

YORKSHIRE News from around the Region Harrogate Borough Council



recognised the key workers by doing 3 flower beds for the NHS in Harrogate, Ripon, Knaresborough

Friends of Brighouse Station

Bringing new life to Brighouse Station

It's socially distanced full steam ahead for the volunteers at Brighouse Railway Station.

All of the 29 fence planters, 18 self-watering barrels three car park beds and an old railway siding area, bug hotel and wild flower areas have been planted and tidied up.



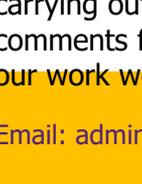
The work has taken longer than normal to complete due to the smaller numbers of volunteers allowed to

work in the limited spaces at the same time.

All our plants are in full flower and passenger numbers and train services are increasing, people are enjoying the displays when they use Brighouse station.



Our volunteers are working hard to maintain the displays, watering, weeding and deadheading. Brighouse Station is a major gateway to Brighouse, our volunteers receive praise from train staff and the public when they are



carrying out their work on the platforms. These comments fill us with pride and make all our work worthwhile.

Hello!

Wherever you are in this glorious county – whether you're at home enjoying your garden or staycating in beautiful countryside – we hope you're thoroughly enjoying summer.

The **'new normal'** - With restrictions easing up across the county, businesses, tourist attractions, schools and our community groups are having to figure out new ways of growing together in a safe but enjoyable and productive way.

We'd love to hear how you plan to adjust to what is being called the 'new normal', or how you have changed your working practices to accommodate the restrictions. Do you have any creative ways for continuing to bloom in your area? Let us know. Please do keep sending us your stories, experiences, or any activities happening within your communities.

As always, you can send this newsletter on to your fellow volunteers, colleagues and friends.

Best Regards

John

Co-Ordinator
YiB



Pictures supplied by Paul Marshall Friends of Brighouse Station





What can I do about climate change in my garden?

However small or large your garden is, there's lots you can do to help combat the causes and effects of climate breakdown

Gardens are set to become increasingly important in the future. They're great for human health and wellbeing, they can help maintain biodiversity and they can even remove carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere.

As the impacts of climate change make themselves ever more apparent, the positive impacts of gardens will become ever more important. Here are 9 ways you can maximise the benefits.

1. Green up your outside space



Trees and plants help tackle climate change by removing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere. They can reduce the risk of flooding by slowing down rainwater runoff. Planting

climbers on your house will help keep it cool during summer heatwaves and reduce heating costs in winter. Growing a hedge in your front garden can even capture particulate pollution, such as exhaust from cars and lorries.

2. Plant a diverse range of plants in your garden

Growing a range of different plants in your garden is great for building resilience. If extreme weather such as flooding or drought damages some plants, others will be fine. As weather patterns shift, some insects that depend on particular flowers might suffer, so plant a diverse variety of pollinator friendly plants with different flowering times.



Choose single (not double) flowered plants

3. Adopt new ways of growing

Green roofs and walls can result in year-round home energy savings due to a cooling effect in summer and an insulating effect in winter.



Improve energy efficiency through use of technologies and try to reduce the use of petrol-powered tools. Hiring or sharing tools is the most environmentally friendly option; choose corded electric tools where possible.

4. Be water-wise - Water butts are a brilliant solution to some of the problems being created by climate change. They help prevent flooding by reducing the load on drains during rainstorms, and help conserve water during droughts. Look for water butts with a larger than standard capacity to ensure a sufficient water supply over the summer. Select plants and design strategies better suited to your local condition

5. Avoid peat-based composts - Peatlands store huge amounts of carbon. Harvesting the peat to use for composts is an environmental disaster, both for the area which is harvested and on a global climate scale. Look, ask for and use peat-free composts. There are now some high quality products out there that work.

6. Compost your garden and kitchen waste - Compost as much garden and kitchen waste as you can. Adding home-made compost to your soil improves its structure and provides excellent nutrients for the garden. If you throw the material away as household waste, it can end up on landfill and produces potent greenhouse gases.

7. Reduce - Reuse - Recycle - Reinvest - Adopt the 4R's. Reduce - the use of resources in your garden wherever possible, Reuse - household materials and seasonal items year on year, Recycle - your garden waste, plastic, glass and metals and Reinvest - help stimulate demand for recycled products by buying recycled items.

8. Go organic - As a first choice, avoid the use of chemicals in the garden. If required, use products with a lower carbon footprint, such as organic fertilisers. Practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Adopt a combination of good plant biosecurity, biological, cultural and chemical controls in order to minimise the spread of pests and diseases.

9. Beware invaders! - Please - never bring plants back from your holidays, and only buy from reputable suppliers (this means both online and at plant nurseries). Otherwise you risk introducing new pests and diseases into the UK. Also, please make sure that you dispose of garden waste in a responsible manner. Generally this means either by composting at home or in municipal composting schemes. The exception is if you have Japanese knotweed or other invasive non-native plants on your property, in which case seek specialist advice.

Invasive garden plants like this American skunk cabbage should be disposed of carefully





Thorp Perrow

Thorp Perrow Arboretum

I have to admit I have found this new passion for gardening terribly exciting, even though I am a keen outdoorsy type and obviously a passionate gardener, my garden has never looked so good and actually what once might have seemed a bit of a chore or another 'job' fast became my own love again. The excitement of knowing that everyone around me also seemed to be loving their gardens, embracing the outdoors and noticing plants, the seasons and weather, the birds singing, the busy bees and simply the air they were breathing cemented all I believe in, that this simple stuff all around us that many of us don't even notice day in and day out. Really does make a difference, that it's so much more than just being **'good for us'.** *Its life.*



I am glad to see that it seems this gardening craze hasn't fizzled as lockdown has eased. The arboretum opened its doors back up and we are busier than we have ever been before. Families and people visit us from all over the country, being spread over 100 acres means that we have a huge open air space for people to enjoy whilst feeling safe that 'someone isn't too close' to them. Feeling free to wonder and enjoy our grounds with perhaps new eyes. The grounds are lush, the plants are thriving and doing a great job of providing that great relief that so many of us need. At this time of the year our meadow area brings



about a flurry of life like no other time of the year, with Butterflies, Bees and Dragonflies everywhere you look. I see families exploring places in the arboretum that previously have only ever been visited by the

adventurers among us and people just simply sitting quietly observing the beauty around them.

As the future is uncertain for us all its great to know that the natural world will always have our back and that all you simply need to do is go outside to find a steady consistency that never fails us. I am looking forward to next year's Yorkshire in Bloom, I am feeling positive that many people and different communities will have come together everywhere with perhaps fresh eyes, different thoughts and a new perspective.

Faith Douglas: YiB Judge, Author of The Nature Remedy and Curator of Thorp Perrow Arboretum

Curator Faith Douglas writes:
After spending the Spring closed to the public it's been so nice to welcome everyone back to the arboretum.

Spring saw an abundance of blooms, the bulbs and blossom have never looked so good and the birds never sang so loudly. I couldn't help but wonder if they always looked this good or always were this loud, yet perhaps I had been a little too distracted with day to day life to really notice.



Lockdown found me slowing right down and looking at the arboretum in greater

detail than I ever have done before. I did my very best to share these wonders via social media, using photos and short videos and found that other people also found great relief in witnessing nature in all its glory. The weather was kind during lockdown and people all over the country rekindled their love of the garden or of the great outdoors. Family units coming together having adventures outside that they perhaps would never have done, finding a love of running or cycling or simply pottering in the great British garden.





Pride in Linthwaite 'Linthwaite in Bloom'

The Pride in Linthwaite group started in the summer of 2017 when our chair Malc noticed all the litter around the village when he took his dog Nessie for a walk. When she started chewing a crisp bag he'd had enough and he organised a litter pick that I and many others attended. These litter picks became a regular thing and it was apparent that other people shared this frustration over the litter and wanted to take a pride in the village and change things for the better.



Following an informal get together in the local pub (isn't that where all great things start?!), we had our first formally organised meeting in September 2017 where we officially set up 'Pride in Linthwaite' and made plans to take it forward. Linthwaite in Bloom became a sub group of Pride in Linthwaite We would make the village a floral pride. A small group of volunteers formed. 8 local people, ranging in age from early 30's-65+ with variable levels of gardening know-how, became

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Linthwaite In Bloom affectionately known as the 'Bloomers'.

Pride in Linthwaite became registered as a Community Interest Company in 2018, which made it possible for us to 'exist', apply for financial help and do official fundraising activities.

Nearly 3 years after setting up, we found ourselves in the midst of a pandemic with our movements restricted to prevent the spread of covid 19. Fortunately, none of us have problematic health that meant we needed to 'shield'

We would regularly 'chat' on our what's app group, which kept us in touch and made us feel less isolated and anxious.



This this year, our planters have looked the best ever. In terms of "playing it forward",

This is what I see 'In bloom' doing; bringing people together from different walks of life. Gardening is such a

'leveler', a conversation starter, something that bonds people and a fantastic tonic for both physical and mental health. Even the watering of plants can provide a therapeutic quality (although we are blessed with many members of the community who commit to watering a planter near their house).



I would urge anyone who, like us Bloomers, want to make a difference in their community in this way to just go for it and get support where you can from others. It may take a while, but people will start to notice your efforts and appreciate the difference it makes.



Article supplied by Kate Stanley Lead Volunteer Linthwaite in Bloom



Northallerton Secret Garden



What a strange spring and summer we have had. It has been very challenging in so many ways; each person has had a completely different experience depending on their circumstances and for many the repercussions of these last few months will reverberate for a long time to come – both positive and negative.



One thing that has run like a steady, reassuring thread throughout has been the natural world. For many this has been a real lifeline. We have been acutely aware that at the very time

the balm of nature has been most needed, we had to shut the garden to our community. In a way, this redoubled our commitment to tend the garden and plant vegetables so that when lockdown was eased there would be beauty to be enjoyed and produce to share. Each day of the week someone different tended the garden.

The Living Rooms restarted their "Renew Wellbeing" sessions using the Secret Garden from the 31st July on Monday and Friday mornings. For more information on this please contact



info@thelivingrooms.org.uk.

We continue to explore other new ways in which the garden can provide a safe and inspirational space for both people and nature to flourish.

Lucy writes:

During the "Lockdown" distinguishing one day from another could be quite difficult. Days of the week started to take on different names: Thursday became "Clapping Day" (when we stood on our doorstep and applauded NHS workers and other key workers), Sunday was virtual "Church Day" and Tuesday became "Secret Garden Day". When Liz and Dave asked for volunteers to water the Garden we jumped at the chance. At first our visits seemed quite clandestine. We would furtively unlock the padlock at the back gate and enter cautiously.



Almost immediately, we fell under the disarming spell of the glorious, ever-evolving flora and melodious birdsong that greeted us. The calming effect of the tranquility was immediate.

Unfortunately, whenever our family of five visited the tranquility wasn't long lasting! Watering with the hose pipe became a competitive sport. Invariably one child would go home needing a change of clothes! We fell into a pattern: someone would water the vegetables while one would play in the mud kitchen, one take pictures of the ever-growing garden and then all of us would check for tadpoles and frogs in the two ponds.

" safe space where both people and wildlife can flourish".

Emerging to a "New Normal" Gardening

Knowing that for many of us social isolation was starting to take its toll, we tentatively seized the opportunity to restart our Monday and Thursday gardening sessions on the 15th June with just six people per session, social distancing and hygiene measures in place – just in the nick of time to help



pick the bumper harvest of strawberries, raspberries and gooseberries! It is a shame that not all of our volunteers are able to join us just yet for a variety of reasons.

Our aims

- To provide a

therapeutic space for individuals or groups from our community who may find the garden a helpful place to be

- To increase wildlife and biodiversity within the heart of the town
- To provide sustainably grown fresh fruit and vegetables for any of the Volunteers, their families or users of the Food Bank.



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