove in, the well landscaped and maintained drive into the clean, and litter free car park. We were shown around the amusement site, with the splendid labyrinth of tunnels and chambers by Tom. This 4 acre garden is full of Follies, and surprises around every corner. The planting and landscaping is designed around each areas theme, and blends in well. The 'Herb Garden' and water feature is of particular note with its good mix of herbaceous, veg and fruit planting. Despite the dry weather, the plants didn't show any signs of suffering. The excellent way the site recycles its water for the water features and novelty attractions, throughout the park is great to see.



### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Consider rejuvenating some of the larger shrubs within the follies. We understand the volume of visitors and the use of shrubbery is needed to help establish the theme, but some areas do look 'tired'.
- Consider placement of some floral and colourful sustainable planting at the entrance in keeping with the surrounding hotel plantings.
- Look at recycling bins outside the café for visitors to use.
- Extending the educational opportunities will aid the entry further.
- A portfolio demonstrating the sites year round activity and season planting will help the judges, and your entry further.

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## **Thorp Perrow**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

Situated in an area of land dating as inhabited in the Domesday book, lies Thorp Perrow. The estate and grounds has trees dating back to early Tudor period, with later 19th century pinetum and 1930's arboretum. This stunning 100 acre woodland and family home holds 5 national plant collections and has 51 listed Champion trees. All tendered for by a small dedicated team of staff working alongside Lady Ropner, to produce a place to visit 365 days a year. 110 varieties of daffodil, rare trees like the critically listed *Abies nebrodensis*, an abundance of snowdrop varieties, wonderful cornus trees and shrubs, with catalpa, cotinus and avenues of Tilia and oak make this an enthusiasts dream. With attractions for the young and families, you can feed meercats or watch a bird of prey display, or stroll the grounds with one of the many trails available. The judge particularly liked the seasonally adjusted trails, highlighting what is looking good in different seasons so as to not miss those things of special interest and looking at their best.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- More interactive interpretation would enhance the visitor experience. the judge feels that Thorp Perrow do not shout out loud enough to inform the importance of many of its collection.
- There is some excellent heritage to the site, this could be portrayed with imagination so as to engage the visitor more.
- Where areas are seasonable e.g.Cherry or acer main avenues, it would be good for the visitor to see an information board with the area displaying itself off at its best when this is out of season.

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## Treasurers House

## Gold

### Overall Impression

Treasurers house and its garden are set with York minster as a wonderful backdrop to this historic 19th Century buliding once the home of Frank Green and now looked after by the National Trust along with the contents to the house. The garden is maintained by one gardener and five volunteers. Freely open to the public to use the grounds. Croquet being played on the lawn when judges visited. and due to the dry weather remains of previous houses could clearly be seen showing through the lawn.

The gardens have a blue and white colour scheme which works well in the area available. All garden work is carried out traditionally without the use of machinery. Good to see and very rare today. Neatly clipped yew hedges surround the garden and hide a nice viewing area over the garden. The existing trees are regularly pollarded and branches used to support tall herbaceous perennials.

Good clear information boards tell you about the history of the house and plants clearly labeled using slate labels. Labels easily cleaned and reused as different plants show interest throught the year. Plants also grown for cut flower to be used in the house throughout the year.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Due to the size and location of this garden judges would suggest that maintenance is carried out exacly as it is.
- May introduce more white and blue herbaceous plants but nothing drastic.
- Steve the gardener and his volunteers do well in a very short period of time in the week and we would not wish to change anything. Well done.

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## Tupgill Park Estate

## Silver Gilt

### Overall Impression

With 500 acres, Tupgill Park Estate, comprises of tenant farms, heather grouse moorland and well tendered landscape grounds around the Forbidden Corner and Tupgill B&B and Stable Room Restaurant.

The welcoming planting around the wedding venue and Restaurant complements the high standard of hard landscaping seen all around the park. The well-kept driveway, mowed grass verges, car park and picnic area create a welcoming environment. The lake with ornate bridge is a wonderful place to watch and feed the mirror carp. No visit would be complete without a visit to the Fish Temple, and mosaics.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- As a first time entry into the category the judges understand that it's difficult on knowing what to demonstrate to the judges the facilities you have.
- Demonstrating the multitude of bio-diversity you have within the Park will aid the entry in future judging's.

- Consider the provision of bat, bird and owl boxes and creating other habitats such as bug hotels. The picnic woodland would be an ideal place to start.
- Consider looking at and demonstrating the recycling opportunities you have within the Restaurant, Holiday Cottages and Café.
- Consider how the Park can engage more with the visitors. Perhaps a nature / tree trail around the site.
- A portfolio demonstrating the sites year round activity and season planting will help the judges, and your horticultural entry further. Pictures of the spring bulbs will help with showing year round interest.

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## York Racecourse

## Gold

### Overall Impression

On the day before The John Smith race meeting at York. The course and stands looked stunning with arrays of colour everywhere. The groundstaff (three in total) are beginning to make thier mark at this prestigious attraction. Colour schemes have changed,perrenials introduced to add height to some of the displays particularly around the parade ring.

Perminant planting added around some of the buildings and entrances and it all works. Everywhere you had barrier baskets,hanging baskets and even planters on the wooden rubbish bins.

This is a winning entry all the way and good to see such a high standard of maintenance. Staff also going out into the community with displays of baskets and planters as well as carrying out community litter picks. Joy and I also walked across the hallowed turf. Sorry Adrian but it was such a sight to see.

Gardeners still growing thier own plants and maintaining other areas away from the course such as the stable block where composting and recycling carried out.Well done to all involved

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Apart from minor items judges could not fault this entry.
- Goes from strength to strength each year, and the improvements made this year are a credit to all the staff involved at York Race course.
- Wanted to roll it up and take it home. Yes that good.

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## Yorkshire Lavender

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

This year see`s Yorkshire Lavender celebrate 21 years of being of lavender growing at Terrington. over those years the business has developed and spread across the hillside, which offers views to York and on clear days Emily Moor Mast. This year has been ideal for Lavender, and this was clearly evident on the day of our visit with extensive area being in full flower and skilfully displayed in the landscape of the hillside. Lavender is harvested for both drying and oil all of which with other associated products are sold on site. Investment is made in young people, by engaging them to work on site providing them with a good insight into both horticultural and tourist industries. The cricket field statues are unique and add to visitors enjoyment of the sight.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Success is demonstrated by the need to extend the car park, this will be blended into the site when work is completed.
- Continue to develop the play area as opportunities occur.

## Category E1: - Harrogate Flower Show Young Peoples Award

## Battyeford primary School

**Silver Gilt**

### Overall Impression

Battyeford Primary School Garden was started in March of this year. The judges were impressed with the young people who were happy to show us round and describe the work they do and identify many of the vegetables in the raised beds. The whole area was very clean and tidy and it was good to see composting and water butts. There was a start on a bug hide, they intend to build a bug hotel in the future. It was good to hear that parents are involved with this project and that John, the manager at the Co-Op has been involved as well. There has been fundraising events to support this endeavour, the garden has been created without having to use school funds. It is clear this is a good school community project, Credit must go to Lynne who has worked hard in the gardens creation. This is a great start to what we believe will be a beneficial addition to the school.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The following suggestions we discussed on our visit;
- We would suggest you lift the raised beds to make them higher giving further depth for the roots of the planted vegetables.

- Next year net your brassica produce earlier in the season.
- Add to your existing collection of vegetables with things such as onions, beetroot etc.
- Remove the large shrub fuchsia from the side bed, consider replacing with a lavatera and lavenders for bees and butterflies.
- Consider adding to the herbs creating a herb bed
- Add mulching to the beds.
- Keep the watering cans for the tomatoes and cucumbers in the greenhouse in the greenhouse.

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## **Birkwood Primary School**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

On entering school the judging party were welcomed by the reception staff who took our details and inform the staff member responsible. In the meantime, the head came to welcome us. The school building was clean tidy and welcoming and the pupils polite. The old planters in the playground had been replaced with deeper wooden ones which needed less watering and the floral display was good. Further along outside the school library was in a double decker bus which had been converted from a play bus. There were stacks of large tyres planted with herbs for everyone to walk past and a shaded area to use as an outdoor work area. Earlier in the year the area was planted with daffodils. Further round the well maintained playing field was the outdoor classroom/garden. There were nine classes in school, two hundred and fifty children in total. Each class had its own raised bed planted with all manner if fruit vegetables and herbs. Each pupil had a gardening lesson each week come rain or shine, winter and summer. An open ended polytunnel with a large round table/potting bench enabled plants to be grown from seed. A large water tank provided water for the children to look after their crops. A rainwater harvesting system had been rigged up from a near by roof. All the plants were in tip top condition and the judging party were treated to Raspberries, Strawberries and garden peas. Two of the pupils showed us round all the planted areas along with their teacher Miss Greenwood who manages to teach all these children working on a part time basis. The school had recently been chosen to enter a container garden into a competition at the Great Yorkshire Show, everyone had been working hard on it growing plants and making recycled bunting and small models. The garden looked stunning and was ready to be transported to the chow just after our visit. Staff and pupils all work hard together, the judge couldn't help noticing the enjoyment and enthusiasm the pupils get out of being close to nature and practically getting their hands dirty producing plants and crops to use and sell for school funds. Very well done everyone.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The whole school and grounds were spotless, and the outdoor growing area was a true credit to everyone who worked in it Producing high quality disease free plants, fruit and vegetables.
- One of the highlights of the year will be entering the container garden in the competition at the Great Yorkshire Show.
- It was an absolute delight talking to the young people who showed the judging party round, their depth of knowledge of nature and horticulture was outstanding.

Very well done to everyone involved.

## Church House Pre School, Mirfield

**Silver Gilt**

### Overall Impression

What a lovely Pre School with really well behaved children. The garden area is only small but it is clear to see how much work and thought has been put into creating such a safe learning environment.

We were shown round by a number of shy "Little Bloomers"™ who, once they got used to us, started to explain how they played in the garden and the work they had helped with. The entry display, using an old boat and school sandpit was lovely, full of bright healthy plants. The future plans sound great and we hope they come to fruition.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue with your future plans for growing more vegetables and in beds by the school
- Continue to encourage the young people to become involved.
- We hope you are able to receive permission from the PCC to erect a poly tunnel and to raise funds for it. This would be a great asset to your school and the young people.

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## Eastfield Academy after school gardening club

**Silver**

### Overall Impression

A group of very keen children greeted the judges at their school from this first time entrant. Although it's the Gardening Club that has put forward the entry it is clear the whole school are involved. The club has been established during the last year, developing a garden and nursery area in the school grounds, but at the same time enhancing the wider school grounds with bulb planting and some shrub and container improvements. The school is showing huge commitment for the future by purchasing and having a Polytunnel erected, now complete with raised beds for raising plants. Rain water runoff is captured in a swale and used to water the plants, wooden pallets and logs have been used to make a mud garden, and further recycling takes place with the use of soil filled tyres for planting. With future plans for the planting of an orchard, a wild flower garden and making a bottle greenhouse, it is clear these pupils will be very busy. A great start by a group of very enthusiastic school children.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- An information board at the nursery containing a large plan of the proposed future garden layout, showing the different zones planned needs to be installed. This will help the children understand the importance of planning ahead, make clearer the aims of the garden and give achievement at each stage of completion.
- At this early stage of the club it would be beneficial to ensure any future development; particularly paths can be accessed and used by those with mobility difficulties.
- The establishment of a wormery is an excellent example of bringing creatures into the garden environment. Further examples of habitats, nesting boxes and a large bug hotel should be added to reinforce the importance of the presence of wildlife.
- The provision of all weather Interpretation boards, simple signs and labels will help reinforce the educational value of the garden and help the children identify and remember the plant names and appearance when visiting at different times of the year.

## **Friarage Community Primary School**

**Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

An impressive presentation was given to the judges by Year 6 pupils Rosie and Paige of the Friarage Gardening Club. They showed us what they have achieved and told us about future plans. While the nursery children do Dig and Explore and plant up in wellies, tyres and raised beds, the older pupils sow and plant, including tubs at the entrance to the school and have teams for watering and searching for snails. The children understand the process of growing flowers, fruit and vegetables including chillies, potatoes, strawberries, raspberries and onions. The Gardening Club produce a leaflet in which they detail what has been planted during the school year, the successes and the disappointments and they even monitor the number of apples from year to year. Gardening is supported by the staff who recognise its importance as many of the pupils have no garden at home. Pupils are encouraged to enter the annual competition for local schools to design a themed flower bed, which is then planted up in the Valley for the public to enjoy - and Rosie was one of the winners! These accomplishments are all the more remarkable as there is very little bare earth available.

The school grounds and planters were well maintained, neat and tidy and free from litter. The children have participated in various community clear-ups and beach cleans and won an award from the anti-litter organisation Be the change UK. The school has put on a mosaics workshop. In autumn, the harvest is used as ingredients for a meal. Funding has been acquired from Tesco, a fun day and B&Q donated plants.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- A more eye catching display could be developed for the planters near the school railings
- The seaside and or fishing theme could be extended from the nursery to give more of a sense of place

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## **Gooseacre Primary Academy**

**Silver**

### **Overall Impression**

The school have only this year set up a gardening club led by teacher Lisa Jones. They have concentrated on a small quad area central to the school and what a transformation! Three enthusiastic gardening club pupils showed me a central raised bed planted in a potager style and bursting at the seams with sunflowers, nasturtiums, beans, peas, pumpkins and more besides. Two smaller adjacent beds were planted with brassicas and herbs and the walls of the quad were adorned with decorative murals made from recycled bottle tops. They have been successful in obtaining funding for a small shed and greenhouse and have established links with the Friends of the local park, Twiggs tidy team, and some local businesses. Elsewhere in the school grounds a wildlife area in the shade of trees encompasses native plants, minibeast homes, bird boxes, compost bins and an outside seating area.

A terrific start to a new gardening venture.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The planters outside each of the classrooms could be filled out either with perennials (perhaps including plants for pollinators) or alternatively annuals to provide some summer colour. Each class might then be encouraged to look after 'their' planter.
- Consider having an assembly to communicate the good work of the gardening club and others in enhancing the school grounds
- Next year consider selling surplus vegetables or herbs to raise money for funds.
- Fruit bushes or even dwarf apple trees could be grown in raised beds (or even somewhere in the extensive grounds to the rear?)
- The raised beds in the wild area are planted with a few herbs. It is unlikely that these will thrive due to lack of light. The beds could be planted with shade-loving plants, or alternatively moved to a more sunny location.

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## **Haworth Primary School**

## **Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

The school continues with its impressive record of incorporating environmental work into the school curriculum, this ensures that every pupil is involved.

The garden club members meet specifically to garden, and the popularity of it means that it is over subscribed. In addition to this the school is a centre of excellence in supporting a number of schools with their gardening programs, the need to serve a number of sites means that space has to be given to plant production. A wide range of crops are grown, harvested and eaten at the school ensuring children are involved in every aspect of food production.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- This is a very successful program and it is really a matter of continuing the excellent work.
- Continue to replace the raised planters that have come to the end of their lives.
- Consider the cropping program to fit in with the school year, possibly peas and beans would give an early crop.
- Developing the volunteering team will help with the work load and will provide volunteers with new opportunities to develop additional skills.
- Outline the full range of environmental work to future judges to ensure you gain credit for all the hard work.

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## **Hutton Cranswick Childminders Allotment**

**Silver**

### **Overall Impression**

This small group of enthusiastic volunteers are developing an allotment area where young children can involve themselves in growing plants and learning about the environment. Although in its early years the group already have a small sensory garden area, an area for growing seasonal and perennial flowers, herbs, fruit and vegetables in raised beds and containers, including an old tractor tyre. A further area at the Western end of the site, currently overgrown is to be developed as a wildflower area. There is extensive use of recycled material, old wood, pallets, tyres, plastic containers and a restored summerhouse. Materials have been put to good use in making fencing, containers and planters. Bird boxes and a bug hotel, information posters, water capture and composting all help raise awareness of the importance of wildlife considerations and recycling at site. With only donations and donated materials to rely on, the level of achievement reached is to be applauded.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- There has been great work carried out by the group so far and they rightly should feel proud of their success and achievements. It may be prudent to now think about where the group wishes to develop from the current point, and what they would want to achieve. It is suggested that a progress plan is discussed amongst the group and either a plan of future aims displayed in the summerhouse or a yearly calendar of targets listed. This will help the group focus on where limited funding and resources are committed.
- The group deserves recognition with a sign at the first access gate indicating the sites use. This coupled with general tidying up of the entrance area next to the widened path and planting up of drifts of easily propagated and planted perennial Geraniums, or other similar perennial plants will enhance the area immeasurably and be more inviting.
- The lovely summerhouse has been recently painted for everyone to use. A further permanent covered area of a lean too or canopy could also be considered to help prolong activity in the Autumn and Winter months during inclement weather.
- The provision and use of a small solar panel may be a consideration to power a small running water feature for the children.

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## **Hutton Cranswick Community School     Silver Gilt Gardening Club**

### **Overall Impression**

Upon arrival at Hutton Cranswick Community Primary School the judges were met with bunting and flower balloons decorating the school entrance, a precursor of what was to come.

The pupils from the Gardening Club escorted the judges around the extensive garden with enthusiasm and energy. Their knowledge of plants, about fruit and vegetables, trees and how they all grow was remarkable considering their young age. The schools garden boasts a greenhouse, a variety of containers, including a tractor tyre full of quality Helianthus

(Sunflowers); A colourful border full of fruit, herbs and vegetables with some seasonal plants was well maintained as was the bark chipped area for the children to work outdoors.

In addition to the garden area the children have a wonderful wildlife woodland area in which to learn, sit and play during their outdoor classroom activities. They led the judges around the area and enjoyed sharing their experiences about what they'd learnt.

Also located around the school are containers, planted and maintained by each year class, a real learning activity for every child in the school.

With increasing pupil numbers at the school promising greater challenges, it's clear that the exuberance of the pupils and the willingness of the staff to perform even better will undoubtedly meet and achieve greater things. A very well done to everyone at the school.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- There is an opportunity to further enhance the learning experience within the wildlife area with a tree trail, each tree being marked with a permanent sign showing name and outline of a leaf shape. This will aid seasonal recognition and help identification.
- Consideration could be given to planting further fruit trees along the fence line of the woodland garden. The children could then add signs and visuals to the fence or on secured boards to aid their understanding and knowledge of the trees characteristics and their development.

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## **Hutton Cranswick Playgroup**

## **Silver Gilt**

#### **Overall Impression**

This playgroup carry out their activities in a small enclosed garden sited at the rear of the local Methodist Church. It was clear that the children get immense pleasure from their involvement, choosing the floral colour scheme of red, white and blue to reflect the royal wedding. The level of awareness and knowledge was remarkable, considering the ages of those involved. A variety of containers were used, many from recycled materials donated to the playgroup. Potatoes and carrots were harvested during the judges visit and some butterflies released. Soft fruit and vegetables are grown in containers and pots, with a herb collection housed in a small shelf unit made from pallet wood. Rainwater is collected in butts and a compost bin is put to use for waste plant material. A better start and encouragement to become involved and experience the natural world would be hard to find. Credit must go to the excellent guidance from the staff in the playgroup team and of course the children who get such delight from their experiences.

#### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Although The small site is utilised fully, consideration could be given to having wooden information boards as silhouettes of leaves or common animals or birds secured to the fence to alternate with the pots.
- Why not experiment with recycled milk containers again, but with each child growing the Common Marigold (Calendula) from seed and presenting these on a shelf or rack secured to your storage shed. These could then be displayed hung on temporary racks in front of the church if agreed.

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## Kippax North Primary School

**Gold**

### Overall Impression

We were so impressed at what has been achieved at Kippax North Primary School. From entering the school, the enthusiasm that emits from the staff and children is clear. The children are really encouraged from an early age to get involved with the outdoor space and what it has to offer in both education and a healthy lifestyle, from the mud kitchen to the growing and tasting of home grown vegetables. Every classroom has a welly rack (made by the caretaker Mr Owen - affectionally known as 'Spud', a true asset to the school) to its external door. The children are taught many life skills such caring for animals, growing vegetables/fruit, basic 'Bush-craft' and 'Farm to Fork'. The new plans for a bird hide are exciting.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- This is a model that clearly works well and we strongly urge (as we believe is happening to a point) that the school share the ideas with other schools, by exchange visits etc
- Widen the soft fruit range by introducing for example Blueberries.
- Consider entering the school's container gardening at the Yorkshire Show.
- There is concern that the proposals for the wild flower area the soil may be too good and this may reduce flowers and cause difficulty in establishing

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## Milefield Primary Community School Farm

**Silver**

### Overall Impression

Goodness me - what a surprise! The farm at Milefield Primary school has a wide range of animals including ponies, alpaca, pigs, hens, ducks, guinea pigs. The productive growing area (which is the focus of this assessment) encompasses good-sized raised beds, two greenhouses, compost bins and container sheds. Many of the plants have been donated by Doncaster Prison as surplus from their garden.

The school has very good community links and a huge amount of volunteer work and funding has gone into creating the farm and converting the adjacent caretaker's bungalow into a kitchen with community cafe, as well as a changing room and additional workspace for those working on the farm. Local business XPO Logistics provides regular (monthly) volunteers who help on the farm.

The school has the highly commendable philosophy of involving as many pupils as possible with the farm and using it as a resource for the teaching of the curriculum.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Having created such a wonderful facility, the school and its supporting community now need to move forward and make effective use of what they have created.

- The productive area, other than the potatoes and sunflowers, seemed to be largely limited to the plants donated by the prison, not all of which were best suited to the school setting. The garden has the potential to grow a greater variety of plants and much useful advice on this can be found at <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/home>
- The community cafe is a wonderful idea but did not seem to be being used to its full potential. It might be worth exploring ideas with the wider school community as to how this could be effectively utilised?
- Now that the farm has become established, the school might like to look at further ways in which they can support local wildlife and also look to enhance their three 'R's (reduce, re-use and recycle).

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## Molescroft Primary School

## Gold

### Overall Impression

Molescroft Primary School is an eco-school. It is clear from just stepping onto the premises that environmental issues and horticulture is embedded in all that happens at this impressive school. We were shown a delightful 10 minute video which evidenced the complete all year round work which goes on in the school by every class.

The young people were impressively knowledgeable and enthusiastic from the very young to those in their final year. We were shown the tubs that had been created to follow the world cup theme using the flags and culture of the country to create each individual tub. A lot of thought and research had gone into creating these wonderful tubs. The wildlife area and outdoor classroom is very well used. The vegetable garden well stocked and it was interesting to hear what was the favourite food cooked from their own produce – tomato soup, cooked in the pupils kitchen.

The knowledge the young people have, at all ages, is impressive. They have a water rota and there is a compost team. All angles have been looked at and utilised. They are a credit to the school, community and the eco team tutors and head teacher, we are sure you are very proud of your young people and their enthusiasm.

### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It may be worth considering creating an interpretation board to go into the wildlife area.
- Consider leaving areas of the field un-mown to explore a wildflower meadow increasing bio-diversity enabling the children to collect data of species
- Whilst we believe you have excellent links with the community we were not totally clear on all the forms of communication you have.

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# MOORSIDE INFANT and JUNIOR SCHOOL

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

The warm welcome we received from Bridget, Children and Staff set the tone for a delightful visit. Moorside is an Eco and Forest School with great emphasis on outdoor learning. Children of all ages are encouraged to take part in all aspects of gardening, planting, weeding, growing vegetables and watering creating a wonderful happy atmosphere. There are many displays of the numerous activities which take. The School Grounds are a haven for all forms of wildlife. Lessons and activities are taken in all the extensive outside areas to the obvious delight of the children--especially THE FIRE PIT, North Yorkshire Council and the Woodland Trust have donated trees and funding and equipment is provided by various groups, businesses and Parents. A really lovely School which is encouraging future generations to enjoy and care for our environment.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Well done - keep up the good work.

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# Nafferton Primary School

**Gold**

## Overall Impression

The judges were shown around by three students. Billy, Tom and Erin were extremely knowledgeable about their school garden and the projects they were working on. These young people are a credit to the school and the village of Nafferton.

The school garden area is well planted with many healthy vegetables. We were impressed with the gardening club making their own plant food and that left over water from the dining room is not thrown away but used in the garden to water the plants.

There has been careful planting of shrubs and trees with a number of grants and sponsors. There is a three year plan in place for the bray way, planting of wildflowers and working with the Bee Keepers Association.

The outdoor tee pee is a great extension to the outside area. There are plans to create a peace garden based on a 1914 Italian garden which will commemorate WW1.

Nafferton Primary School is a small village school that is integrated into the community, it was good to hear how they help the local in bloom team in the village and with the planting at the front of the school.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue with the excellent work in the gardens.
- The three year plan sounds like an exciting project
- The children's kitchen will be a great addition to the school
- Continue the maintenance of each area to the rear of the grounds to a good standard

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## **Newington Academy After School Gardening Club**

**Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Newington After School Gardening Club currently has 10 very enthusiastic members led by Steve.

The children all chose to join the club, are knowledgeable and involved in choosing what to grow. It was very sad to hear about the vandalism over the Christmas period, which included their greenhouse being wrecked thus destroying all of their cuttings etc. In spite of this they were able to pick themselves up and produce a good display of flowers and produce.

The spring displays looked lovely as demonstrated in the colourful folder.

In spite of the very difficult weather conditions many of the summer beds were looking good. The hanging baskets were adding some colour to the surroundings and were well maintained. The soft fruit and fruit trees were very productive and used by the school. The very good strawberry crop had been used to make jam for use by the breakfast club. We liked the potato competition, the good use of bark and the bug house. Well done.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The judges would have liked to have seen more information about the gardening club in the school and about 'In Bloom' (It might have been there but we were unaware if it)
- We appreciate that we were mainly looking at the garden club itself, but feel that as it is part of the school it should there for everyone.
- Information boards are always beneficial and help to educate the whole school and any visitors.
- It would be good to get more of the school involved in gardening due to the very many benefits. Many schools manage to incorporate gardening into the curriculum which is an added benefit.
- We suggest that you try to get help and support from parents.
- Events to raise money can always help the funds for projects and activities in the future.
- There are some good plans for the future and we hope this Gardening Club has a better start next year. Good luck.

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## **Old Earth School**

**Gold**

### **Overall Impression**

I received a lovely welcome from the young gardeners, Mr Anderson and the Headteacher. The children, who were my guides, showed an impressive knowledge of horticultural practices. The school grounds are planted with an excellent mix of perennial and annual plants, shrubs, fruit and vegetables, together with wildflowers. The school definitely has a wow factor and was a joy to visit.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- It was wonderful to see the recycled bottle green house and hear about plans to reuse the bottles again for quick crops.
- The school is a beacon of how to use and develop grounds for outdoor learning. Welcoming other schools to see what can be achieved is an idea to be commended.
- I would encourage the school to blow it's own trumpet through local and national media.
- Inclusion of a pond, will be a most welcome. Both for the local environment and as an educational resource.

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## **Oxspring Primary School**

## **Gold & Category Winner**

### **Overall Impression**

What a joy to enter this school garden to see it buzzing with happy children engaged in many different activities. These children are all instrumental in choosing what they do and what to grow. They are very knowledgeable and some are developing good leadership skills. As horticulture is included in the curriculum the whole school is involved, and there is good support from the parents with community involvement.

It is totally chemical free with the children making their own solutions for pest and weed control, and even publishing a leaflet about it.

Emily, who leads the gardening, is wonderful in all aspects of what she does, giving up so much of her own time. She is also extremely good at obtaining funds and grants for larger projects of which there are many.

All the planting is well maintained and labelled. The produce is of a good standard and was used in the Eton mess for us to taste - delicious!

There are many features in the wildlife areas including a small pond which is used for pond dipping. The garden is self sustainable, through the sale of produce.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The children are essential to this garden and it is hoped that as the younger ones progress through the school they learn from the older children who are all so knowledgeable and enthusiastic.
- The very good record of progress in the garden is a valuable asset and should be continued.
- The standard of gardening is very with good results in spite of the difficult weather conditions and this need to continue
- There are some changes due to take in the school which will affect the garden but there plans to ensure the garden is maintained to its high standard.
- Well done to you all. Keep it up.

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## **Priory Primary School**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

I was given a tour of the school grounds by Headteacher Kath Roe and met with the keen and enthusiastic members of the gardening club. The pupils spoke to me about the garden activities they have been undertaking this year and showed me around the quadrangle where much of the work is undertaken. This area with its central lawn provides a lovely and well-used oasis in the centre of the school and has beds for productive growing, fruit trees, perennial and annual plantings, hens, a seating area, small sink pond, minibeast hotel, compost bin and more besides. Much of the produce goes to the cookery club. There is starting to be some involvement of parents with the garden, usually via school events using the space.

In another area being developed behind the new school extension, pupils look after the new beds, currently mostly filled with cutting flowers and there are plans to create a wildflower meadow in an adjacent area. Bulbs are planted throughout the grounds on an annual basis to extend the floral season from Spring onwards.

A wooden/metal sculpture at the school entrance and murals on the school walls reflect the school's involvement with the Hull City of Culture in 2017.

The Headteacher has a great vision for the involvement of pupils in gardening and the environment. Her commitment and the enthusiasm of pupils and staff will ensure that the extensive grounds will continue to develop for the benefit of all. Well done everybody.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- It would be good to see more communication of the garden club's activities and plans via the school website, assemblies and perhaps a dedicated noticeboard?
- The school already undertake composting and water collection, perhaps they could find other ways in which to deliver their three 'R's (reduce reuse and recycle). The Eco-schools website has useful ideas and resources.
- Parents are starting to become involved with the garden and it would be good to see this developed further.

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## **Stoneferry Primary School**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Only in the second year of developing their school grounds, Stoneferry Primary have made excellent progress since last year's visit and are to be commended for providing a floral (and productive) oasis in the midst of a busy urban/industrial environment, which will no doubt be appreciated not only by pupils and staff but by parents/guardians and other visitors to the school. The judge met with the enthusiastic and knowledgeable members of the gardening club who are supported by staff member Mrs Sykes and dedicated volunteer Steve Carter. The introduction of raised beds along the school entrance path provides a floral welcome to the school and in the productive area have improved the opportunities for vegetable and fruit growing. It was good to see that some of the classes were becoming involved in growing in their dedicated outdoor areas and that the whole school has been involved with each class looking after a fruit tree and also taking part in a potato growing competition. The use of bulbs has been and will be used to extend the floral season and there are plans to start introducing more perennial plantings. Congratulations to all concerned on the progress that has been made.



### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Consider further ways of addressing the three 'R's - reducing, re-using and recycling
- Consider ways of encouraging wildlife into the school grounds (eg plants for pollinators, birdboxes, minibeast homes etc)
- Look at communicating with the wider school community about the great work that is being done eg via website, newsletter and perhaps an open garden 'day' with activities to involve families?
- The hanging baskets around the school are very attractive. The need for watering could be reduced by the use of solid plastic pots, perhaps with water-retaining wells in the bottom.
- If the school plan to continue their potato competition in subsequent years, they might like to take part in a national competition. Take a look at <http://growyourownpotatoes.org.uk> for information and lots of resources.

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## **Wisewood Community Primary School      Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

Wisewood Primary School's 'Green Army', along with Headteacher Liz Heaphy and caretaker Andrew Fletcher gave me a fascinating tour of the school grounds. The school has decided to develop their growing areas to reflect the theme Plants for Pollinators. They have acquired a beehive which is located in a small internal courtyard and some of the pupils will be trained as beekeepers. Also within this area are fruit trees and bushes whose produce are used in the school for pies and jams. Outside the school building much of the planting is in deep containers acquired some years ago from Meadowhall Shopping Centre and the plan is to start replacing these. The planters contained both ornamental and vegetable plants, some grown from seed in the school's greenhouse. Compost from garden and fruit waste is re-used on site and water butts save rainwater.

To the front of the school a small sensory garden provides a quiet space for pupils and is planted with a range of herbs. Behind the school, a wildlife area includes a pond and minibeast hotel. The pupils were clearly very committed to their school environment and as well as taking part in Yorkshire in Bloom are embarking on the Eco-schools bronze award.

Well done to all in 'greening' what would otherwise be quite barren grounds and providing habitats for many insects and birds.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- The school are planning to gradually replace the containers obtained from Meadowhall. As discussed on the day there is a need for pragmatic approach, perhaps reducing the numbers to make maintenance easier.
- Advice on plants for pollinators can be found on <https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>
- It would be good to see more communication of the great work the Green Army are doing via the website, newsletters, assemblies etc.
- Perhaps now is time to involve wider school community? A family event with hands on activities is a possibility or a 'get your grown up's growing' day involving parents in projects not so easily carried out by the pupils. This may well lead to a 'resource bank' of parents with particular skills which can be called upon when necessary.
- Linking with other relevant community groups could also be beneficial.

## Category E2: - Universities, Colleges and Further Educational Establishments

### Harrogate Ladies College and Highfield Silver Gilt Prep School

#### Overall Impression

The Ladies College is a very busy site and Team Paul achieve an essential standard in a demanding situation. The hanging baskets are very colourful and of a high quality and around the chapel there is good permanent planting, supplemented with spring bulbs. Various areas of the site are used by the pupils such as the willow dome for outdoor learning and maybe there is opportunity to expand this by creating a willow tunnel with the off cuts.

#### Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- There was upgrading work on the pond whilst the site was being judged and it would be good to see other marginal plants added to the area to increase wildlife accessing the pond area.
- Would there be an opportunity for the pupils to count the number of birds, butterflies or insects on the site as part of the RSPB Big Garden Bird watch or the big butterfly count by Butterfly Conservation
- There maybe some useful resources for the pupils to use from the RHS Campaign for School Gardening [www.schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk](http://www.schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk) to increase their understanding of horticulture and the natural environment. Maybe the raised planters at Highfield could be planted up with herbs to add a different dimension to their playground.

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### Leeds University

### Silver Gilt

#### Overall Impression

The extensive grounds of the University are well maintained and must be a quite a challenge with the number of students and staff who are on campus every day. The newly installed Charles Morris Sensory Garden is well planned and executed to provide plants for pollinators, tactile plants and others which smell to ensure inclusivity for the many groups who are able to access the area. It's obvious there are very strong links between the Facilities Directorate, the Grounds and Gardens Team and postgraduate students, and this includes some first-class research both on and off site. Examples of this are the Clothworker's Court, and the Sustainable Garden, and the wildflower planting on site and at Kippax and Ledston.

Lots of trees (200 new ones have been planted) and shrubs provide restful seating areas for staff and students while good use is made of vibrant colourful planting in the more formal areas

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Some of the earlier projects require a schedule of maintenance to ensure they are of equal standard to the newer projects.
- If possible consider adding extra interpretation to the trees in the cemetery grounds, to compliment the excellent interpretation elsewhere on site.
- Consider creating a log of the specimen trees and create a Tree Trail walk around the ground- a possible project for a group of students
- New projects the judges look forward to seeing/hearing about include the floating vegetation rafts on the pond – some clever minds have been at work here!
- Consider removing the epicormic growth from the veteran trees in the cemetery grounds.
- Consider providing a portfolio detailing past and present projects.

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## **University Of Bradford**

## **Silver Gilt**

### **Overall Impression**

'The Edible Campus' is the University of Bradford's Grounds Team take on their workplace and who's to argue!

From pick your own herbs in strategically placed troughs around the campus to the abundance of soft fruit planted in unity with other shrubs the vision is undoubtedly unique in its concept.

The judges were impressed with the recycling initiatives, the use of grey water, the new rocket composter and strategically placed solar panels around the campus.

The challenges faced by funding cuts to the Grounds maintenance budget are not to be overlooked and whilst sacrifices will undoubtedly have to be made it also offers the opportunity to maintain the grounds and plan improvements differently.

### **Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Look at reducing wildflower sown areas / close mown areas and leave as un-mown meadow encouraging native species to establish.
- Consider renovating / re-planting the roof garden possibly removing some Buddleia to negate self-seeding. Consider planting suitable succulents / sedum varieties etc which require little maintenance.
- Watering of containerised shrubs/trees should be prioritised especially outside the main campus entrance.
- Consider a planned and structured approach to mature shrub bed replacement.
- Look at other potential funding streams available to ensure continuity / maintaining the overall appearance of the campus.
- Improved management of the allotment beds should be encouraged to ensure plots/beds are maintained to an acceptable standard.
- Ensure bird/bat boxes are in position and are of good condition.

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# University of Hull

# Gold

## Overall Impression

Over the years the grounds team at the University of Hull have extended and enhanced the plantings around the campus to achieve what is now a pleasant and 'green' environment for both students and staff alike. They have achieved a good balance between permanent (herbaceous, shrub and tree) plantings and the use of annual bedding to give a splash of colour in areas where high impact is required. The designs reflect the buildings they enhance, with for instance, a more formal Italianate style in front of the old college building. The campus is home to some 18,000 students and the grounds also incorporate walkways, event spaces, car parks etc. All of these areas have been enhanced by the grounds team in a manner sympathetic to their intended use.

To the side of the University a 'wild' wooded area provides habitats for wildlife and in a quiet spot behind some University houses were the departmental allotments.

The team should be very proud of the manner in which they have developed, enhanced and maintain the grounds. While perhaps difficult to prove, one could imagine that some students' choice of University might be influenced by this lovely campus.

## Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It would be good to see more student involvement/interaction with the grounds, eg an 'incredible edible' approach in parts of the campus where appropriate, and/or more involvement of student groups in enhancing wildlife across the campus?
- Might there be an opportunity to have something on the website about the grounds and their development within the context of the history of the site? Including a map could perhaps point staff/students to particular areas/features
- The herb walk adjacent to the medical school was a great (and appropriate) idea. Could the plants be labelled so people know what they are? An interpretation board could explain their usage?

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# York St John University

# Gold & Category Winner

## Overall Impression

The Horticultural work that Robert, Steve and Sarah do at the University in Lord Mayors walk is only part of what they do with several other sites around the city to also manage. Not only linking with the students but also communities and other voluntary groups. Good horticultural practice could be seen throughout our visit with areas very much appreciated by students. The main entrance was stunning with its lavender walk, floral beds and well clipped box hedging. Well maintained lawns could be seen throughout our visit as well as willflower areas maintained and looked after by staff and students. Liked the idea of students work being introduced into the landscape. Students could enjoy the peace and tranquility of the Japanese garden with its sounds of running water and neatly raked white gravel as well as enjoy the Japanese style of planting. Wildlife was cared for around the grounds with abundant bird, bat boxes, bee boxes and bowls of water put out for the resident hedgehogs, enjoyed by birds in the heat of the day. Hanging baskets were of a good standard

and maintained on a simple watering system as well as a sedum roof which has now become well established after being deforested of young tree seedlings.

But the main thing is that University staff are taking ideas out into the community creating new wildflower areas, introducing bees and wildlife. Planting 3,000 trees one for each child born in York this year. Working alongside the Woodlands Trust and getting volunteers involved.

All corners of the University grounds could be seen and were a pleasure to visit.

**Judges feedback on areas for consideration**

- Judges could not find anything that this entry could improve on.
- Excellent in every way.
- Needs to be visited to be appreciated of how much hardwork goes into this entry.