



2013 Judges Comments

Category 6: Public and Private Charitable Establishments

Abbeydale Residential Home, Ilkley

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The saying that 'First appearances are important' is taken to a good degree here at Abbeydale, and maintained throughout. The same high standard and attention to detail applies as much to the back of the building as it does to the front. A most delightful and relaxed Residential care home in superb well-maintained grounds. A delight for the senses, both sight and smell as one walks the grounds and terrace of the splendour of this garden

Areas of Achievement

Excellent choice of planting of mixed shrub and herbaceous borders complimented by 6000 bedding plants. All seating areas maintained to the highest degree and planted sympathetically with its surroundings and at the time of judging being enjoyed by the residents. Topiary adding form height and shape adds another dimension to the grounds. Bob, (the owner) and his staff should be very pleased with the high degree of horticultural standards they have achieved.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

With such a high degree of work already apparent, the judge's only constructive remark is to say keep up the standard and good work already achieved.

Airedale General Hospital, Keighley

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

It was a pleasure to visit the hospital and to meet the knowledgeable and committed garden team there. It was good to hear that the team were fully aware of the importance of the work they do for the moral of patients, visitors and indeed staff. Giving all the members of the team a chance to take a lead in a particular area of work has clearly caused good results. The first impression on entering the site is of fresh, open cleanliness which is impressive. Obviously the staff holds the

hospital in high regard and have a genuine affection for it, which can only benefit everyone involved.

Areas of Achievement

The effort all involved put in to do the best for the hospital is impressive. The garden team have an impressive knowledge and set a high standard in all they do. The planting of new trees around the site is a great thing to do for the future of the site. Lots of care is being put into caring for wildlife on site. The plans for the new wildlife walk, including provision for dementia patients is exciting. Planting was in good condition throughout the site. In places where people enter the hospital the variety and colour of the rich planting was really impressive. Together with seating in these areas this planting will do lots to soothe and raise the spirits of patients and visitors. Paved areas were completely weed free. Litter was dealt with very well and the site was left litter free. All the grass was neat and free of rank weeds. All beds were neatly edged. It was good that composting is carried out and water butts are being introduced. The work of the Friends group was really committed and impressive and it was good to hear that groups such as the Rotary club are also involved. The creation of a rose garden to honour organ donors is a very appropriate idea. The use of fruit trees on dwarfing rootstocks in containers is an exciting idea.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Using lavender to provide scent in beds is a good idea which could be extended to even more areas. Choosing plants which awaken happy memories in patients, especially the elderly is a lovely idea. Continue with this. The interior courtyards are an obvious problem due to difficult wheelbarrow access. Perhaps the wider use of gravelled areas with features having a variety of pebbles, rocks, stones, driftwood and a small number of dwarf conifers and perhaps winter flowering heathers might reduce work. Perhaps some local secondary schools might be willing to produce art installations and donate them to the hospital to use in the courtyards. If funds permit perhaps some of the areas might have a self contained water feature and ornamental grasses for texture and movement. A final idea might be to consider using simple rocks and raked gravel in the manner of traditional Japanese gardens might reduce work to a minimum since these inner areas are unlikely to be filled with leaves in autumn.

All Saints Church, Barwick

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

This picturesque church stands proud in the centre of the village. The judges were greeted by large planters of formal bedding either side of the entrance to the church grounds. The lawns were well manicured by volunteers all over the age of 60. Around the church you could see a good mixture of sustainable planting and formal bedding. Volunteers were quick to point out that the emphasis was on sustainable planting with which the judges agree. Well worth the visit and an excellent setting.

Areas of Achievement

Formal stone planters at front of church planted with formal bedding well manicured lawns throughout the churchyard. Good sustainable planting around the church in keeping with area

they were planted in. Volunteers excellent and proud of their achievements, rightly so. Good maintenance of grounds as well as fund raising.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Recycling area needs to be screened, detracts from rest of grounds. Encourage some wildflower pockets in grounds to break up the extensive lawned area. A very good entry.

Audley Court Estates Limited, Harrogate

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Hollins Hall is an imposing example of a late Georgian manor house on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales. Once the home of the famous Tetley family, Hollins Hall is not far from Harrogate town centre and is the centre of a retirement village. It is set in 14 acres of landscaped gardens which are well cared for and which add to the ambience whilst providing encouragement to wildlife which delight the residents. Within the financial restrictions the head gardener is achieving very good results and works closely with the community.

Areas of Achievement

Since completion of the site it is clear a great deal of work has been carried out to bring in a variety of colour and interest to the grounds and to encourage wildlife back. The floral displays around the Hall provide impact and the replacement of rose beds utilising recycled leaf mould is producing good results. The settling pond is a wonderful feature to encourage wildlife and widen biodiversity and it is clear many residents take great pleasure in encouraging more bird life. Hard surrounds are well maintained and grass area is well cut. The site is litter free and recycling is encouraged with garden waste being composted along with leaf mould. The introduction of small allotments is clearly popular and provided a further attraction and benefit. The small greenhouse has been put to good use and provided a wider range of plants to enhance the site with vegetables and herbs being made available. There is a good exchange of plants and knowledge within the community and garden staff.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The planting around the Hall would benefit from a less "dotted" effect by increased budgeting for a number of the same plants to provide a more flowing border design. Watering at weekends must be fully maintained to prolong colour and health. A catchment from the old station building and garden "shed" to water butts could be used for watering planters around the patio area. A larger greenhouse would be an investment to bring on plug plants for bedding. Increase the allotment area as demand dictates. With an assistant, who had horticultural knowledge and interest, more could be achieved as dead heading would prolong flowering and further development would benefit the site along with understanding maintenance. The roadside entrance and driveway would benefit from features to create a welcome and impact, together with a programme of bulb planting. Further development of appropriate planting around the settling pond

Barnsley Hospice

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

A very caring team of professional and volunteers working closely together for the benefit of the patients. A secluded spot with mature trees around the car park. Well cared for grounds, most of the work done by a team of about 6 volunteers. Everything is bright and colourful with good displays of plants.

Areas of Achievement

A regular team of volunteers look after the grounds, also help given on a day a year basis by staff from Barclays Bank. The Limes Garden is a great asset with an area with sliding doors making it accessible for many people, and yet it can also all be seen from upstairs windows. Told in Spring many displays of daffodils, now good summer displays, including hanging baskets. Uniform handmade; wooden garden furniture throughout sitting areas.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Further work limited at the moment due to projected building extensions.

Barwick Methodist Chapel

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

This small Methodist chapel is well maintained by local residents. Bright formal bedding greets visitors as they go towards the front of the church. And a good mixture of shrubs and perennials are planted by the side of the building giving all year round colour. Very clean entry and well maintained in a prominent position within the village.

Areas of Achievement

Colourful entrance to church Good mixture of shrubs at side of chapel giving all year round colour. Nice group of volunteers who were proud of the chapel and its grounds

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Nothing at all major with this small and compact entry. Would have put dot plants in formal bedding to give it height but that's just the judges preference. Keep a record of entries and developments within the chapel grounds

Calderdale Royal Infirmary, Halifax

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The grounds surrounding Calderdale Royal Infirmary are a mix of trees, shrubs and colourful displays. The hardworking team of gardeners have done well to make the planting more

interesting and attractive through shaping the shrubs and hedges and introducing more flowering plants.

Areas of Achievement

The whole site was very clean and tidy, showing that the staff paid great attention to detail throughout. The two courtyards visited (the rehabilitation and children's units) were really well and appropriately planted, as were the memorial gardens. The towers planters at the main entrance provided a cheerful splash of colour. All areas were very well maintained.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The area outside the maternity unit would lend itself well to a wildflower meadow area. Seek advice from other organisations in Halifax who have plenty of experience in planting similar areas (Manor Heath Park, for example) to help make the most of the space.

Donisthorpe Hall, Leeds

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Donisthorpe Hall is going through some changes at the present time but despite that the groundsman/gardener was keen to show the judges what had been achieved and what is planned for the future. The grounds were well maintained with an array of mixed planting and features which residents at the hall could enjoy. The long driveway was broken up by individual areas all with their own features from the main entrance to the rose garden and water feature and finally the reception area. Well laid out grounds.

Areas of Achievement

Well planted reception area with both bedding and permanent planting. Good entrance to hall with seating areas for visitors and residents to enjoy. Good variety of trees along main drive. Very good portfolio. Well maintained lawns despite problems with leatherjackets in some areas.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Rose garden need to be re thought, maybe mixed herbaceous plants to provide colour and scent. Beds now getting past their best. Bedding- be aware of where bedding is being planted, restrict it to certain areas to give greater impact. Continue to use herbaceous plants and shrubs to give colour all year round. If mature trees are to be removed look at a replacement programme with more ornamental trees.

Grimston Court, Care Home, York

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Grimston Court is set in secluded, five acre grounds on the outskirts of York. The terraced flower gardens and the expansive lawns, amidst a wide variety of mature trees, are much admired by

visitors and residents. The whole area is very impressive, clean and free from litter with a variety of quality plant material. A very restful site and a good entry into Yorkshire in Bloom.

Areas of Achievement

1. Well mown and edged lawned areas.
2. Hanging baskets of quality and planters with good colour schemes.
3. The new pond is a recent addition to the site.
4. The irrigation system saves on watering by the gardener.
5. The absence of litter; the whole site was clean and tidy. Well done!

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

1. Try and organise volunteer help from the local community.
2. The addition of a wildflower area would add interest and encourage wildlife.
3. Introduce bird boxes and bird bath to encourage birds and provide interest for residents.
4. Display a poster advertising Yorkshire in Bloom judging day and display past achievements by your certificates.

High Green Methodist Church, Sheffield

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The visual impact of the gardens around the church was stunning. Very well cared for, very colourful and the plant choice was good for the site. The effort and commitment to produce the high standards seen is recognised and is to be congratulated.

Areas of Achievement

The developed use of water capture methods, composting and encouragement of wildlife in the garden, adds further features of interest to this well maintained garden.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to increase the use of permanent plants at the front entrance.

Holmewood Residential Care Centre, Keighley

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The dedication of the staff is evident from the start of our visit. They consider the client at every point and incorporate their needs into all activities. This in turn is about improving the quality of life, and care for the clients. In gardening terms this includes making hanging baskets, eating home grown food developing a wildlife area and providing a tranquil setting which is well used by clients.

Areas of Achievement

The garden area maintained by Nestfield school, consisting of raised beds growing food crops. Using plants and gardening as part of the care for clients and the full involvement of them with all activities. The support for Bloom in such things as pictures made by clients in a number of very clever ways.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Given the limitation of the site and its purpose it is difficult to consider any major areas of change. It may be possible to consider a theme for a year to ring the changes. This could be say growing a small amount of tree seed that could be passed on to groups for planting.

Holy Trinity Church, Skipton

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Holy Trinity Church has a raised position at the head of Skipton main street and is the focal point in the centre of town. The Church garden, with its shady trees and beautifully tended herbaceous border, provides both a meeting and a resting place for many people. The herbaceous border, with its splashes of bold colour is extremely well constructed, full of textures and innovative planting and provides an attractive setting around the Church.

Areas of Achievement

The maintenance of the gardens around the Church was excellent. The lawns were well manicured and shaded by leafy trees. The herbaceous border, running the length of the church was a palette of colour, extremely well maintained and a credit to the group. We were impressed with the new planting of formal box hedging at the end of the church, and feel that it will be an enhancement to the gardens as it matures.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

We realise that all the "In Bloomers" have worked with dedication and enthusiasm to achieve these excellent results. We hope that they will continue to be encouraged to work hard in the future in order to maintain this standard. Well done!

Horticap Ltd, Harrogate

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Horticap is a well loved charity and worthy of a visit to this interesting site which could happily end with refreshments from the onsite cafe and browse in the shop. There is much to discover with good interpretation boards, children's trails and competitions and interesting sculptures throughout. There were a handful of unclaimed hanging baskets which were the remains of the over 400 made and evidence of the high quality.

Areas of Achievement

The newly installed water tank to collect water from roofs with the intention that the site can be self sufficient for plant watering, vehicle washing etc. The commitment to recycling just about anything and with a variety of innovative uses, this includes concrete etc being used in the new building. The areas of interest throughout the site including Fairy dell, sculptures, raised beds, bird hide and pond. The colour wheel flower beds and new development round cafe seating area. The involvement of the local community both in volunteers and visitors and in the students working off site.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Mainly due to weather the pond/bog was looking less than at its best. Completion of new walling at edge of patio area. Further refining of the colour wheel beds. Plans to form allotments with in co-operation with Help the Aged. Provision of further interpretation boards.

Knaresborough House

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Knaresborough House is an attractive Georgian building set in a prominent position on High Street. At the rear of the building there are substantial lawned areas used for music events and summer picnics.

Areas of Achievement

The floral displays are impressive, in particular the inclusion of the 'In Bloom' logo in the summer bedding at the front of the building. The outdoor adult fitness equipment is a good initiative and is well used.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

At the rear of the building permanent seating needs some maintenance; this area could be enhanced by the introduction of some floral displays in tubs or planters. Some attention should be given to the border on the top of the wall at the exit road from the House where there is little planting in evidence.

Nightingale Hall Care Home, Richmond

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Nightingale Hall Care Home is in a delightful location. The site is within a former military barracks and has been sympathetically restored. The floral displays were extremely colourful and well maintained by Billy, their gardener.

Areas of Achievement

The colourful displays were of a very good standard and well maintained. There were many outdoor seating areas all greatly enhanced by tubs and planters.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consider the removal of the roses along the frontage - they are not performing well beneath the canopy of a mature tree. Lily of the valley, bluebells and wild garlic together with hardy geraniums would do well here together with euonymus and santolina. The inclusion of bark mulch would help to retain moisture and suppress weed. Future permanent planting elsewhere on the site could include sensory plants such as lavender and herbs, particularly sage, rosemary and thyme.

Northcliffe Environmental Enterprises Team (NEET), Shipley

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Northcliffe Environmental Enterprise Team (NEET) Is a charity project working with adults with learning difficulties. NEET along with a small team of horticultural qualified leaders grow up to thirty thousand bedding plants per year, along with a wide range of container plants, which are sold to the public and some garden centres in the area. Any profit is ploughed back into the scheme to help with the funding of the project. They have several large polythene tunnels, a workshop area, classroom and a contemplative area with water features. A small cafe has recently opened for visitors to use and the outdoor seating area is decorated with floral hanging baskets and containers which help to give a continental feel. Horticultural training takes place on the site in conjunction with Shipley College with many students gaining horticultural qualifications. Many people from different backgrounds spend time volunteering and helping the students who all work together to make this site a huge success

Areas of Achievement

Plant production and sales. Professional and certified training for the participants. Opening to the public and running the cafe. Encouraging volunteers to help with daily tasks and training. Provision of service to the community

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Expand quality plant production and sales. Look at the provision of more paths in areas of high use. Encourage more funding from outside bodies to provide ongoing and sustainable high quality working facilities

NYCC Stepping Stones II Project, Skipton

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

This is an extremely beautiful site with such excellent aims, producing a wide variety of horticultural and culinary experiences. It is a garden and teaching experience which provides stimulation, learning and enjoyment for a group of vulnerable adults whilst encouraging a love of the countryside and its flora and fauna. An excellent and productive enterprise. Well done, it was a pleasure to be invited to visit!

Areas of Achievement

We were extremely impressed with the planning of the site. The use of raised beds for vegetables giving more accessibility was excellent and the whole area was run with care, enthusiasm and a sense of humour. Loved the "wizard of Oz"! It was great to hear that the skills of the students do not go unnoticed and that they were sought after for help and advice in other areas.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It would be impertinent of us to suggest any improvements to such a well organised and managed site. Well done to everyone and all our best wishes for success in the future.

Oakworth in Bloom, Holden Hall

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Holden Hall is a community hall used by play groups and for community events. There is a large area to the front of the Hall which has been planted to make best use of the steep slope. There has been a good use made of sustainable planting that has been supplemented with seasonal colour.

Areas of Achievement

The flower bed at the front of the Hall was a colourful mix of sustainable planting which certainly brightens up the roadside. It was good to hear that the toddler groups are involved in bulb planting. Along the front of the building, and near to the roadside are two large barrier baskets, each full of flowers and containing a range of flowering plants, additionally there are other containers all helping to brighten up this busy roadside. There is also a well stocked bed of perennials. Inside the building there are boxes of geraniums in full flower, just inside some large windows, so they are clearly visible from the outside.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Keep on encouraging volunteers and supporters to support the hall and consider looking into whether you may be able to apply for grants for group activities. Continue to work on the lovely front bed. It may be you consider further developing your planting scheme to compliment the Oakworth scheme

Overgate Hospice, Elland

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

This converted Victorian House, with its modern extensions which are built in sympathy with the original house is set in very impressive grounds which create a peaceful and serene Hospice. The garden is regularly tended by a gardener two days a week with the assistance of volunteers. Other volunteers assist with exterior projects and it was gratifying to see a builder re-pointing the perimeter wall in his free time. The hospice which costs £6,100 a day to run is funded entirely by the community and is supported by numerous Friends groups.

Areas of Achievement

The maintenance of the beautiful grounds is a great tribute to the gardeners. They have created a variety of peaceful seating areas and settings with colourful floral displays. On the veranda planters provide both colourful and sensory stimuli for the less mobile patients. Some borders have been designated as Wildlife friendly areas and have been successful in attracting a variety of birds. The helping hands feature with the fantastic views across the valley has been enhanced with colourful bedding plants.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The newly laid out Gardens in front of the Day Hospice require further planting to enhance the attractive layout. The new fruit growing area will require careful management.

Perennial York Gate Garden, Leeds

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

On a very sunny day I was welcomed by the head gardener and his knowledge of the history of the garden I found extremely interesting, I would like to say thank you the welcome drink of elderflower cordial and sandwiches which were very much appreciated. I would also like to mention how nice it was to meet two of the volunteers who were hard at work in the garden on a very hot day.

Areas of Achievement

Where do I start this is a garden of splendour, a garden which was designed by the spencer family and how wonderful it is now in the hands of the perennial gardeners royal benevolent society, all I can say is well done to the head gardener/curator and the garden volunteers as a gardener myself we know that a matured landscape does not stand still and that it needs dedicated management well done there was immense evidence that the garden was in very good hands for the future.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

I found this very difficult to comment in as I feel future development plans were well explained to me all I can say is keep up the marvellous work.

Riverhead Hall Care Home, Driffield

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Riverhead Hall is situated close to the Driffield canal on the outskirts of the market town and is one of the Welburn Care Homes. It provides nursing and residential care for 45 residents. The attractive grounds contain both open and secure areas for the use of the residents and are maintained by a gardener who also has responsibility for one other Care Home within the group.

Areas of Achievement

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken within the newly fenced secure area of the garden to make it more accessible to the residents. The removal of steps, creation of gentle slopes and levelling of paths has made the use of the garden much easier for walking and more accessible for wheelchairs. Crown lifting of many of the trees has introduced more light under the extensive canopy of mature trees and enabled a wider variety of flowering plants to flourish. The flat lawn area is well maintained and again much more accessible following extensive drainage works.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consideration might be given to replace the loose pebbles adjacent the patio area with paving for easier access particularly by wheelchairs. Further improvements to the surface of the circular path, which in places contain tree roots, would make this area safer for residents. A wider selection of sustainable plantings could be introduced beneath the raised tree canopy to provide more variety and colour e.g. Hardy Geraniums, Hellebores, Lamium and other ground cover shrubs.

Rosevale Care Home, York

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Rosevale Care Home is located on a fairly busy road but it is a haven of tranquillity in the gardens to the rear of the premises. Sadly, the permanent gardener has not been able to attend and the maintenance programme has been left to a temporary gardener who is working very hard to achieve good standards.

Areas of Achievement

The lawned areas were very well maintained. The hanging baskets on display were very colourful. Some lovely roses and a very nice water feature sited adjacent to the outdoor seating areas provided colour and interest for the residents.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Try to establish more permanent planting underneath the specimen conifer tree and use bark mulch to retain moisture and suppress weed. To reduce maintenance and watering substitute summer bedding plants with perennials. Consider installing raised beds for the residents with sensory plants such as lavender, rosemary, thyme and sage.

St Catherines Care Home, Shipton by Benningborough

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

St. Catherine's Care Home is situated on the outskirts of York in the village of Shipton by Benningborough. Immaculate lawns and well maintained borders complement this beautiful building.

The courtyard offers an ideal place for residents to relax and enjoy the summer flowers. The gardener has new projects in mind which will further enhance this entry.

Areas of Achievement

1. The seasonal planting was good especially the hanging baskets.
2. Quality of plants in the herbaceous borders.
3. The grass cutting was immaculate.
4. Absence of litter throughout the site.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

1. Develop a compost heap for recycling of green waste.
2. A poster displaying that you are a 'Yorkshire in Bloom' entry would help to promote the competition.
3. The irrigation system requires extending to benefit all the plants.
4. There was no evidence of community help and support.

St Gemma's Hospice, Leeds

Gold Rose Award

Category Winner

Introduction

We were welcomed by dedicated staff who were keen to outline the work which they have carried out to transform the Grounds of St Gemma's in to a horticultural peaceful oasis for the benefit of the patients and families. The gardens had stage a large weekend event and work was on going to tidy up the areas but the maintenance standards were still of the highest quality. The bright sun shine had brought out a range of flowering plants set against the background of good structure planting creating a surprise around every corner. The central gardens area is dominated by a water feature rill which feeds a natural stream and pond backed by combinations of herbaceous and seasonal planting which encourage you to further explore. The garden is alive with wildlife bees and birds.

Areas of Achievement

The colour combinations of the planting within the central garden section the careful choice of material plant textures and heights make a wonderful effect. We were impressed at the different garden themes throughout the site such as the Mediterranean garden, The Labyrinth and the walls of light garden. We were impressed by the tiny courtyards with climbing plants and colourful containers and the Metal tree of life concept was a great way for families to commemorate loved ones.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to refurbish the planting and it was good to hear of a future project with the university to use a Tatton Flower Show Feature in the refurbished wild flower garden. Continue to evolve the area around the Glasshouse with additional containers and features which the patients can participate

St John's Church, Deepcar

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Sitting in the heart of the Deepcar Township along the main road, St Johns Church provides a little oasis of colour, green lawns, and mature trees, which in turn enhances the stone building of the church. The gardens provide a welcome for church goers and the general public alike who use the path that runs through the site to cross the village on a daily basis.

Areas of Achievement

The addition of the willow arch at the top of the bark path, gives an intriguing entrance which makes you want to go beyond and see what's at the other side. The shady seating area under the trees in the "Wilderness" gives a quite space to reflect and enjoy the gardens, with the added daffodil mound to enjoy in spring. Wildlife has also been considered, with the provision of a wildflower meadow, patches of managed nettles, longer grass and brambles to increase insect life within the grounds. There are areas for vegetables, a stumpery and shady bed by the church wall, along with composting and grey water facilities. The standard of maintenance across the site is extremely high and Paul should be commended on his efforts to create a space for all to enjoy.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Look to replace dead trees on the rear lawn this winter season or remove until replacements can be found. The development of the "reflective" area leading from the quiet/prayer room will enhance this entry. Look to encourage volunteers from within the church community to help with some of the maintenance works.

St. John the Baptist Church, Wilberfoss

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The In Bloom Group are to be commended for their dedication to supporting what is a very tranquil and special area within the village. The natural and formal features provide a well balanced churchyard. The introduction of a new interpretation board provides a fantastic story board for the area.

Areas of Achievement

A great community spirit. Continues to look after and develop this very tranquil location. The introduction of the interpretation board is to be commended. The recycling area provides good composting for various horticultural activities. The site is managed very well between formal and informal landscape.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The provision of additional seating and floral planters will greatly improve the site. Consider planting sustainable plants similar to the raised herb beds at Moorfield Way. An interpretation board at the entrance to the wildlife/woodland area would contribute well to the overall effect of the churchyard and the village.

Swan Court, Harrogate

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The front rose garden was in full flower, providing a wonderful display for both residents and passersby. This display was a credit to all involved in the planning and upkeep of this area. There have been some problems with the lawn area and this was not looking at its best and this was not due to drought.

Areas of Achievement

As stated the rose garden is wonderful. The hanging baskets and seasonal planting were very good. The new wall planters have worked well and provide a feature on what was a blank wall.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to improve the turf areas, as these do set off the planting and are a feature of the small areas devoted to planting. In some areas plant growth is starting to be greater than the space that is available, and whilst some have been removed the age of the planting means much of it is maturing at the same time. Thought could be given to a replacement and good quality pruning plan.

The Oaks Day Centre, Keighley

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The centre uses the garden and gardening to help clients improve their quality of life. Staff and helpers are committed to the care of clients and they support a range of activities including the gardening group. This can involve working indoors in areas not designed for messy work so extra effort is required by the staff to achieve the excellent results they do. Young people are involved in helping with a number of projects.

Areas of Achievement

Raising funds in a variety of ways to support the garden and the gardening group thus enabling this activity to take place. The greenhouse which has extended the work that can take place and plant range extended. The involvement of other active groups such as woodworking who have made a turntable to help with potting up.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

As the purpose of the garden is to help clients any changes and developments will be made with this in mind. As the client base changes the project will be flexible to ensure that it can adapt to meet changing needs.

Undercliffe Cemetery Charity, Bradford

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Undercliffe Cemetery is now an English Heritage Grade II* Conservation area Site. Opened in the 1880's the cemetery contains many outstanding memorials paid for by wealthy business men and civic dignitaries. By the 1980's the site was in a very poor state, with burned out cars, damaged memorials and grave stones also very much overgrown. The Undercliffe Cemetery Charity was then formed and over the years a small hard working team of volunteers has restored much of the site and with help from the local Rotary organisation now maintain it, strimming the many acres of grass and looking after conservation areas.

Areas of Achievement

Keeping a high public profile by encouraging schools, local businesses, the general public and working with the local residents which brings a sense of respect and ownership to the area. A series of fund raising events, talks and public plays are organised. The charity also has an impressive website. There is even help tracing ancestors through cemetery records. Working groups from local businesses help with special projects. An ongoing task restoring the memorials and making safe gravestones continues. The photographic records of flowers and plants growing on the site are an excellent idea.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Thought could be given to regularly pruning and maintaining the main entrance more regularly as this may give a better first impression of the site. Pictures of winter scenes and spring flowering bulbs would give future judges an overall seasonal picture of the area. Encourage new volunteers to come through which will help with the work load.

YHA Whitby Physic Garden

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A hidden gem! Set high above the town giving stunning views across the town centre, harbour and sea, with the Abbey as a backdrop. The weather on our visit further enhanced the garden setting. This small group of volunteers carryout a wide range of tasks within the garden which are to be commended.

Areas of Achievement

The standard of maintenance considering its windswept /exposed location is to be congratulated. The wide variety of plants used within the garden and the interpretation, with regards to their use, culinary, and medicinal. The encouragement of children and visitors to get involved, open days to promote the gardens not only to tourists but locals alike. The groups consideration all the time for increasing bio-diversity. The group's recent YHA "Spirit Award" for sustainability 2012/13

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Potential to improve interpretation across the garden, both signage and leaflets. Look to increase potential open days for other visitors, this may also bring about new volunteers. Attention to weeds in paved area near the hostel.

Category 7A: Public Houses and Restaurants

Busfield Arms, East Morton

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The new owners of this pub have made a real difference since they bought it four years ago. They have tastefully upgraded the buildings and surroundings to develop a thriving business which supports many of the village activities. The floral displays, in the form of planters, beds and baskets were spectacular creating an inviting and welcoming atmosphere.

Areas of Achievement

The vast array of the floral displays was excellent, with a mixture of sustainable and bedding plants. They were all well tendered and looked in superb condition. Although the member of the family responsible for the display was away the staff still maintained the very high standard.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It might have been helpful to have heard more about the environmental issues, and to have seen some promotion for Yorkshire in Bloom, with announcements of judging. However an excellent first time entry.

Farmers Arms, Holmfirth

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A delightful small and attractive country pub, set high above Holmfirth. Almost hidden among narrow roads and old cottages it is a real oasis! The licensees have really shown it love and care with suitable floral enhancements.

Areas of Achievement

Very attractive and suitable floral enhancements. Solar powered lighting. The licensees also grow their own herbs and nasturtiums for use in the restaurant.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

There are some weeds around the perimeter of the car park which detract from the overall appearance.

Kings Head, Nafferton

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The Kings Head public house is located in the centre of the attractive village of Nafferton and fronts directly onto Middle Street. In only its second year this entry is now a serious contender within the competition mainly due to the enthusiasm and dynamism of the owners, Guy and Claire who recognize the value of the In Bloom competition in attracting visitors to the village.

Areas of Achievement

The quality of the hanging baskets on the frontage creates an immediate impression to passers-by and these are repeated at the rear of the building. The attractive beer garden incorporating a herb garden, fish pond and water feature which form a focal points within the garden. There are plans to further develop the garden which should be in place for next year. The degree to which the premises are utilised by community groups – In Bloom Group, Tennis Club, and Running Club

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to develop the herb garden by extending the range of plants and possibly introducing a labelling system for customer's information/interest. Implement the plans to add more colour and diversity within the beer garden. Add more interest to the reception area by introducing more floral displays, tourism information and Yorkshire/Nafferton in Bloom posters. Improvements to the construction and layout of the car park would be advantageous.

The Black Swan, Barwick

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Situated in the main square of Barwick the Black Swan faces straight onto the main road. However they have managed to put together a colourful display which should be commended. Plenty of baskets of varying sizes from individual plants to mass planted baskets. Also pleased to see box planters either side of the entrance planted with bedding. Entry has potential but also needs some help and guidance for future years.

Areas of Achievement

Use of planters both sides of the steps leading into the public house. Good array of hanging baskets to achieve colour, Mass planted baskets and individual baskets.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Less is more. Cut down on number of baskets at front of building. Use the larger baskets to give a bigger impact. Remove or disguise labels in baskets. Change cigarette bins, they detracted from the baskets. Use of more trailing plants

The Box Tree Restaurant, Ilkley

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

All those who pass through the town of Ilkley cannot fail to miss the lovely façade of The Boxtree. 30 years as a Michelin star restaurant with a reputation to match they have carried that ethos into the floral and horticultural presentation of the 300 year old building. A first time entry for YIB that happens to be en-route of the tour de France. Excellent ambassadors for Welcome to Yorkshire, and now we hope, YIB

Areas of Achievement

Great use of a corner plot in between the path and the building, with purpose built raised herb beds used by the chefs. Excellently maintained 'Box' hedging and topiary forms that epitomise the high standard that is shown in the small front garden, with a good colour pallet of begonias to compliment the all year round greenery.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue high standard of planting and floral displays. Planting in autumn for winter / spring will be a delight for all who visit and pass by and will help maintain this entries reputation.

The Gascoigne Arms, Barwick

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The Gascoigne Arms situated near the village maypole had well maintained hanging baskets at the front of the public house as well as the side of the building. All the baskets were being well maintained and improved the look of the building. The car park the back of the building was also well maintained and clean. To improve this entry further the judges would look to placement of some planters in the car park. However the judges were pleased with what they saw.

Areas of Achievement

Good quality hanging baskets at front and side of public house. All well maintained and watered. Surroundings and car park around building clean and welcoming.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Further planters in car park to add more colour if possible. Replace existing cigarette bins on outside of building, detracted away from a good entry.

The Lord Nelson, Luddenden

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

As you round the corner and come upon The Lord Nelson at Luddenden you are met with a visual feast. The pub itself dates back to the 17th century and was frequented by Bramwell Bronte. Its charming character is enhanced by floral displays in every conceivable location on both the building and in the quaint and lovely grounds.

Areas of Achievement

We would like to commend the overall interest and colour that has been creating by situating baskets, planters and tubs in every nook and cranny, wherever you look there is something new and interesting to see. The secret garden is a wonderful achievement; the sheer logistics of creating a flat usable space, of this size, from the hillside is remarkable. The garden is delightful and the hard work that has gone into making sure that it is in keeping with the character of the pub and village is evident. It was also very pleasing to see how customers and the community

are at the heart of this lovely pub with facilities being shared with the village community e.g. the communal barbeque, the use of the secret garden for community events and even a hanging basket with sun lotion in case you forget your own.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The lovely secret garden is potentially threatened by Japanese knotweed on a neighbouring property. We would strongly urge you to try to persuade the property owners to deal with this incursion.

The New Inn, Barwick

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The New Inn greeted the judges as we approached the centre of Barwick and had a colourful array of hanging baskets and planters. Judges impressed by use of perennials and lavender in centrepieces of some baskets. A good clean and colourful frontage to this entry which welcomes visitors to the village.

Areas of Achievement

Good array of hanging baskets, hay racks and boxes covering front of building. Good use of bedding plants and permanent plants such as perennials and lavender. Novel use of cacti at front of building. Cleanliness of entry.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Make sure baskets and planters have plants in all round. Nothing worse than looking up at black plastic and nothing covering it. Screen side of building, area detracted from rest of entry. Cacti a good novel idea but trailing plants in the pot planters would have been better. Definitely a talking point for judges.

Three Horse Shoes, Oulton, Leeds

Gold Rose Award

Category Winner

Introduction

The pub stands back slightly at the side of the main road and cannot help but be noticed as the walls of the building are painted brilliant white. This is the backdrop to what must be the county's largest collection of hanging baskets, wall baskets, flower tubs, wall planters and pots that are in one place throughout the year. The quality is outstanding and as this has been on-going for over 20 years George and Norma know exactly what to do to give their customers one of the most dazzling displays of seasonal bedding in one area while enjoying the outdoor seating areas.

Areas of Achievement

The quality of plant material is outstanding and not just a few of the containers but all of them without exception. The use of different varieties of bedding add to the contrast from clean cut

trailing petunias to upstanding geraniums and many others blending in along the way. A colour theme seems to run through the display giving a pleasing effect without being harsh in any way and blends with each wall of the building as one navigates around, even to the recycling bin area where a begonia flower box sits. The interior of the pub is also welcoming and has ALL the Yorkshire in Bloom certificates on the walls proudly on display to customers, and with just deserve, to show the results of the work that has gone into the display.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

George was considering adding something different to the scheme but the only thing that may need to change is the colour theme and some consideration should be given carefully to ensure the impact is correct whatever is chosen. Some photo pictures of the spring show would be good to see so that a full years display can be seen and while not judged on this would give some idea of the scale of the task.

University Arms, Sheffield

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Set in the heart of the busy city and bustling student community, The University Arms is a popular watering hole.

Areas of Achievement

The involvement of landscape students on the design and planting of the beer garden and its quirky theme of a walk through the countryside to the "Pub". The creative use of plants and hard landscaping to interpret the natural countryside to the more formal planting as you make your way to the bar. The main entrance was welcoming with seasonal window boxes and baskets, and herb planters at the entrance to the rear garden.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Although the judges understood the reason for cutting the hedge once a year, they felt that with this being at the front of the building it needed to be trimmed more frequently as this would give a better first impression of the building from the road side. Consideration be given to promoting the In Bloom campaign, possible interpretation within the rear garden to give an idea to the customers as to what the planting theme is about. With the beer garden seating being on the grassed areas, and the heavy usage, maybe consider hard stand areas for the picnic benches

Category 7C: Large Hotels

Middlethorpe Hall and Spa, York

Gold Rose Award

Category Winner

Introduction

On my very wet arrival to Middlethorpe hall I was welcomed by the manager and escorted around the garden by David the head gardener, It was noted that visitors and guests to the hotel that day had been informed of my arrival as a sign was placed in the entrance hall (This made me feel as special as Princess Anne who had stayed in the hotel the night before.)

Areas of Achievement

Despite the very wet day the garden did show off its wonderful splendour of design and plantmanship, A special mention should go to David the head gardener/curator of the garden and his garden volunteers. The maintenance was of a very high standard and since my last visit 3 years ago I felt the garden improved to the more manicured and established worthy of the National Trust.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

This is a garden I found it difficult to offer further development tips but I do feel some discreet information boards about the history of the garden and plants would be useful to visitors and guests of the hotel

Nidd Hall Hotel, Harrogate

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Nidd Hall Hotel, this magnificent Grade II listed mansion was built in the 1820's and stands in over 45 acres of parkland which has been cleverly utilised to provide a wealth of activities and delights for the guests, staff and wildlife alike. From formal hedging and maze, floral beds and hanging baskets to wildflower meadows, woodland, lakeside walks and bird hides the parkland is laid out to surprise and delight. There are many activities including well positioned outdoor gym equipment each giving interesting views. As a new entry this is within a whisker of the top award but just misses on certain criteria.

Areas of Achievement

The integration of special features utilised to announce special areas but also providing floral features such as the large teacup and saucer by tearooms. The well considered siting of gym equipment and features throughout the site to provide good experiences for their guests. The clever use of a boat to provide raised grass seating by the lake. The addition of wildflower meadows to add variety of habitat and the commitment throughout to "war on waste" with recycling a key principle as used to provide a variety of nest boxes and insect habitats. The encouragement of all staff to be fully involved with litter picking. Awareness of the needs of the

wildlife e.g. delay in cutting hedges due to later season for nesting birds. Quality of plant material and maintenance throughout. Well considered alterations and adjustments are made with recycling of materials to good effect. It is clear although small in number the garden team are highly dedicated and hard working.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

A suitable floral feature at the gateway entrance would give impact and welcome at the start of the driveway, additional features near the bridge would punctuate the drive. Being a new entry there was no promotion of the Yorkshire in Bloom competition. Although the welcome by receptionist was outstanding there were no fresh flowers inside reception, perhaps utilise some from gardens? Attention to dead conifer. Camera fitted bird boxes and feeders by which guests could watch the wildlife. An occasional sheltered area in grounds for protection in showers.

Royal York Hotel

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

A warm welcome was made at reception of the hotel by the general manager followed by a tour of the hotel grounds by the head gardener and maintenance manager.

Areas of Achievement

A very high standard of hanging baskets and hay mangers which had a riot of colour on the street scene of the hotel and also on the hotel terrace which was used a lot by weddings conference etc. Every opportunity had been made to provide colour with flowering plants within difficult areas close to the hotel. The garden has a very difficult aspect with regards to the now large car park which dominates the site. In addition this year the hotel has hosted Yorkshire wheel which again has taken a up a considerable amount of the garden.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

An opportunity will now come when the wheel is removed in the autumn to do some extensive re landscaping. It was disappointing that many of the established planted areas were suffering with severe drought, therefore could it of been made possible to of done a limited amount of watering.

Category 8A: Visitor Attractions

Holden (Oakworth) Park

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

This park is really a hidden gem that deserves to be returned to its former glory. It was the landscaped gardens of a mill owner's house; the landscaping included the construction of rock features with rooms tunnels and cover walk ways. There is a bowling green maintained by volunteers and a friends of Park group. The gardening group of eight people works with the friends group and a large number of village groups to make this a very active community.

Areas of Achievement

The fund raising for the new play area, is a significant achievement and is used by large numbers of children. The tree planting on the edge of the woodland area will help with replacement, and enhance the green space. The information board and information centre provide a full history of the former house and park.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The next part of the plan is to construct a play area for older children, and plans for this are in place. The site is very difficult to maintain and ideally could do with a large capital investment to secure and improve the rock work and quarry. The group should continue to promote the importance of this landscape, and ensure that it is protected and enhanced when possible.

Keighley & Worth Valley Railway

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

It was a pleasure to visit the railway and to receive such a warm welcome. It is obvious from the start what a great pride everyone concerned with the group takes in all they do. Obviously the railway enjoys a lot of support. It was very impressive to hear of volunteers coming from as far away as Newcastle and indeed, Australia! The intent is to give the feeling of the railway in the 1950's and it is indeed like stepping into another world.

Areas of Achievement

The amount of general care taken is really impressive. The paint, in the railway colours, is everywhere smart and gleaming. It would be lovely to come back after dark has fallen to see the oil and gas lamps creating atmosphere. No effort has been spared to gather authentic artefacts of every kind to set the scene. All the station facilities are pristine and the toilets outstandingly well cared for, whilst fitting into the timescale of the railway. Obviously the engines are wonderful. The fresh cleanness of the carriages was lovely. It is good to see so many young people involved and the railway are to be congratulated on the way they provide opportunities for them to move forward into responsible positions. This can only benefit them in later life. At all the stations the hanging baskets were beautiful with a really good variety of healthy plants. The dedication of the volunteer gardeners at all the stations was amazing. At some of the stations, such as Damems, it

is a real family undertaking. At Keighley the picnic area was a real oasis of calm and the wildlife area made a pleasing contrast to the busy station. It was good to hear of the involvement of local school children in planting at stations such as Ingrow West, Oxenhope and Oakworth. Even where there are steep banks, such as Howarth Stations great efforts have been made. The range of events for the public, including events for children is really impressive. It was good to see concern for wildlife along the track.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

If possible consider adding more compost in areas where the soil is poor. Obviously slugs are a real problem but consider research to find the most wildlife friendly ways of controlling them. Perhaps it would be possible to plant wildlife shrubs in the picnic area at Keighley, perhaps buddleia would bring butterflies in for people to enjoy whilst picnicking. Perhaps some of the station containers might have scented plants and herbs for passengers to brush against and enjoy.

Knaresborough Castle

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

This 12th century castle is in a spectacular location with fine views over the River Nidd and the railway viaduct. It is a very popular tourist attraction and has greatly impressive floral displays.

Areas of Achievement

Excellent information boards throughout the grounds. The floral displays and borders are delightful and a great credit to the maintenance team from Harrogate Borough Council. Of particular note was the wonderful 'Mallard' train floral feature. Well done!

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Perhaps you may consider providing some horticulture information labelling - some visitors were overheard pondering over plant names! Continue with your excellent maintenance programme.

Manor Heath and the Jungle Experience, Halifax

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Manor Heath and the Jungle Experience is a beautifully maintained, varied and very well used facility, a real credit to all involved and a valuable asset for the people of Halifax.

Areas of Achievement

A very well used park! A wide range of people from throughout the community take advantage of the well maintained grass areas, children's play area, sand pit and outside gym equipment. The local schools use the park as a resource and Calderdale College are creating a new garden as part of their land-based qualifications and the art group also find inspiration in the park! It is lovely to see the variety of displays from traditional bedding to contemporary perennial planting, and the exotic and unusual plants in the Jungle Experience - all very well grown and maintained.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Keep trying new plants and planting combinations - it is interesting and useful for others to see. Plan the planting in the sensory garden with the same attention to detail shown elsewhere - it will create another, different element in the park. Keep up the excellent work!

Oakworth Railway Station

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

It was lovely to visit Oakworth Station. Going to the station is like stepping back in time and no detail has been missed in making this a unique experience. The pride felt by everyone involved at the station is clear to see. The original Railway Children film was made here and also other filming. Standing on the platform it feels as if it was made just the day before. It must be exciting to see the station in the evening when the gas lamps are lit. Everywhere the paintwork, in the old colours of the Midland Railway was fresh and gleaming. It was impressive how fresh and clean all the facilities were, whilst still in the character of the age.

Areas of Achievement

The planting around the station is a credit to everyone involved and especially the new gardener. Well done! It is good to hear about the involvement of local school children in planting at the station. The mowed area across the track really adds to the atmospheres of the station. The little garden in memory of a former station master is lovely and very touching. The hedgerow opposite is a valuable wildlife highway. The standard of facilities at the station is very impressive.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue developing the area around the station and perhaps the mowed area across the tracks to benefit wildlife. Perhaps consideration might be given to planting a couple of buddleias in the area across the tracks. Continue involving the young people with planting at the station. Consider adding more herbs to the platform planting so that passengers can brush against them and enjoy the scent. Also they will attract butterflies for the passengers to enjoy.

Ripon Racecourse

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Ripon Racecourse is known as Yorkshires Garden Racecourse, and the balance between a functional facility and floral features is clear to see. Primarily a commercial facility focusing on racing the site sits sympathetically in attractive natural surroundings close to Ripon. It is easy to imagine the buzz and excitement of 'Race Day' at Ripon clearly a place which encourages family fun and sporting excellence.

Areas of Achievement

Ripon Racecourse is very well maintained with mown grass clean and accessible walkways and facilities. Striking features add charm and character to what would otherwise be a functional

sporting space. Activities and events supplement the main function to extend the offer and attract the family audience. The band stand shows off a striking floral display combining annual and perennial planting. Theme planted telephone boxes and the planted marble Horse fountain are appropriate and sit well within the site.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The weather presents challenges for horticultural maintenance and the late spring led to a delay in replacing early bedding displays. The summer displays were in the process of being replaced and whilst it is difficult to balance resources and workload the full effect of the summer display could not be appreciated fully. The staff are enthusiastic and skilled with some using a previously unkempt area to grow vegetables and produce, it may provide additional interest if edible crops were introduced into some of the public ornamental areas. It is clear that the staff takes great pride in the site and they are to be commended for their enthusiasm and achievements.

Ryedale Folk Museum, Hutton le Hole, York

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Ryedale Folk Museum includes an extensive collection of local artefacts set in scenery of reconstructed buildings. An attraction with great atmosphere and character, the visitor feels transported back to times past. Ranging from an Iron-Age roundhouse to a 1950's Post Office, all the exhibits are carefully presented and brought alive through period activities.

Areas of Achievement

The recently opened 'Harrison' collection housed in a purpose built exhibition centre is a most interesting presentation of everyday artefacts collected by Edward and Richard Harrison depicting the story of everyday life and the items they collected over many years. The vegetable garden and indeed much of the site is maintained by volunteers to a high standard, gardens to the cottages are period specific showing plants that are relative to each period. The Heritage Orchard is developing well, with the promise of its first crops of fruit later this year

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Proposals to introduce a bird hide will add to the character and attractiveness of the site allowing visitors and children the opportunity to see bird life in the natural surroundings of a floral meadow. The sensory garden softens the area adjacent to the agricultural machinery display but could be expanded to include a wider range of plants.

Treasurer's House, York

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Treasurer's House is literally a stone's throw from York Minster, the gardens and house were passed to the National Trust by Frank Green a Wakefield mill owner. The property was built over a Roman road and is said to be haunted, with ghost tours highlighting the experiences of an apprentice heating engineer in 1953 who is reported to have seen ghostly Roman Soldiers in the

cellar. The gardens are carefully maintained, a restricted pallet of blue and white shades influences the planting choice said to be preferred by the former owner. The garden is maintained using organic principles, even the lawn is cut with a hand propelled mower. Slate labels are used to identify key plants and an avenue of pollarded Platanus (Plain Trees) are pruned every two years to maintain their character and charm

Areas of Achievement

The gardens are carefully and sympathetically maintained providing a welcome space in a busy city where staff and visitors can relax and enjoy refreshment. Stone artefacts adorn the walls and garden area, plenty of areas to sit and enjoy the surroundings. A wide range of plants in a compact garden, features such as the fountain and elevated viewing areas are most charming. Events and activities are carefully structured to meet the needs of both schools and the general visitor. Themed evenings create a unique atmosphere.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The gardens are an interesting and charming part of the property as a whole and a leaflet or additional interpretation about their origin and influences would be invaluable to the visitor. The Herb garden (currently not accessible to visitors) is a delightful feature and demonstrates many elements of gardening and sustainability which I am sure would be of interest to visitors if access issues can be resolved.

Yorkshire Lavender, Terrington

Gold Rose Award

Category Winner

Introduction

Although the name might suggest that this is a visitor attraction that is entirely devoted to lavender 'Yorkshire Lavender' has much more to offer. There is indeed an extensive collection of lavender creatively displayed along with many other elements of interest, all carefully introduced to the landscape, creatively designed to provide a balance between cultivated and open space. A free to enter attraction with very attractive tea rooms, shops and plant nursery.

Areas of Achievement

The presentation of lavender in creatively designed patterns and beds is most attractive and engaging. Garden areas have been carefully introduced into a quite challenging landscape, with slight adjustments to the land-form areas have been transformed into attractive areas to relax and enjoy the surroundings. Sculptures create the 'Spirit of Yorkshire' with large steel painted figures set out in an open grass area depicting the traditional sport of cricket.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

A natural addition to the gardens is the introduction of herbs, and their natural association with lavender could be further enhanced with a dedicated leaflet on their use and cultivation. The wild flower area is establishing well and will add to the attraction in the near future. Development of the open areas and amphitheatre will also provide visitors with an opportunity to experience a wider range of activities.

Introduction

The Sobriety Project uses the Yorkshire Waterways Museum as a base for resources to advance personal development and training for disadvantaged people from the immediate area of Goole. This includes those with learning disabilities, vulnerable young people and those who have had contact with the justice system. The enthusiasm of our guides was clear to see. They are clearly committed to the work of the project and the difference it is making in the local community.

Areas of Achievement

The judges were interested to see how the Sobriety Project and the Waterways Museum link together to give practical opportunities both in horticulture and water associated trades. The allotment site was very well maintained and productive. We were particularly interested to see the "potatoes in straw" project and hear about the level of plant sales you are achieving. Bernie the gardening guru is to be commended for his very good floral work on the quay side. Good luck to the gentleman who was completing his street art project depicting the history and heritage of Goole. It was really nice to talk to him about the difference between Street Art and graffiti - his work definitely belongs to the former category. The ride down the canal to view the excellent nature trail was most welcome and a good way to see the extensive areas of habitats that abound along the water side. The floating classroom is a great way to engage with youngsters offering something over and above a "normal" classroom environment. The "Cook and Eat" sessions linked to the allotment are also innovative and fun. The website is a particularly good way to discover all that is good about "Sobriety" and the museum - especially as there is so much to see and take in on a short visit.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The judges were interested to hear about the plans for floral areas on the quayside and look forward to seeing future progress. Would it be possible to organise a short walk along the canal (time constraints allowing) to view the pond area and the waterway habitats from land? The biomass boiler is a great project and it will be interesting to hear of its progress post installation.

Category 8Ba: Business Premises Small, up to 5 employees

Higgins Hairstylist, Pocklington

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The first impression is Wow! It is a most unusual hairdresser's premises. It is a residential property in a residential area, with a stunning display of sustainable and bedding plants in the ground with a variety of pots and containers. It is a very innovative entry into the competition.

Areas of Achievement

The impact and first impression of the display of permanent and bedding plants is first class, with some lovely well established Acers, planted under well established trees with bird feeding areas.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The impact and first impression of the display of permanent and bedding plants is first class, with some lovely well established Acers, planted under well established trees with bird feeding areas. The floral displays are all very good but could have done with a little of more attention. More evidence of environmental issues would have been good.

James White Butchers, Cranswick

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A fine display of floral planters greets visitors to this shop opposite the village green. It is obvious that James takes great pride in his business and loves colour which is demonstrated in his floral displays. This is a family tradition and we agree that anyone visiting the shop will have their day brightened up by the plants to be found inside and out. James demonstrated that his love of colour and plants, which he chooses himself, is appreciated by his customers. The business is a committed member of the community and supports the efforts of Hutton Cranswick in Bloom.

Areas of Achievement

As well as being very colourful the quality of planting was very good which had an immediate impact on approaching the shop. The plants within the planters, made by James's father, were thriving and appropriate and reflect well within the village setting. The standard of maintenance of the premises is to be applauded. The many activities that the business gets involved with supports the efforts of Hutton Cranswick In Bloom and enhances the village's entry as well as this individual entry.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The entry would be enhanced by providing the judges with further information about environmental efforts such as recycling and promotion of In Bloom and community involvement.

Mount Pleasant Kennels, Keighley**Gold Rose Award****Category Winner****Introduction**

This is a lovely, flowery place in a lovely setting. The views are superb. The situation is however exposed, which makes the standard of the gardens even more impressive. There is one gardener on site and it was lovely to look around with him. Clearly he has a high level of knowledge and dedication. The first impression of the site itself was of fresh cleanliness.

Areas of Achievement

The standard of planting everywhere was very high. Plants are well maintained and divided to increase the general level of planting inside the garden and outside the gate. A real variety of containers are in use, with a good range of healthy planting. The fresh green and soft purple of planting which borders the front garden is lovely. Everywhere planting suits the buildings on site and fits well into the surroundings. The clipped bushes around the site are well maintained and contrast well with the softer planting. The wildlife garden to the rear of the property is lovely and a great benefit to wildlife. The quality of the lawns was weed free and very impressive considering that no chemicals are used.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue developing wildlife friendly planting in the back garden. Perhaps some buddleias for insects could be planted on the extensive back lawn. Consider building up waterside planting around the water feature in the wildlife garden.

Paul Harrison Cars, Cranswick**Silver Rose Award****Introduction**

We received a warm welcome from Andy and found a very neat and tidy site with colourful displays. All credit to Andy and his team for planting up and tending the planters themselves. It was obvious that Andy takes great pride in the appearance of the property and is keen to support Hutton Cranswick In Bloom. A good entry, and one, with the capacity to develop further.

Areas of Achievement

The quality of the planting was very good, very colourful; the plants were thriving and were appropriate to their position on the site – mainly in the shade under the canopy. The red begonias were stunning and there was an interesting choice of planting in the containers. A new border area is under development which should enhance the site further. The impression given on entering the site is very pleasant. The grassed areas were well kept and the whole site was appropriate to its setting in the village.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Planting within the border area with plants attractive to bees and wildlife will enhance the entry and we look forward to seeing this and more information in further years. It would be helpful to the

judges to learn more about how the business interacts with Hutton Cranswick In Bloom and information on environmental efforts such as recycling and promotion of In Bloom. Maybe some plants for shade could be considered such as mimulus.

Category 8Bb: Business Premises, Large more than 5 employees

Bettys & Taylors of Harrogate

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

It is clear from entry to this industrial site that none of the high standards, in place elsewhere with this company, have been neglected. The clear commitment to

Areas of Achievement

The clear commitment to sustainable development and recycling not just locally but throughout the world is clearly fundamental to the company. The site is well managed.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

A careful watch needs to be made on leaning trees which may be better removed and replaced with better root runs created. Further development of raised beds for produce could be developed. "Yorkshire In Bloom" promotion around the site could be more prominent.

Countrystyle Foods, Leeds

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The Country Style Foods complex situated within a suburb of Leeds and the limited amount of space available within the confines of this very intensive industrial site was enhanced with impressive high impact colourful displays. The road frontage displays were very impressive. Congratulation to the staff responsible and to Christine Wood who inspires and promotes the beautification of the site.

Areas of Achievement

An abundance of excellent floral hanging grow-bags filled with colourful begonias cascading down an otherwise bleak brick retaining wall. Many recycled ingredient containers filled to overflowing with colourful annual bedding. The whole site was clean and tidy and well maintained.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The few trees and large shrubs require some attention, judicious pruning and tree ties adjusting. A few extra trees would add to the local urban environment. The planned landscaping of the area adjacent to the new conference facility will further enhance the area. Is it possible for the company to be involved in a community project in the locality?

I D C Valley Limited, Ilkley**Silver Rose Award****Introduction**

A well maintained hedge surrounds the car park and buildings of the former 'Wool mark' building and offices. The grounds, have the foundations of a well thought out, planned, designed and planted outdoor space that this year has not been shown to their previous glory. Re-structuring of the company and land owners have meant that staff time and priorities have for the moment been diverted to other tasks. The judges have no doubt, that with time allowing, these grounds will soon return to their former higher standard

Areas of Achievement

Hedges surrounding the grounds kept to a high standard. The appropriate and in keeping selection of plants and shrubs have been well thought out in the design and landscaping.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Given the staff's now apparent time restraints, how about considering planting more draught tolerant plants for future. All planters and containers looking weathered, so a coat of paint would enhance the appearance of the building. The grounds staff are aware of the tasks that they would have liked to have done this year..... The judges believe they will achieve these in the not too distant future.

LBG Copley Data Centre, Halifax**Silver Rose Award****Introduction**

Mitie gave the judges a very warm welcome to the LBG Data Centre, where the landscaping has been used to very good effect to soften necessary security measures. The pleasant, welcoming, well signed grounds are substantial and command stunning views across the local countryside.

Areas of Achievement

The judges would like to congratulate Mitie for how much they accomplish within the available resources and for the clear sense of ownership and pride that they displayed during our visit. The grounds demonstrate a good combination of structured sustainable planting that provide a lovely setting for the data Centre and a delightful resource for the people who work there. The reception area was pleasant and inviting and staff friendly and helpful. We applaud the concept of the allotments and of what you are trying to achieve with this small neglected area of land and for the positive impact this will have on local residents. It was also pleasing to hear about your plans to contribute to the Ebenezer food bank from produce grown and to work with other local charities.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It would have been useful to have met representatives of the 'Place to be' committee to hear more about employee engagement. We would recommend that you undertake further site preparation at the allotment site, e.g. soil sampling and drain investigation; good preparation now will give long term benefits to the project. Would a more pro-active approach with local residents be

beneficial? Perhaps offering them the chance to 'have their say' about the project now would help with its long term sustainability.

Manor Farm Shop, Hutton Cranswick

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

This farm shop is in a very central part of Hutton Cranswick which creates a prominent position for the floral displays. Once the new development has been completed there should be more opportunity to create some very visual and vibrant displays

Areas of Achievement

The use of agricultural implements as containers complements the rural surrounding area with good quality plants

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consider adding further agricultural containers to continue the theme or add some other features possibly bicycles to continue the link with the Way of the Roses. Consider other species in the containers to give some height to the planters and maybe some trailing plants. Maybe Hutton Cranswick in Bloom could give some advice on plant species. It maybe an option to tier the barrels with 1 on top of 3 to lift up the floral displays in a more prominent way

Park Fisheries, Beeston

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

This bijou entry on Beeston Road illustrates how a small space adjacent to a business in a suburban street has been transformed by a well thought out scheme combining colours of the hard surfaces and planters together with imaginative planting. The customers at this fish and chip shop are able to enjoy their takeaway in an environment reminiscent of a Mediterranean garden. Although a favourite venue for Leeds United fans on match days, the garden is free from litter and vandalism.

Areas of Achievement

This wonderful garden has been created with great skill and attention to detail combining the formality of the tapered and round box shrubs with the free flowing cascading petunias. At the rear of the garden the tubs have been strategically placed to give a sense of space. Using white petunias among the pinks and purples has created splashes of light and the plants are thriving in what must be a challenging environment. An air of tranquillity is enhanced by the water feature in the corner and the lavender plants. There has been a knock on benefit locally as neighbours begin to compete by developing their own residential gardens.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

To follow through with the plans to plant a magnolia tree and maybe other shrubs in the churchyard on the opposite side of the road to provide a view from the garden. To consider placing the benches for easily accessible seating.

Sheffield Forgemasters International Ltd

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The site of some 64 acres is an important heavy industry manufacturing centre having developed over the past 180 years or so. The use of plant material to enhance the site is unexpected and the centre garden is a hidden gem. Planting and grass areas ensure that the whole site is tidy and no neglected areas can be seen. This is a major achievement on such a site that is divided into three parts by a road and river with lots of heavy engineering activity going on.

Areas of Achievement

The three year plan for river work has reduced invasive weed, improved water flow and increased wild life. The continual plans for development of areas to ensure that standards are high and are high and areas do not become worn out. The new sculpture by the company apprentices. The inner garden is such a haven in the busy site. The whole site is litter free and recycling bins were at every building.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

To see what effect the proposed flood prevention works and re instate and enhance once they are completed. Complete the work planned for the inner garden this autumn. Monitor the wildflower area to avoid dominant weed taking over.

The Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Gold Rose Award

Category Winner

Introduction

The judges received an outstanding welcome to the charming and colourful Sowerby Bridge Railway Station from an exceptional Friends Group, their dedication and commitment to all aspects of their work was evident in everything that we saw. Sowerby Station was as much of a delight for us to visit as it must be for both local people and visitors to use, the Friends Group can be very proud of their achievement.

Areas of Achievement

The achievements of the Friends Group are many but we would particularly like to highlight just a few of them. Their work to attract sponsorship and support is excellent and it was pleasing to hear about a range of support that included large grants, sponsorship and donations of time and materials to support projects. We were impressed by the historical research that has been carried out and the way that the group has worked with the Bronte Society to identify the plants for the

Bramwell Bronte garden, to choose plants that are mentioned in the books is a lovely idea. It was also pleasing to see how you are involving local school children, the pupils from Bolton Brow Primary School were delightful and their paintings of the flowers that are to be used in the Bronte garden enchanting. The Groups work on environmental issues is excellent, from their organic composting to the water collection system, installed by volunteers using recycled materials and in keeping with architecture of the building.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

We would encourage the Friends Group to continue to pursue their attempts to develop a relationship with Metro and to look at developing wider partnerships in the town, for example is there a traders association that you could approach. Could you consider ways to enhance the underpass? Perhaps murals that develop the historical links in the current and planned themed gardens would be a possibility, the work here is impressive and there are possibilities for further development.

Category 8C: Shopping Centres and Retail Parks

Airedale Shopping Centre, Keighley

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The centre houses 80 shops and is situated in the town centre adjacent to the bus station. The centre, built in 1967, has no outside space available for planting. To overcome this, hanging baskets and planters are used to enhance the centre. Working with Lees school, is an interesting feature of this commercial operation and one that others could follow. The centre is looking to use solar power to further enhance its excellent recycling record.

Areas of Achievement

The quality of the hanging baskets and planters are very good and an asset to the centre and town centre. The work with Lees school, which will hopefully be repeated since the herb project was destroyed by vandals. The encouragement of tenants to take part in Bloom is a starting point but will take time to establish.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Check the watering system to cure the issue with the one basket that was short of water. It is a small point, but at the entrance to the centre it would look better without the suffering basket. Continue to work with the school and find ways to display the work in the centre. It may be worth thinking about some form of information board in the centre to inform about the recycling and community work that is carried out.

**Crystal Peaks Shopping Mall & Retail Park, Sheffield
Winner**

Gold Rose Award Category

Introduction

This large shopping centre and retail park is spread over more than 40 acres and can be challenging for the 3 grounds maintenance staff. They continue to develop core areas of high quality wildlife and plant habitats across the site, working closely with local groups and Sheffield Council. They hope to recruit an apprentice gardener for next year.

Areas of Achievement

1. The high standard of horticulture.
2. Good quality plants grown from seed in the new greenhouse.
3. The partnerships which have been formed with local groups.
4. The general cleanliness is of a very high standard.
5. The enthusiasm of the grounds staff is to be commended.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

1. It would have been nice to see evidence of the Yorkshire in Bloom competition and past successes displayed in the entrance to the shopping centre.
2. Continue working together with local groups, schools and Sheffield Council; community involvement will improve your 'in bloom' entry.

Woolshops Shopping Centre, Halifax

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The Woolshops Shopping Centre is a delightful area in the centre of Halifax, offering shoppers and visitors a very colourful and attractive open-air shopping centre. The management team work very well in partnership with many Calderdale Council departments, resulting in clean streets and colourful displays, which is obviously appreciated by the supportive tenants.

Areas of Achievement

The Woolshops looked immaculate, very clean and tidy throughout. The outstanding display of hanging baskets and barrier planters are complemented by the lovely well established perennial planting on the car park borders, which also attract wildlife. The new hanging baskets have dramatically reduced the need to water, not only helping to minimise the environmental impact but also much appreciated by the tenants!

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Much has been done already to improve the environmental impact of the centre, but continue to develop your future plans, including getting the public to recycle in the mall.

Category 8D: Caravan, Camping and Chalet Parks

Longbeach Leisure Park, Hornsea

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A well planned and established park with further expansions taking place. There is clearly a lot of pride taken to ensure that the caravan owners can enjoy staying at what is a well cared for park. The tranquil surroundings of the park are complemented by many colourful and impressive garden and site developments by the caravan owners.

Areas of Achievement

Visitors to the park will not fail to be impressed with the high standards of presentation throughout the entire site. The water features add interest and provide a habitat for wildlife. The varied choices of permanent planting giving an all year round display.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

An opportunity exists at the South Lakes development area to expand the features at the lake to encompass more wildlife habitat creation, viewing sites and possible interpretation signs.

Naburn Lock Caravan Park, York

Gold Rose Award

Category Winner

Introduction

I felt the entrance to the site was very welcoming and the way in which the site was divided into sections by hedges which provided privacy for the caravan sites.

Areas of Achievement

The entrance and gardens around the caravan shop were very impressive with a selection of perennial plantings and annual bedding which included hanging baskets around the property. Positive work on environmental issues ie bird boxes, bird feeders and a owl box. The overall site grass cutting and hedge cutting very tidy indeed no litter to be seen.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Additional planting of trees to form a tree landscape would create more habitats for birds etc an long term shade to the caravan sites.

Category 8E: Country Houses, Estates and Parks and Gardens

Burnby Hall Gardens, Pocklington

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

As you enter Burnby Hall the tranquillity of the National Collection of Hardy Water Lilies in the two ponds creates a wonderful impression that makes you want to explore more, and you are not disappointed. The gentle pathway leads one through well cared for gardens, meandering into hidden seating areas, superb colour co-ordinated planting and an imaginative stumpery. There are plenty of places that you can sit and make the space your own or attend one of the many activities offered through the year.

Areas of Achievement

The development of the stumpery is very interesting and shows such potential with the appropriate type of planting being used. The management of the water system of which the garden to a large extent depends. Educational programmes and encouragement of children into the garden, without taking it over are very good.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Plans for renovation of the rockery area would help improve this interesting area.

Cannon Hall & Country Park, Barnsley

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Any visitor to this superb estate will not fail to be impressed by the splendour of the mature landscape, the wide selection of plants to be seen, the walled garden and its fruit varieties and the range of attractions and facilities for all ages.

Areas of Achievement

The standards of horticultural maintenance seen during the visit, supported by the work of the Barnsley Greenwork group, volunteers, and the friends of Cannon Hall. The work and commitment to ensure the facilities are accessible to all, in particular those visitors with mobility difficulties.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Additional interpretation and signage to help the visitor identify the trees and plants around the estate would be appropriate.

East Park, Hull

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A very large park and visitor attraction with a variety of facilities to welcome a wide spectrum of the community. The well planned water activity features are popular, as is the splendid animal education centre and display area. Local support is fundamental to the parks success with a friends group, school and education organisations, sports clubs and commercial agencies all contributing to and participating in the myriad of activities that take place in the park.

Areas of Achievement

Securing and achieving continued Green Flag Status for the park, which speaks volumes in terms of the commitment and enthusiasm by all involved in delivering the services and its features. The entire park is disabled access friendly, including an appropriate cycle hire scheme with the opportunity to experience the full range of features and attractions in the park.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The maintenance of some key central horticultural display areas showed how the challenges of a reducing revenue and a full summer programme can impact on standards. At such a high profile location this needs to be addressed. New interpretation boards will be welcome.

Elsecar Park & Local Nature Reserve, Barnsley

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The range of provision and facility in the park is clearly the reason the park is so popular. From the picnic and sandpit area, bandstand performance area, very well maintained terraced gardens, children's activity area and café, a reservoir with its nature and wildlife areas, all part of an award winning park which hosts a range of events and activities throughout the year.

Areas of Achievement

The high levels of maintenance of what is a public park, with considerable visitor numbers are to be applauded. This is achieved with the practical support of a number of dedicated volunteers, particularly in the Terraced Garden and reservoir wildlife areas.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Embarking on a programme of infrastructure refurbishment and repair would ensure future generations continue to enjoy this popular park.

Harewood House & Gardens, Leeds

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The gardens of Harewood House do not disappoint the expectations of such a prestigious site. There are areas to suit all age groups and activities to match. Lazy walks through woodlands,

adventure playgrounds and the botanical interest of the Himalayan Garden are just a few of the areas to attract visitors to this remarkable place. Harewood doesn't rest on its laurels though and there are interesting developments in the walled garden, a boat trip on the lake and new interpretation boards.

Areas of Achievement

The planting and care of plants in the terrace area is superb with colour co-ordinated borders containing interesting plants and an extensive traditional parterre and this is without considering the magnificent views this area offers. The Himalayan garden captures the spirit of a garden from another culture very well

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It was good to see the planting in the walled garden with its educational focus and suggest some permanent taller planting/features to break the space down into smaller areas.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Homestead Park is managed by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation occupying part of the grounds which belonged to Seebolm Rowntree who bequeathed the park for the benefit of the citizens of York. The park covers some 14 acres, with the adjacent house being used by the Foundation to continue its work as a charity striving to address poverty and equal living standards for families and local people. The site provides for local recreational relaxation with pleasure grounds, gardens and children's play facilities.

Areas of Achievement

The park is exceptionally well maintained, with many features of interest to the visitor. Floral meadows contrast well with the ornate Victorian bedding schemes, both providing a stunning display and very attractive elements of the park. A Medieval garden designed to celebrate the York 800th anniversary illustrates a unique approach to cultivating ornamental and edible plants. The ongoing restoration of the herbaceous beds promises to delight with the inclusion of a George Russell collection of Lupins.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The bog garden area and herbaceous border restoration once established will add greatly to the presentation of the park and the introduction of additional interpretation will communicate a wider understanding of the different elements. Additional published information relating to the park, its history and features would help broaden the visitor experience, and the proposed improvements to the children's play area will refresh and update facilities.

Lister Park, Bradford

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Lister Park is one of Bradford's largest parks, situated only a mile from the City Centre. The Green Flag awarded park contains a huge range of facilities for people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy. Features of special interest include a fenced off children's play area, boating lake and Cafe, an inspiring Mughal garden with fountains and rills, a very well kept botanical and fossil garden. Many of the old shrubberies have been removed and re-placed with well chosen perennial planting which give a good spread large overgrown hollies are shaped up during the winter and there is a magnificent display of summer bedding plants outside the main door of Cartwright hall which stands in the park. All areas of the park are kept to an extremely high standard by the dedicated team of gardeners based in the park. Truly a park to be proud of.

Areas of Achievement

The skilfully planted and maintained botanical and fossil garden is a must see for budding horticulturalists. The different types of rock formations and plantings are hard to re produce. The Mughal water garden is a truly magnificent feature, built several years ago is still maintained to the highest standard. The bowling green and sports facilities are well used and a major asset to the park. The grass maze is a low cost way of having fun for all the family. Features like this could easily be re produced in many parks, it is a good way to encouraging bees and butterflies. The park signage and publicity information is to be commended, as are the number of public events and the general parks website. It was a pleasure to see the brilliantly coloured bedding display at the front of the Yorkshire stone built Cartwright Hall. Long may this and other displays like it continue?

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Some thought could be given to the re positioning of the wonderful nail sculpture placed at the front of Cartwright Hall. The judge was very impressed by its design and construction but feels that it interferes with the first impression of the lovely building. It is essential to keep up the skill level of the parks and open spaces gardeners as many of the old skills are being lost through retirement. Gardening is a skilled profession and like plants should be nurtured and used wisely.

Museum Gardens, York

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

A warm welcome was made by Alison Pringle the new head gardener/curator at the Yorkshire Museum which is situated in the centre of the garden. A detailed information pack was given on arrival and then an extensive tour of this wonderful garden highlighted the hard work and improvements undertaken which had been caused after last years mystery plays had concluded. Reviving the garden to its previous high standard and taking it further forward.

Areas of Achievement

I had the pleasure of judging this garden 2 years ago and it was wonderful to see that areas of the re -landscaped garden had matured, but more important that a dedicated knowledgeable plant

lady was now in charge of the garden, the more I saw of the garden I felt that I was in a very busy public park, but the recreation of a York botanic garden was well underway to be established. Due to the mystery plays in 2012, extensive damage to the grass had occurred, but now it could be seen that winter maintenance had restored the garden to its full glory and a very well done to all the staff involved.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It would be good to establish an audio translated garden tour. So that visitors to the garden could gain a lot of the garden knowledge, through Alison's extensive knowledge and experience of growing and establishing plants.

Oakwell Hall and Country Park, Birstall

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Oakwell Hall was built by John Batt in 1583 and is now run by Kirklees Council as a 'living museum' furnished as the Batt family home in the 1690s. Thanks to only minor alterations over the years and a fine collection of period furniture, the Hall, surrounded by its gardens and Country Park, offers visitors a real insight into a post English Civil War household. Charlotte Bronte was so inspired by the house during her visits in the 19th century that she featured it as "Fieldhead" in her classic novel Shirley. The park and gardens, together with those of the Red House Museum are the responsibility of the Museum and Galleries Service and the park is managed by two rangers with volunteer groups such as the Friends of Oakwell Hall, unemployed people, health referrals, retirees, young people and placements together with students from Kirklees College. This is certainly a gem for the residents of Kirklees and provides a safe recreational green space for the local residents.

Areas of Achievement

A wide diversity of both managed and natural areas provide a wealth of natural habitats for both wildlife and the local community. The excellent formal gardens to the rear of the Hall provide educational opportunities appropriate to the Hall's age. Various groups including the Friends, supporting the construction and maintenance of the board walk which facilitates the observation of various woodland and wetland habitats. Plenty of themed interpretation boards are provided at strategic points around the country park to assist in the learning process. The number of sculptures around the park splendidly illustrates both the history of the Hall and that of the local community including that of Gomersal Colliery.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

To bring to fruition the plans for the stump garden and the Civil War Sculpture Trail. Consider replacing the annual bedding with sustainable perennial planting. Consider contacting local groups such as the RSPB, and U3A to provide annual surveys to monitor the wealth of flora and fauna to be observed in the park. This will provide a useful archive of information to illustrate any changes over subsequent years. In initial impression is somewhat marred by the need to refresh the seating and ensure the cleanliness of the café area and the need to upgrade the toilet facilities. A planned itinerary sent early to the judges would be most helpful with transport to the demonstrate more of the features of the site including the new Countryside Centre and the

Sculptures dedicated to the mining history. To foster relationships with Birstall in Bloom this should have mutual benefits.

Pannett Park, Whitby

Gold Rose Award

Category Winner

Introduction

Absolutely stunning!! Pride & enthusiasm from both the Friends Group and Parks Staff makes this entry one to see. Situated overlooking the town with lovely views, this park has something for everyone, locals and visitor alike.

Areas of Achievement

Floral displays, rose garden, community planting areas, Jurassic garden, and South Sea garden, and original refurbished features such as the Lily pool, and the floral clock, and timeline are just some of the feature you'll see across this entry. The Friends groups commitment to improving and promoting the park, the long list of events, and funding opportunities they have grabbed with both hands. The encouragement of local groups to actively be involved within the park, such as the community plots. The children's play area providing a fun space for families and quiet areas for contemplation like the new war memorial seating area. The general cleanliness of the park and the co-ordinated approach with the park furniture.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The plans for the new installation of the "eternal gardener" art work and new border will further enhance this entry. Maybe consider interpretation at the site of the Neolithic rock art, and potential signage at the community gardens, informing others about which local groups are involved. Continue to liaise with the Highway's Section regarding the lighting columns on the public footpath that separates the main park from the South Seas garden.

Perceval Hall and Gardens, Appletreewick

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The 24 acre gardens in the Yorkshire Dales are a delight to visit and they offer a wide range of garden areas and plants in a natural setting. The gardens are well signed from the main roads and there is a warm welcome from staff. The gardens are very well maintained and the facilities are good. Near the café there is a small plant nursery with a good selection of plants, many of which can be found growing in the gardens.

Areas of Achievement

The head gardener and his team are continually developing the gardens and carrying out improvements where needed. On the woodland where trees have been thinned to allow more light through the canopy, new woodland planting is being carried out. Pathways are also being repaired and improved in several areas. During the winter some areas of York paving are being re-laid. All work is carried out sympathetically and in keeping with the garden.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Plans are in hand to re-vamp the visitor car park and to provide information boards in the car park. A few additional directional signs would benefit visitors as they enter the garden from the car park as unless you have a guide book the start of the woodland walk is not obvious

Red House Museum, Gomersal

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Red House is managed by the Museum and Galleries service of Kirklees Council, and is presented as a shining example of a merchant's house. With links to the famous 'Bronte' sisters, and home to a fully restored 1830's period garden the site and house offer a glimpse of life in the period. An extensive range of events and activities offer a wide range of experiences to the local community and visitors from further afield. Charlotte Bronte often visited her friend Mary Taylor who lived at Red House which is feature in one of Charlotte's novels.

Areas of Achievement

The restoration of the 1830's garden has been carefully researched and cultivars of the period sourced to make the presentation as authentic as possible, seats and structures reflect a bygone age with expertly crafted metal basket like fences installed on two round beds presenting a style typical of the time. A range of stone former cart sheds have been restored and provide further interpretation of the life in a Victorian household. Interpretation packs are a welcome addition and an essential resource for local schools.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Plans to broaden the use of the site and widening the range of activities are to be encouraged and further restoration to features such as the sundial to the lawn adjacent to the house will add to what is a charming site. There may be opportunities to introduce areas of natural habitat further enhancing the visitor experience and offer to schools.

Roberts Park, Bradford

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Roberts Park sits within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Saltaire and has recently undergone major restoration with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Designed by William Gay and opened in 1871, the park was created to provide educational as well as recreational support to the local community. Stretching some 5.5 acres the park includes such traditional Victorian features as seasonal bedding displays, sports facilities ornamental gardens and of course a band stand. The Lodges and shelters have been carefully restored and are now used as offices and for interpretation boards.

Areas of Achievement

An ambitious and extensive restoration of a typical Victorian Park which presents many features now secure for future generations to enjoy. The interpretation boards in one of the shelters plots the history and value of the site and its function as an integral part of the community of Saltaire. A wide range of events and activities add to the offer, carefully introduced to compliment the sporting facilities whilst broadening the offer and engaging a wider community. Education and an awareness of the environment are promoted through local schools and visitors. An active friends group engaged as part of the Heritage bid continue to help raise funds to further enhance the park.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The infrastructure and key features have been extensively restored but limited budgets have meant that certain planted areas are not fully restored, however the work of the parks staff and friends group are focused on facing this challenge and continue to redesign and replant areas. Proposals to introduce a more natural area on land adjacent to the cricket pitch will enhance and increase the environmental value of the park, offering wider opportunities for local schools and interest groups.

Category 10: RHS It's Your Neighbourhood

Barkisland in Bloom

Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

On our visit we were accompanied by representatives of the Barkisland Bloom Group and Calderdale Council, which illustrated well the close working between them, which illustrated how they were working to improve the environment of the area, whilst at the same time making it sustainable as residents wanted to do their part, often taking on sections of the village without being asked. An excellent presentation showing many areas which had had significant improvements with 'grot spots' being transformed into attractive landscapes. The total area was clean with no litter or graffiti. Grass verges well maintained. A good example for others to follow! Very well done.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Obviously there is work in progress, such as moving the traffic sign and re-landscaping the area afterwards, but the local team have already identified which areas are on their radar.

Barton Park Homes, Knaresborough

Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

Superbly maintained gardens throughout this small development of retirement homes. Great imagination together with very accomplished horticultural skills have been used in the impressive displays.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to maintain your delightful wild flower meadow. Although planting near to the holiday accommodation was both practical and adequate, some attention could be given to weeding between the accommodation units.

Bayley Gardens, Hunmanby

Level Achieved: Developing

Areas of Achievement

First impressions count and the impression here is that a group of local residents are intent on ensuring the gardens not only survive but are expanding and with the help of the local In Bloom Group, Local and Parish authorities and good sponsorship will continue to survive. There is a healthy, forward looking plan for the garden which is good news for the neighbourhood as the garden is well seen and used by local residents and visitors alike. The site was clean and tidy with no graffiti and litter despite being reasonably central to the village and well used by local youths who seem to respect the area. The quality of horticulture is good and the balance of seasonal plantings and structure planting is well managed to provide a colourful season round show.

The signage in the garden gives a broad outline into the history of the site and how it has evolved over the years and how it has been resurrected since 2003.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The replanting of the back shrubbery needs to be done with care and a good solid plan is important. Consider a two season attack if resources are not to be stretched and this will then ensure a good end result. Retain the roses as they are a big colour attraction in the summer. Look to Scarborough BC for advice on the trees as they may need some crown thinning, about 10-15% to the Beech, dead wooding to the Cherry and top out the Holly to prevent overgrowth. This will give more light to the shrub area underneath and allow for a better planting scheme. The signage is good but some consideration may be given to the tiled sign to the right of the entrance as it sits somewhat uncomfortable and may need a new surround. This may be a good project for the younger element to get involved with, possibly through the local schools. While it is important to make sure the garden project goes forward take time to stand back and ensure the quality does not suffer by a lack of basic maintenance such as weeding and feeding etc.

Boothtown Community Organisation, Halifax **Level Achieved: Thriving**

Areas of Achievement

Fundraising by this group cannot be faulted. Run their own charity shop in Boothtown raising funds for projects in the area. £14,000 for six apprentices. £30,000 towards a new MACA court in park as well as numerous other activities. Bulb planting on gateway giving Boothtown identity.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Fundraising cannot be faulted. Charity shop runs by non paid volunteers. Fund horticultural projects to bring colour into area. Continue to promote Boothtown and encourage young people to get involved in area.

Brighter Boroughbridge and District **Level Achieved: Developing**

Areas of Achievement

The group has only begun this year and started work on the site at the end of May. There has been a very good start made to an overgrown and unattractive corner by removing a lot of ivy and weeds and raising the tree canopy. There seems to be a wide ranging group who, with help from neighbouring property owners, are forming a good team who are happy to share skills. Help has been obtained from local councils and business owners, Lions and allotment society etc. The site of a proposed pathway has been laid out and logs utilised for habitats. Local children have helped with litter picking. Some temporary floral interest has been added.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Further removal of shrubs and brash which would rapidly grow and interfere with the footpath need removal. A broader range of natural planting may now be considered with more light in the

area. Sponsorship for a good size seat may be sought and consider natural log seats suitable for children. Try to obtain suitable numbers of plants to create natural drifts through the site. Avoid plants that will need a lot of maintenance and pruning. Provide nesting boxes and insect houses possibly encouraging groups of young people to be involved. Continue to draw help from local property owners particularly for watering to establish new planting.

Chapelton in Bloom, Sheffield

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The group has progressed well since its inception in 2010. The establishment of the containers and troughs in and around the Market Place road junctions has made a significant difference to the area. The proposals in the Memorial Garden are a bold and challenging endeavour for the group, who show a level of commitment that is sure to see success.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The sponsorship of the various containers should be recognised with an appropriate plaque secured to the container. This will not only give a profile to the sponsor but also add to that of the Chapelton in Bloom group in the community. This in turn could generate more sponsors and more interest in the group. Generating more practical involvement from locally sited businesses and organisations will further enhance the splendid work already carried out by the group in Chapelton.

Churwell Action Group Environmental Volunteers, Morley

Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

No litter/dog mess in fact nothing out of place and a very well organised group to boot. A very comprehensive scrap book and photo time line from the start of the project to the present day. The 6 bins provided by the group were well used as were the benches that have been resited. The events and information for school usage of the area had been really well thought out to fit the school's curriculum. The management of the water course to create ponds and wet lands to increase the biodiversity of the site was good to see. The introduction of bird/bat boxes and bug hotels along the 2 sites.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Areas for development; possible with permission to include notice boards to route/ points of interest/wildlife and future developments would be good to see. Look into corporate clean up days for local firms to put back into the area and ease the workload in the future. Continue with the bird /bat box building program. Look into controlling the invasive rushes to the bottom of the site once some of the tree canopy has been removed.

Coupland Road, Garforth**Level Achieved: Thriving****Areas of Achievement**

The judges were met at the 'Circle' feature by a remarkably small team, and after introductions, were firstly shown the delightful 'Orchard Garden', with hoped-for plans for further expansion. A new small border was only completed the day before Judging Day. Coupland Road in Garforth has, in 3 years, achieved much and the results are rightly becoming respected by local people. The very small team, refusing to accept the constant litter and associated mess, have in a comparatively short time, transformed Coupland Road - the second oldest street in Garforth. In addition to any maintenance and watering, the gutters in front of the 62 houses are swept every Sunday morning. From the 'top' to the 'bottom', the overall improvement reflects the dedication of the team. To improve cleanliness, litter bins and wheelie bins have been bought, and to their credit, the small supermarket has also improved its outside appearance with a well placed recycling point. Well tended floral features at either end of Coupland Road, add to the overall effect, as do 8 second-hand lamp post baskets. To cover expenditure, reliance is placed, for fund raising, on table top sales and donations. An excellent entry, presented with such enthusiasm and pride. Well done.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Despite the admirable achievement by so few, this project would benefit from the help of more residents. A discreet attempt could be made to have certain untidy front gardens improved. The judges felt that well-placed Judging Day posters would enhance this good entry.

Earswick Scented Garden Project, York**Level Achieved: Thriving****Areas of Achievement**

The main achievement that this garden has been developed is for the community to use and enjoy. A wide selection of plants have been used with a strong emphasis on plants that give a scent and strong colour.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

I felt that the existing borders were now ready to start planning a winter task of lifting and dividing the plants followed by digging in humus this will help a lot in the retention of moisture during the hot summer . This could be completed over a two to three year plan.

Feast Morton, East Morton**Level Achieved: Thriving****Areas of Achievement**

The group was set up two years ago to involve the community in planting and maintaining a community orchard. They researched the feasibility of the project, through appropriate organisations and sources of help and support and ascertained the views the community before starting. They have now planted most of the trees, having taken into account local residents views and are now maintaining the area and have further plans for development e.g. the outdoor

classroom. The information boards are good and education is a key element of the project. Their communication with the community is ongoing, and all aspects are very good. Funds are raised through various activities like “the apple day” and through support from local re-organisations.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The group has achieved a great deal and should continue as it is, with the long term view of establishing a good productive orchard providing a valuable asset to the community with an educational role. Continue with the site development and maintenance seeking help and advice as required. Well done for the current success of this long term project.

Firth Park Community Allotment, Sheffield

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

A number of changes mean that the community is undertaking a wider range of tasks on the three large plots that they cultivate. They have connections and carry out projects with 27 schools, 176 families of which 60 people are now active growers. The age range is from three to eighty three years of age, thus developing the future and using experience for a common cause.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The plots serve the purpose for which they are used, this has some difficulties in that space is needed for small children to dig and water. Adults use the site to grow crops cook and eat and so on. The task will be to retain this balance and encourage more of the community to take on further tasks and projects.

Foxwood Residents Association, York

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The Foxwood Residents Association is in its third year. The community is starting to get involved helping to raise money to make further improvements. 5000 crocus bulbs have been planted along with daffodil bulbs making a colourful spring display. Children are helping to grow vegetables in the garden next to the community centre. The garden competition had 23 entries in its first year. York Council has given financial support to help the campaign to develop. Well done to the hardworking Committee.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Form small groups to develop certain areas, e.g. Friends of Foxwood Park. Try and form a relationship with the Rugby Club to develop a wildflower area on the bank next to the rugby field. The 'garden competition' is good so try to expand on this for next year. Inform the residents about Yorkshire in Bloom and Judging Day by placing notices around the community. Make bird boxes to put in the trees on Spurr Court. Apply to the R.H.S. for a Neighbourhood Award' grant.

Friends of Crow Wood Park, Sowerby Bridge Level Achieved: Developing

Areas of Achievement

The judges would like to congratulate the Friends Group for a very strong and solid start to their work; you have achieved good results in a relatively small amount of time. The path that you have created with the help of volunteers from the Lloyds Bank is excellent and will benefit users of the park greatly. A good start has been made in the area of environmental responsibility with the group clearly dedicated to keeping the park free of litter and dog fouling through both practical work and example. The Group has made sterling efforts to involve other user groups of the park, keep up the good work'

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

We would recommend that the group develop a communications plan to both let the local community know about the work that they are doing and to encourage more people to get involved. Ideas might include: developing a website, creating an email distribution list to tell people about work days, working with the local media and schools. It could be beneficial to organise some small events in the park perhaps in partnership with the Council, these can often encourage local people to use and respect the area and may attract a few more volunteers. We would also encourage you to keep on with your efforts to obtain grants; you already have a good amount of volunteer time that you could use as match funding.

Friends of Dartmouth Park, Morley

Level Achieved: Developing

Areas of Achievement

The partnership with Asda to arrange working parties for clean ups etc. The links to Bruncliffe school who made and offered to repair the picnic tables which helps with the youth taking ownership of the garden to cut down possible vandalism. The floral planting material was well chosen for the area as were the vegetables and herbs. It was good to see some of the beds mulched up to conserve water and the development of a really good compost heap which is to be used

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Use David's links within the park to source install water butts around the parks depot. Display plans for future developments for the park in relation to the wildlife area. Continue to source sponsorship to improve and complement what the group has achieved so far. Think about a display and or comments book/blog to be place in the garden of Asda to raise the profile of the group and gain feedback.

Friends of Flanderwell Gardening Club, Rotherham

Level Achieved: Developing

Areas of Achievement

As a new starter the group have made major inroads into developing a thriving gardening club in their first year. The sense of achievement is felt throughout the school both in John & Mary's and the school children's enthusiasm, and not forgetting the invaluable input from the teachers and parents. A framework of garden types is developing such as Fruit, Vegetables and Flowers and has begun to transform the inner quad area. Removal of the old overgrown sites has made valuable land available for further expansion around the school grounds.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to develop the allotment area when building works are completed and expand this valuable area for more varied crops. Manage the quad area to have a range of flowers and include containerised quick growing vegetables and herbs. Forward plan with the school children to outline the growing year and catalogue, what and when to grow. Have the children keep accurate records of activities undertaken and the bird and insect life around the school area. Look to develop further sponsorship where possible and get as much publicity coverage of the various events and gardening aspects and consider a school web site of the gardening club. Develop systems for recycling such as water butts, compost heaps and waste product from the school canteen to provide much needed valuable organic materials.

Friends of Morley Station

Level Achieved: Establishing

Areas of Achievement

The group's enthusiasm and the drive to improve the stations surroundings and commuting experience were encouraging. Working with Morley in bloom to recycle plants from around the town for the stations floral displays was good to see.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Look into talking to other station in bloom groups to gather evidence on funding streams. Look into advertising the group on the station to recruit more members. Look into some form of rain water harvesting off the waiting rooms. Engage with the rail company to formalise lease arrangements. Use mulch where ever possible to conserve water on newly planted areas.

Friends of Sandringham Park, Wetherby

Level Achieved: Developing

Areas of Achievement

The work and enthusiasm of a very small dedicated group of caring town residents have led to a very creditable first time entry. A transformation has taken place in a former area notorious for anti-social behaviour - a transformation that has led to a Green Flag Award. Working within the community, the Friends have joined the RHS and Keep Britain Tidy, have applied for Fields in

Trust status, earned a Green Wildlife Certificate and joined other bodies such as Leeds Tenants Federation and East North East homes. The Friends now have good relations with both the Police and the community, attending PACT meetings every month. Young people have been approached and the resulting partnership has led to the commencement of a Youth Forum. Community Fun Days are being held with many attractions, to bring young and old together. In addition to clean up weekends, seeding a wildlife field, and planting over a 100 trees, 2 Royal saplings from the Royal Sandringham Park were planted - receiving a letter from Buckingham Palace. Anti-social behaviour has been reduced, and the park now looks much improved.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Whilst recognising the tremendous improvement already achieved, and the future targets to be tackled, more could be done to bring the whole project to a wider public as well as nearby residents' attention. Perhaps more use of the Press could be sought, especially on Judging Day. Young people could design posters for placing in strategic points to bring judging to the public eye. Though one Interpretation Board has been sited, further boards should be considered - funding permitted! A welcoming shrubbery bed of sustainable plants placed at the entrance would be worthy of consideration.

Friends of St. George's Churchyard, Brinsworth

Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

A well organised group of residents having the same vision of preserving a part of their local heritage and at the same time enhancing a valuable area of the village. From pictures of an overgrown out of control cemetery the onsite reality is a credit to all involved. Tree removal, headstone realignment, new entrance gate and fencing have all added to the overall appearance of this remnant of days past. The well maintained grass areas and the introduction of the front flower beds has given a new dimension for locals to be proud of and keep the area safe, clean and tidy

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Investigate further burials in the cemetery searching out a possible donator and to add to the already extensive collection and look to opening up the possible "crypt" under the building, Consider new tree planting in the cemetery seeking advice from the Local Borough Arboriculture Officer and use as a possible scheme with input by the local schools. Continue to expand the new burials as this is a way of maintaining interest in the site and therefore having more eyes watching the cemetery for the group. Look to having wild flower areas at specific locations with spring bulbs planted, again more involvement for the schools helping to plan and plant, using as much local publicity as possible to enhance the groups standing. Continue the liaison with the Parish and Borough Councils which has helped the group realise their goal and is a major part of the on-going project.

Friends of Valley Gardens, Harrogate**Level Achieved: Outstanding****Areas of Achievement**

The Friends of Valley gardens are well on the way to completing the restoration of the old Magnesia Well Pump Room having raised £38,000 of the £70,000 needed. The gardening group work with the parks staff undertaking general work as well as restoration and development projects. As the park has 2.7 million visitors per year this is a well used and loved park. A 40s fund raising event by the Friends saw some 21,000 visitors come to the park.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The group has plans for a number of projects, it will be important to ensure that park users and residents are made aware of the proposals. This is important when trees or large areas of green planting are to be changed. Once the pump room is completed there will be space for information and interpretation, this can also be used to promote the work of the group and the important role it plays in the park.

Friends of Westways, Sheffield**Level Achieved: Developing****Areas of Achievement**

This Neighbourhood entry is based at Westways Primary School. They are a group of parents who are trying to spread the work done at the school into the Crooks community. Progress is being made but the houses around the school have very little planting areas. The parents and teachers are working very hard to make this project successful.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Try having a school 'open day' for local residents so they can see the work carried out so far. Continue the development of the pond project in the wildlife garden. For this Neighbourhood entry to progress in Yorkshire in Bloom evidence of work carried out in the community must be shown.

From Field to Table Allotment Champions, Beverley**Level Achieved: Developing****Areas of Achievement**

An excellent project to promote locally grown food funded through the lottery. It has achieved so much in a short time. It was excellent to hear about the partnerships that have been created with Rotary, Hull College, local primary schools and the Ludlow project. Also the plans for the future with water butts, compost bins, and opportunities for the wildlife with a bug hotel and bat and bird boxes. With the enthusiasm already shown this project can only go from strength to strength

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Opportunities to raise awareness through a recipe book with easy ways of creating tasty creations which could also be used as a fund raiser and opportunities for local suppliers to advertise. Consider adding a composting toilet which would add to the facilities to the project. There may be an opportunity to create a beginners guide to allotments with ideas and views of starting a new plot and a diary of activities through the year at the site.

Fulford in Bloom

Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

The village of Fulford continues to thrive and has many worthy features which the community should be proud of. Planters welcoming visitors now developed. main street has many colourful hanging baskets. Especially the public houses. Cemetery well maintained as are the entrances to Macarther Glen shopping outlet. Good to see residential areas looked after by local residents. This is now the third year Fulford has entered the competition but now needs to move into the main village categories where they would do well.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Has now reached its peak as a neighbourhood entry. A very good community effort. Involving all the community both young and old

NOTE. Blind judging but entry still improving

Highfield Court, Oakworth

Level Achieved: Establishing

Areas of Achievement

The roundabout certainly adds to the atmosphere of the area. There were some nice shrubs in the centre of the roundabout.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It would be nice if someone from the community could come to speak to the judges next year. If bedding is going to be used, it would be a good idea to think about watering, as obviously this is a problem. It might be better to establish low growing, drought tolerant shrubs and perennials around the edges of the roundabout.

High Green in Bloom, Sheffield

Level Achieved: Developing

Areas of Achievement

The local volunteers of the High Green in Bloom group are to be congratulated on achieving so much since their establishment less than two years ago. The number of planters established at

locations along the Wortley Road and junction with Mortomley Lane is a splendid example of what can be done by committed and enthusiastic volunteers. The development of the stewardship of a sizable area of Mortomley Park that included a neglected rose garden is a challenge many fledgling groups would have avoided and for this the group are to be applauded. By engaging the school children and other community members in their activities, the bulb planting successes, tree planting and litter clearance operations it's clear this group already has local support and will flourish.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

With such a positive start to the group's activities it would seem prudent to establish what enhancements, whether it's more containers, baskets or simply improved maintenance, the group deems it needs. Then determining where these are to be ideally located to help to recognise future and long term plans. This would help support the engagement of the wider community, particularly from residents who may have immediate site issues that they would like to be involved with.

Highfields Community Orchard, Huddersfield

Level Achieved: Developing

Areas of Achievement

This lovely grassy place is a real oasis in the middle of a built up area. Obviously there is a splendid park nearby but local children cannot reach it without putting themselves in danger by crossing a busy road. At the community orchard they can reach it alone, safely crossing a quiet street. It is impressive that local people find the area so valuable they happily donate toys, seats etc. for the benefit of all. A real cross section of the community is involved. The lack of vandalism shows the regard the orchard is held in locally. Marking out playground games was a good idea. It was good to see the fruit trees planted there; local children will know where fruit comes from. Keeping the grass long round the edges will benefit wildlife.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Develop a pruning scheme for the various fruit trees. Consider adding further wildlife planting around the edges of the site. Consider adding habitat piles, leaf piles and hedgehog houses to benefit wildlife. Try to continue working without chemicals. Continue promoting the area to local residents.

Holly Hagg, Crosspool, Sheffield

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The group are developing three acres of land into a wildlife meadow, encouraging the local community to take part. The project began in April 2012 and is progressing very well. The group took part in the Crosspool Local Community Festival Open Day on 29 June and had dozens of visitors, some willing to join the group. They have invited other 'conservation' groups to visit and to

take advice from other projects. This is a new entry into Yorkshire in Bloom and we wish them every success.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Organise more fund raising events in the local community and keep the community informed of your progress. Try to encourage schools to get involved in the project as many schools in the Sheffield area take part in Yorkshire in Bloom. This may help to get young people to become involved in 'out of school' hours. The workshops planned for later this year will help members obtain new skills and encourage people to come along and take advantage of these workshops. Well done to all members in a very busy first year!

Holme Wood Community Allotment Project, Bradford

Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

This project is an excellent example of community gardening; involving groups such as Sure Start, Local Schools, less able adults, volunteers. Being based near a residential home, elderly people are also involved. The allotments provide a grow it cook it base for either community allotments or individual plots. It is also the base for many community activities, such as a walking group, Christmas events, scare crow days and so on.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Maintenance was to a high standard along with the high level of community activity so it is really a matter of carrying on, and completing the current plans for development. This includes construction of a further poly tunnel and a large bug house.

Incredible Edible Eastfield, Scarborough

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The events over the last three years to publicise the group adds profile to the campaign. The use of community payback for painting some of the litter bins has to be commended. The plans for Incredible memories garden and the fact that funding has been secured is impressive. Future plans to improve the route from Braeburn schools. Large parts of the community welcoming the judges at the library just reinforced the community spirit on the group and it was backed up on the tour of the area. The group has to be commended with the fact that most of the work done is DDA compliant and assessable to all.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue the incredible edible Eastfield theme and branch out to encouraging residents to utilise their back gardens as produce growing areas. Continue the work with St Georges and Braeburn schools to improve the environment within the local community. Carry on with the plans for a quite

garden at the rear of the library and consider introducing free wifi to encourage single parents to meet there.

Incredible Edible Wakefield

Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

We were pleased to hear of the impressive achievements of the group. It was good to hear of the many different groups they are working with. Clearly there is much support from local residents, businesses and the local council. It was exciting to hear how much the group is working with local schools. We were particularly impressed to hear how the group had stepped in to help a resident with a garden which was too large for her needs. The arrangement reached where group members managed individual plots in her garden clearly benefitted everyone involved. It is commendable that local people with an interest and aspiration to grow local produce can so easily find advice from a source where there is much expertise! The Friday Gardening Club is an excellent arrangement for people of all levels of knowledge and abilities. It was also good to hear the group are using Community Payback -a resource that will become increasingly valued in these cash-strapped times! The plants in the group's gardens were in good condition and well cultivated. The work done at the church in transforming an area of overgrown, unkempt land to well-maintained community allotment was most impressive, likewise the work at 'The Island' - the private residence which was formerly a builders' yard. We were pleased to hear of the group policy to avoid using chemicals to control pests and about their use of water butts and composting. Where possible the group recycle materials, from old building materials to the recycled plastic containers in the Community Centre site. Obviously the group have exciting plans for the future. It was good to hear about the constitution and developing project to manage the group efficiently.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Keep working on all your worthwhile projects but do be careful not to take on too much. The possibility of developing committee groups to look after different sites was mentioned and this would perhaps make things easier. Then your monthly meetings could be used to plan for the area as a whole and celebrate the group's achievements. Keep working on encouraging wildlife. Perhaps some wildlife friendly shrubs could be added to sites where space permits. Perhaps even more lavender or catmint might draw insects in for people to enjoy as they work. If possible, the placement of a few bird and bat boxes at both the church and 'The Island' would increase the wildlife value of these sites.

Jubilee Allotment Association, Knaresborough

Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

The allotments are very well presented, in particular those of Dougie and Wendy. There are very good standards of horticulture throughout all of the plots, even those in the early stages of

cultivation. These plots have been in place for 3 years. It is an amazing achievement to have such productive fruit and vegetable areas in such a relatively short period of time. Well done!

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

You may consider holding your own fruit/vegetable competitions with perhaps more junior involvement. Greater use of 'companion planting' will assist in deterring pests together with other organic methods such as stringing up old CD's or cutting up brightly coloured plastic carrier bags into strips.

Low Moor Kids Community Allotment, York Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

The wide variety of activities on the allotment site by the children/adults was excellent, The knowledge shown by the children on gardening was exceptional. A wide selection of crops had been grown veg, fruit etc where selected produce was awarded to the child who answered there gardening question correctly.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It would be wonderful if a development of a allotment site could be made available for older children from this group to continue their gardening which would develop more of their gardening skills.

Meersbrook Park Walled Garden, Sheffield Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The group has taken over the management and maintenance of the walled garden. The garden has a number of rooms or inner gardens including a Japanese garden, herb garden developing rose collection, fruit trees and so on. The group is really a garden based community centre hosting a wide range of activities and groups within the pleasant setting of the garden. The task is demanding but the results show the ability of these community gardeners. The garden tool collection adds a special feature to the garden.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

There are a number of projects ongoing such as the use of rain water from the adjacent factory building which will be useful when completed. The largest project is to re surface a large area that is essential for community activity. When possible, completion of these projects will improve the garden. Continuing to work with the Friends group in the park will help both parties. Possibly consider raised beds for the school to use as this would make it easier for children to cultivate, and possibly allow wider use by less able people.

Moorfield Way, Wilberfoss**Level Achieved: Developing****Areas of Achievement**

The overall impression was of a very well maintained residential area and all residents should be proud of their actions. A good mix of summer annuals and well balanced sustainable planting were evident. A clear absence of litter and graffiti. A really good community spirit shone through.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The judges would like to meet representatives of the entry during future visits. Make sure residents are aware of judging criteria and encourage them to engage.

Morritt Close, York**Level Achieved: Outstanding****Areas of Achievement**

Morritt Close is small but beautifully done with a mix of summer annual flowers and perennial planting. It is easy to see the development in Morritt Close is starting to spread into the rest of the neighbourhood. The Committee are going to hold a marketing evening for neighbours to promote their campaign into Yorkshire in Bloom. The front gardens are complete and plans are going ahead to develop the back gardens and the adjoining field. A wonderful example of community spirit and pride, making it a very memorable visit.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Prepare the ground in the coming winter months to sow the wildflower seeds. Sow a mix of annual and perennial seeds to give continuity in flowering. Make a composting area near the back field and use compost to mulch your perennial plants. The rose arch is a good idea so prepare this ready for next year. Carry on using recycled wood to make your flower boxes as this will save money. Place Yorkshire in Bloom posters around your neighbourhood to inform residents about 'Judging Day' and to promote Yorkshire in Bloom.

Mytholmroyd Station Partnership**Level Achieved: Thriving****Areas of Achievement**

This small but passionate group is making a real difference to the neighbourhood around Mytholmroyd Station. They have not let the extensive flooding of last year deter them but have continued to tackle unloved areas and to encourage the community to 'bounce back' We applaud the work that you have carried out to create a sustainable garden on the very challenging site under the bridge and the success you have had to date. The history boards and the Ted Hughes story boards create interest and celebrate your local heritage beautifully. We also commend the planting carried out by the church and the good standard of local environmental quality.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The judges support the Mytholmroyd Station Partnership's desire to develop the station building and would encourage you to develop a management plan to sustain the building should you be successful. Consider creating a board to complement the Ted Hughes story boards that explain the link with Mytholmroyd. We would also encourage you to look at ways to further improve the station entrance and parking area in terms of making it more inviting as a gateway to the station. Could you look at ways to further involve young people in future plans?

Northcliffe Allotment Society, Shipley

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

An enthusiastically and well run group of allotment holders most of whom show enthusiasm and determination to grow a wide range of high quality fruit, vegetables and flowers. A commendation should be made for those people responsible for development of the new community building and bird hide and all those who helped in the tremendous task clearing rubbish from the sites before work could begin. The equipment hire is also a very good way for people to get their own work done more easily. Other allotment associations could learn from this. Delivery of manure by the local authority is also very helpful to the allotment holders. The judges were impressed by the newly erected fencing along the side of the as yet unused allotment area.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It is important that all the allotments are used to their full potential and those no longer interested should relinquish them for the benefit of those people on the waiting list. It would be helpful if the authority could delegate responsibility to the Northcliffe Allotment Association. Each plot holder should be a member of the Northcliffe Allotment Association. Consideration may be given to buying supplies in bulk for the benefit of the allotment holders.

Outback at Jubilee, Halifax

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

A large area of green space in a very urban area of city, originally a children's centre taken over for the benefit of the community. A vast array of fruit and vegetables and areas for a vast array of plants. A real asset to the area and much appreciated by the local community groups. Building at centre made of recycled materials and ideal for groups to use when harvesting crops. Cooking School. Good composting areas and varied ways of recycling water and materials. A self funding areas ideal for community use and by young children.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Group needs help and advice on horticultural issues which would help them maintain area and reproduce plants for future years. Get the most out of the area community events, planting days harvesting days etc developed in a very short period but will only improve. Very good asset to this community

Residents and Friends of Trafalgar Square, Scarborough

Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

The information boards and time line displays were a credit to the group. The joint working relationship with the council/police and many other agencies was to be commended in regards to improving the area. The funding received and in like support is just staggering for a residential area and credit has to go to the group for their vision and persistence. The square in general was very well maintained with the group supplementing the local authority grass cutting with a weekly cut as well as maintaining the borders. The wild flower area is a very good addition to improve the biodiversity of the square.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to encourage local residents to not only use the square but help with the maintenance of this valuable green space for the future. Carry on the spring bulb planting scheme including local school's if possible. If possible approach residents/landlords to donate time/money for the maintenance of the square.

Revitalising Ecclesfield Park & Pavilion Group

Level Achieved: Improving

Areas of Achievement

This is a lovely place, cared for by a group of very committed people. The initiative and commitment shown by the group have certainly done a lot to inspire the local community. It was good to hear that the community are beginning to compost for themselves and are bringing materials for the group to compost. The composting system put in place by the group was very impressive. Plants were in very good condition and the various planting experiments being carried out were interesting. The community groups were clearly good at fund raising having raised a substantial amount for fencing and raised beds. The enthusiasm and commitment of the people currently involved could not be overstated.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The project's aim is a community garden with a supporting group of volunteers; however the area has more of a feel and appearance of a community allotment and the long term plans also look like an allotment development plan. Perhaps there is enough space for members of the community to have or to share raised beds of their own under the guidance of the group. Perhaps the group might benefit from rental? On a practical point some form of watering system perhaps needs to be looked at and installed for the lovely green roof or sadly it may not survive into the future. Continue working for wildlife in every way and perhaps the community will take this up, as they have the composting.

Ripon Walled Garden Scheme**Level Achieved: Thriving****Areas of Achievement**

Formerly the site of the Bishop's Palace in Ripon, the walled garden and surrounding area have been developed into a working facility where many groups of the community can take part in gardening activities and learning. The project supports people with special needs developing their skills and ability in a sensitive and safe area, in addition volunteers and community groups benefit from the enterprise being able to purchase produce and plants from a well stocked nursery. The majority of which are produced on site. An orchard contains heritage cultivars of fruit whilst the walled garden continues to develop productive and display gardens. The enthusiasm and creativity of staff and volunteers ensures that this project is enjoyed by all and contributes to supporting the wider community.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Maintenance is a constant challenge in any garden but as new areas are developed resources will be able to improve on aftercare and husbandry. Interpretation is a vital part of communicating the message and success of the project whether this is by physical information boards, leaflets or brochures.

Scarborough Old Town**Level Achieved: Thriving****Areas of Achievement**

The group's enthusiasm and the drive to improve their surroundings were very encouraging. Lens garden was a good example of what can be achieved in a small unused area it was full of colour both annual and sustainable. It was good to see the school getting involved with designing and planting the flower beds area at Valley Gardens. The new boat seating at friars way was of really good quality and very well designed. The use of community Pay back team to build the boat at Friarsway. The floral displays outside the pubs were superb given their proximity to the sea front with the new castle packet standing proud on the foreshore.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It would be good to spend more time at friarage primary school since the children play a big part of the community engagement in the area. It would have been good to see more advertising and promotion of Yorkshire in bloom along the judging route. Help to formulate a plan to develop the school grounds in order to attract more funding for the school gardening project.

Slippy Lane Allotments, Halifax**Level Achieved: Thriving****Areas of Achievement**

A once overgrown site taken over by the community as a allotment site. 15 raised beds all planted and producing good quality crops. New greenhouse latest addition. No water on site but all buildings has links to water butts. Good collection of fruit trees. Very solid community effort.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to develop allotment gardens and share ideas with people in area. Share produce with each other. Good example of how community allotments should be run.

St Georges Youth & Community Project, Halifax

Level Achieved: Developing

Areas of Achievement

To say this project has been going only four months this community has done remarkably well. Overgrown church yard now totally transformed and a benefit to the community both young and old. Planting around the church very colourful and carried out by young people. All work done by volunteers. Wildlife catered for with bat boxes and Bird boxes. Bulb planting in areas giving colour in spring

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to develop area. Group have come a long way in a short period. Do not lose the enthusiasm. Create wildlife pockets in grass areas. Identify habitats in the churchyard. Involve young people to assist. Good to see church yard being brought back to life again

St Thomas's Church Community Garden, Thurlstone

Level Achieved: Developing

Areas of Achievement

First impressions of the front lawns of the church grounds show a neat and tidy area but the real work is taking place behind the church where the expertise of Joanne and Laura can be seen. The ground work undertaken by the Girl Guides, Brownies and Scouts in developing a community project is showing signs of success and other people involved from around the community is to be seen as a plus bringing together people of all walks. Local support from Community Officers, Local Authorities, parents and the like is bridging gaps in a small community that is intent on showing that a project such as this can survive and expand. The development of the vegetable garden has to be commended as setting up such a project in this part of the garden has to be a real task, but one that is proving successful. The new rockery garden will be a further group builder as it continues to grow from a pile of stone and soil to what is expected to be star attraction on the various open days held there. Control of the site is good with no litter, graffiti or dog fouling which in such a busy, yet out of the way site, is good practice that the youth can become aware of and take ownership.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to expand the veg site but in such a way that can be sustained and managed without becoming a failure and losing interest to helpers. Some tree pruning may be required around the veg site and control of tree suckers along the rockery site will need to be undertaken.

Forward planning and discussion among the project leaders is essential to ensure continuity and success of the project. Here including the community groups and youth to become involved as part of their learning curve. Continue looking for sponsorship with local firms and the need for press coverage to advertise the project to those non-believers yet to be converted. The one important aspect is the renovation of the church out-building to give training and indoor activities when required to keep the interest alive during unseasonal months

Swinton Court Good Neighbour Association, Harrogate

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

Getting a grant to form the meadow area, and developing this area. The whole sense of developing the community to take an active interest in the estate and improve the quality of life for residents. Turning derelict planters into maintained areas to enhance the estate. Having plans for the future to implement when circumstances allow

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Ideally the planters could do with topping up to raise the soil level this would improve the displays as more of the plants would be on show. Again it would be useful if compost or organic material could be incorporated into the area at the ends of the blocks. This would help plants to establish and retain moisture thus in future reduce the need for water.

The Friends of Bude Park, Hull

Level Achieved: Developing

Areas of Achievement

The Friends of Bude Park formed 4 years ago and have clearly made a sustained effort to improve the park, a 4.85 hectare sized greenspace. Their efforts have resulted in the provision of additional play equipment, improved park entrances and notice boards, community activity days and the implementing of a tree-planting programme. With a dedicated website and keen and enthusiastic community support, the group have established well and will invariably progress towards achieving their ambitions for an improved park.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The established master plan needs to be accompanied by a stated programme of short and long-term goals, which will help the community, identify with the planned improvements to the park. A programme of introducing additional perennial planting areas for Autumn/Winter stem and leaf colour will add more interest for park users in the winter period. Additional conservation activities such as the creation of habitats for smaller wildlife will increase the learning opportunity in the park. Continuing to encourage different age groups to be involved will be beneficial.

Woodfield Millennium Green, Harrogate**Level Achieved: Developing****Areas of Achievement**

Getting started on recovering an area of neglected land to form a community green space. The compost bins are available for community use means that recycling is now possible for green waste in an area where gardens are at best small. Gaining an RHS grant to plant a new border area. The fruit and veg growing.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

To remove the shed and enlarge the nature area. Install the edge to tidy the shrub border of the site. Try to find a secure way to provide the information boards of the plots to help users

Woodland View Dementia Support Group, Rotherham**Level Achieved: Outstanding****Areas of Achievement**

Tranquil well laid out garden that has many aspects of horticulture for the residents in the small but accessible areas around the cottage home. Good colourful borders intermingle with the soft brown footpath that meanders around the whole area. There is a good use of shade plants along the south boundary that work well with the tree cover and give a cooling effect along the border length. There are many new climber plants along the length of the pagoda and around the shelter that will bring a wealth of colour when established. The sea- side area at the top of the garden is somewhat unique and has a vantage point over the rest of the garden area and provides a seating and sing-along area for the residents. The work ethic of all concerned, Staff, Residents and family members has to be commended as this project shows the benefits of such a scheme in the well being of the residents.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

When gapping up the shrub areas choose suitable species that will blend in to the existing and require minimum maintenance such as pruning as this could be a long term issue. The wildflower area does not sit comfortably here and should be moved to a smaller location and use softer and shorter varieties of wildflower. The area can then be lawned and used for events by the residents. Thought might be given to crown thinning the trees on site and under planting with spring bulbs to increase the areas already there. Some good use of colour could be added to the patio area with tubs, hanging baskets and wall planters of seasonal bedding that will brighten up this area.

Woodside Flats, Boothtown, Halifax**Level Achieved: Outstanding****Areas of Achievement**

Taking ownership of their surroundings from Pennine housing but have support if required. Well maintained grounds with lots of sustainable planting. Surplus plants sold in charity shop to

raise funds. Well supported especially by Vicky and Dougie Robertshaw who have raised funding in the area for many improvements for their community.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

To meet more residents involved in maintaining these excellent grounds. To have back up if anything happens to leading members of the group. A good example to show to other areas how to take pride in your surroundings

Category 11: Young Peoples Award

Darton Primary School, Barnsley

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

All the children at the school are involved in garden projects and each class had designed and planted a container within the playground. The school has a large wildlife area where the children have outdoor lessons all year round.

Areas of Achievement

The school garden club enables children of all ages to become involved in gardening activities. In the wildlife area there is a wide range of habits and the children have been involved in designing and making bug hotels and wildlife shelters. Activities have been well recorded in a portfolio

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The vegetable garden at the front of the school would benefit from more planning and attention. This would also help to create an attractive feature for visitors to the school, especially as it is positioned near the front gate.

Dringhouses School, York

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A warm welcome by the staff of the school and it was soon obvious how enthusiastic the group were about there garden/rural studies undertaken by the pupils.

Areas of Achievement

It was thought that a wide range of activities within the garden area of the school had been achieved; the enthusiasm of the group could be seen by both the pupils and the club coordinator. It was wonderful to see the overall food culture witch included having fresh eggs and the welfare of the chicken family, I would also congratulate the group in continuing to work with the wildlife area across the field from the school. I could see this was a difficult site due to the open site and local vandalism.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

I feel it is imperative that the sycamore trees adjacent to the garden must be crown, thinned and branches that overhang the garden removed. May I suggest that you approach a tree firm and use the publicity of the essential tree work for the school garden to be sponsored by said company. I was disappointed that at my visit I did not meet any of the pupils who I am sure would have shown how they enjoyed the school garden as part of the school curriculum.

Introduction

We enjoyed our visit to Field Lane School, where there is obviously plenty of scope for gardening fun in the future. The bright containers and hanging baskets around the entrance made a colourful welcome to the site. The activities the school has undertaken, such as joining the Great Bird Watch and scarecrow making were interesting. It would have been nice to meet more of the children involved in gardening activities. It must be lovely listening to stories in the wild garden.

Areas of Achievement

The condition of the plants in the baskets and tubs by the entrance was good. It was good to see that the children were enjoying growing and eating their own vegetables. All the children are involved in gardening activities, which is good. Advantage is being taken of the varied habitats on site to study minibeasts. Composting is being developed which will be very useful for future activities. The good tool provision is going to be of great value.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The raised beds on site are a great resource. Perhaps it would be a good idea to retain them all but take some out of use at the moment. They could be weeded and covered securely with weed fabric, until they can come into use. It might be an idea to grow lettuce and other salad leaves or radishes in the raised beds, as these will mature quickly and be available outside school holidays. The wildlife area is an exciting area. Perhaps it might be a good idea to work on more leaf, stick and log piles for wildlife. The addition of some native shrubs with berries might draw in more wildlife. It might be a good idea at the moment to concentrate on these two areas and consolidate, perhaps putting other plans on hold for the moment.

Introduction

Half the children in the school are members of the garden club. The site of the garden is difficult due to the slope and an extension is only possible if the area is terraced. The voluntary managers have been skilled in raising funds and gaining products and plants for free.

Areas of Achievement

Getting the project started and gaining funding and material has of course involved a lot of work but the results are evident. The children had an excellent knowledge of what they were growing and how they had grown them. The bug house, pond area, and wildlife area add further interest and knowledge from the garden.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Now the club is well established it will be possible next year to improve the crops that are being produced. This should not become an objective at the expense of the knowledge and fun that the children gain from the project. Have some prepared plans for the steep bank area and other

things that may be on a wish list for the garden. In this way you will be prepared should opportunities arise for funding or development that meets your needs.

Fountain Primary Grounds and Gardens, Morley

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The school grounds contain some outstanding floral features/ sustainable planting ideas and every corner was taken up with different year's groups which are a credit to all concerned. The pupils that greeted and showed the judges around were very knowledgeable and full of enthusiasm, to show off the schools achievements as were the staffs.

Areas of Achievement

The raised planters to the entrance way that were been used as allotments by parents and pupils. The home grown vegetables/fruit which are used in the schools kitchen. The many outstanding floral displays to be seen around the school grounds. The seed tray gardens were very imaginative and colourful. The sensory garden was a really good new feature. Nectar feeders for butterflies made out of paper flowers just shows how the school is really making the pupils thing about the environment.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Although the schools wild life area is developing well consideration should be give to the introduction of a pond or wetland area to encourage more biodiversity to the area. The perimeter of the playing field could be sown with a wildflower mix to encourage wildlife and biodiversity. Look into linking up with Morley in Bloom with regards to getting the pupils involved in growing some plant material for the many planters around Morley or Dartmouth Park / railway station.

Lees Primary School, Keighley

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The front of the school is very welcoming and well planted with a selection of edible and ornamental plants in raised beds. I was shown round by a teacher and group of children who were all very proud of the school gardens, which includes a productive vegetable garden, fruit, containers, wildlife areas and natural gardens and even a hen house. All children at the school are involved in the garden and outdoor classes.

Areas of Achievement

The school gardens and grounds have improved greatly over the past couple of years and this has been recorded in an excellent portfolio. The children are enthusiastic and very knowledgeable about the various areas within the school gardens. The school operates an Outdoor Learning Policy which the children thoroughly enjoy. The school is actively involved in community projects and fund raising events.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Areas and facilities on the large school field continue to be developed and a greenhouse for raising plants at is planned for the future, which will be a great asset to the school.

Malin Bridge Primary School, Sheffield

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Malin Bridge Primary School Gardening Club meets every Monday after school and is supported by teachers, parents and members of the community. The plants are grown in raised beds and unusual containers. The vegetables are used in the school kitchen and the children take some of them home. The children have a good understanding of environmental issues which is demonstrated in the recycling taking place.

Areas of Achievement

1. The children's knowledge of environmental issues.
2. Good variety of vegetables grown.
3. Excellent support from teachers, parents and members of the community plus the involvement from Sheffield University students.
4. The school gardening diary given to the judge was very interesting.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

1. Improve the level of soil in the raised beds by adding more top soil and recycled compost.
2. Try companion planting in the raised vegetable beds with summer bedding such as French Marigolds make them colourful and to deter unwanted insects.
3. The wooden raised beds and seats will be much improved when Sheffield University students have done the painting (with paint sponsored by Ronseal).

Molescroft Primary School, Beverley

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

On arrival at the school there was a distinct buzz in the air, not just the bees that have been attracted to the school grounds. An excellent presentation started the ball rolling explaining how the whole school got involved but with a focus on the Green Team and Gardening club. It was clear that every age group was involved from the Foundation stage with their posh insect hotel "Btingham Palace" through to the wildlife area used by all. The enthusiasm of the pupils was so infectious, a credit to themselves and the foresight of all teaching staff. The school is a delight, an inspiration to all, well done to everyone.

Areas of Achievement

The inspirational tubs each group created were all well planned and executed to the themes the various groups had chosen and their interpretation of history and horticulture was excellent. The wildlife area offered the opportunity to get up close with nature and can be used throughout

the year. The variety of projects throughout the year that covers all aspects of gardening and conservation

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Would there be room on the playing fields to leave the grass longer in one area and create a copse area to create another habitat area. The Woodlands Trust often offers trees to community groups

Old Earth School, Elland

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Old Earth School is to be congratulated on its ethos of being guardians of the local and global environment for future generations and proudly flying the green flag for the Eco Schools Award. Both staff and pupils demonstrate care and responsibility for their environment by the harvesting and use of grey water, solar panels for electricity and under-floor heating and introduction of LED lights. The bio-mass boiler commissioned in Spring this year is one of four pilot schools in Calderdale. The judges wish to thank all the well informed and enthusiastic pupils who accompanied them on the tour of the school.

Areas of Achievement

The front of house vegetable patches with interpretation boards demonstrates that the whole school has a holistic approach to their environmental responsibility. Pupils are engaged in growing and tending flowers and vegetables from reception to year 6 with dedicated plots of vegetables for each year group. The weekly competition between them, judged by a governor, encourages their consistent enthusiasm for nurturing the plants, weeding and identifying visiting wildlife. The produce is harvested and served as part of the 320 meals at lunchtime. The pupils are to be commended for their community involvement by inviting in groups e.g. Lloyd bank community group and by pupils going out to plant trees and visiting the Farm to Fork project. The pupils are avid recyclers of both bottle tops for a local company who transformed them into seats and of paper and cardboard for a local pulp mill. The memorial garden to the past headmaster is an oasis of calm in the midst of the busy school day.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Plans are in hand to provide a wetland habitat in an expanded area of the playground and it might prove interesting to involve the children in planning and designing the various projects. To develop parental involvement by inviting parents to participate in the children's learning process

Oxspring Primary School, Barnsley

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A lovely natural garden created by parents and children over the past few years that provides an excellent learning facility. The children were all very proud and knowledgeable of the garden and

took great delight in showing me around. From my visit it was obvious that the children and volunteers really enjoyed being out in the school garden and the enthusiasm levels were extremely high.

Areas of Achievement

Composting and organic practices that include a wormery and comfrey feed are evident throughout the garden. The wildlife areas are well used and play an important role in the garden and to make these areas more accessible the children are in the process of creating bark mulch paths. There is also a productive herb and vegetable area.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Developing stronger links with the community will benefit all parties, especially the children. At the moment the growing of ornamental plants is limited and this is perhaps an area that can be expanded to increase gardening knowledge and interest.

Parkside Primary, Goole

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A very colourful welcome to all the schoolchildren and parents greets them every day as the main entrance is very well presented in colourful borders, baskets and tubs. The area is very tidy, clean and well maintained to a very high standard. The school grounds have a substantial acreage in which to occupy all the school children in one guise or another and the help achieved by Mr Stafford is in many forms from teachers and assistants becoming painters to help from Environmentally friendly people all willing to chip in and present the school in the best light for all concerned, well done to all at the school and importantly the Garden Club members

Areas of Achievement

The wildflower meadow has to be the feather in the cap as this is improving year on year and is a credit to all the children concerned. A colourful brochure of the wildflower content of the area was presented and covered over 50 different species of plant found there. The idea of spreading the bailed cut around the perimeter is a first and a very practical way of distributing the seeds from the cut wildflower meadow and a good idea from the Environmental consultant helping out. The improving quality of the vegetable plots is encouraging and again a credit to the children who plant, maintain and harvest the crops, good Strawberries and Raspberries. The produce is either used in the kitchens or sold at open days to help finance next year's seed. The depth of knowledge showed by the Club members on the tour around was very good and indicates a high level of interest and awareness of the impact the various projects in the school grounds has.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The "Cage" compound is an interesting development and will substantially hide a bleak surround to the tarmac playing surface. Good planning is needed to ensure a high standard is maintained to match the rest of the school projects. The introduction of the outdoor classroom has to be applauded as this will broaden the school children's experience of learning outdoors, and give

added impetus to the school curriculum. Continue to look after the spring woodland area by removing large patches of nettles, thistles and dock weeds to give a balance for the spring plants to thrive but still have a mixed range of fauna throughout the seasons. The tree planting around the perimeter is to continue to define the boundary and in areas hide the motorway, also providing a range of trees to broaden the varieties already there. Good publicity could be achieved here by advertising for “Parents to Plant a Tree” and get the local press involved.

Pocklington CE VC Infant School - Growing for Wildlife Gold Rose Award

Introduction

This School is an extremely good example of what can be done. There were fairly extensive grounds which are put to a variety of good uses. The children were very well informed and showed evidence of what they have achieved – They were a delight to meet.

Areas of Achievement

The production and use of garden produce, which is also used to raise funds. The variety of areas of interest, including the sensory garden, the willow tunnels, mini beast hotel, the little wooded area, the veg areas, the fruit trees and the ponds. The diary of activities in the garden kept each week by different pupils. It was good to see that each class has its' own bed demonstrating that the whole school is involved with gardening. Support and help by the parents.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It was good to see all that is currently being achieved and to hear that there are plans to continue with the same level of enthusiasm. So keep going and continue to inspire young people for the future. Well done

Ravenscliffe High School Community Gardens, Halifax Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The gardens and outdoor areas at the school continue to go from strength to strength. The gardens are productive, educational and therapeutic and are used not only by students from Ravenscliffe, but also by many other visiting schools. The school has great enthusiasm and pride for everything it does and this is evident as soon as you enter the school.

Areas of Achievement

The whole site is used to create many different garden areas. New for this year is a large wooden shelter that is used as an outdoor class room. A good selection of fruit and vegetables are grown and these are used in the kitchens. The school has also recently obtained some hens. This eco-friendly school now has a very large and effective recycling centre that helps to generate funds for the school.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The gardens and facilities continue to evolve and get better with new projects and ideas always in the planning.

Riddlesden, St Mary's C Of E, Primary School, Keighley Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The school is set amongst almost 2ha of grounds comprising of large grass areas, wildflower meadows, woodland, fruit and vegetable garden with a large polytunnel and a quiet garden which has a willow structure and paved maze.

Areas of Achievement

The natural setting provides a great habitat for wildlife and the wildflower meadow and many trees enhance the school. The head teacher has produced a school garden proposal outlining developments for 2013-14, several of which have already been achieved. All classes have some involvement in the garden.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Due to shortage of staff and help, some areas of the gardens have fallen behind a little this year, especially in the quiet garden where weeds are a problem and several container plants have died. The polytunnel could also be put to much better use throughout the year. However, with the head teacher's garden proposal and more volunteer helpers, I'm sure things will improve next year.

Scholes (Elmet) Primary School

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Scholes (Elmet) Primary School is situated in the heart of the village and certainly takes very much to heart the huge importance of environmental education. They also take to heart the importance of being involved in village initiatives as was clearly shown by the lovely flower bed designed by a pupil from the school and made reality by the Scholes in Bloom and the fabulous In Bloom posters on display. It was wonderful to see the very evident passion that Mr Southworth & Mrs Edwards have for involving the pupils in every aspect of the school gardens from planning to practical learning, as Mrs Edwards remarked 'you could teach every aspect of the curriculum in the gardens' – what a lovely and true sentiment. The pupils that we met were delightful and clearly both loved their opportunities to garden and had a good knowledge of what they were planting and how it was used. A lovely visit to a charming and dedicated school.

Areas of Achievement

The way that the school has created a good variety of different types of planting and environmental learning areas within the grounds including different natural habitats was excellent. Involving pupils at all stages and increasing involvement year on year from planting through to the planning process was first rate. It was very pleasing to hear about how pupils learnt about the

conditions that plants needed to grow and how they were also encouraged to look at the reasons when plants failed to grow. We admire the wide variety of good quality vegetable and fruit growing and the way it is used by the school kitchen. It was particularly impressive that even wheat was being grown so that pupils could try grinding it into flour and that the school had prepared and submitted a vegetable box for the Yorkshire Show. That sustainability was being addressed through a very good water collection system, a sound composting system, the use of a wormery and making nettle water.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Creating a master plan for the school grounds would help you to consolidate and celebrate the work already done and to identify future areas for development. It would also be of use should you need to raise funding or apply for grants for new projects. Consider developing the area near to the entrance of the school, raised beds with sustainable planting may be a possibility and would give year round interest and need less maintenance. It would be useful to know how you are involving parents in the gardening schemes and how funds are raised. We would encourage you to pursue your plans to re-instate the damaged willow arch; it makes a lovely addition to the nursery garden/play area. The poster that had been created to help pupils to identify wildlife was lovely and could be developed into an excellent interpretation/information board at the pond site.

St. Chad's School, Brighouse

Bronze Rose Award

Introduction

We enjoyed seeing the colourful raised beds in the 'backyard' of the school. The children must really enjoy choosing what to plant in them. The trees which surrounded it certainly gave a peaceful setting. We were pleased to hear that the school's business and enterprise club are taking an interest in the garden. It was interesting to see the saplings provided by the Woodland Trust, they will certainly be a lovely addition to the grounds when they are bigger.

Areas of Achievement

A lot of effort has been made to make the garden areas bright and colourful with decorated raised beds, fences and containers designed by the children themselves. The wheelbarrow designed by the children was striking. It was good to see that the children were helping wildlife with the hedgehog house. We were pleased to hear that waste material is being composted and water conserved by the use of the water butt. The bark mulch should really help in keeping weeds down and conserve moisture. Making bags from the school's lavender is a good idea.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue encouraging wildlife by developing the bird feeding station further. Perhaps log and leaf piles could be added to the wild area. We enjoyed speaking to the children; perhaps next year more of the pupils would enjoy meeting the judges. Continue with the vegetable growing project. Perhaps it might be a good idea to grow more salad leaves and lettuce which will mature quickly for the children to enjoy. Now the compost bin is working well use it on the vegetable beds. Keep on developing a range of perennial planting; perhaps investigate perennials and shrubs to encourage wildlife.

St. John's School, Clifton, Brighouse**Gold Rose Award****Introduction**

It was a delight to visit St. John's school and to have a chance to chat with such bright and enthusiastic children! We were very pleased with the knowledge they showed. We were really impressed with the commitment of all involved. The pride everyone takes clear to see. The wide range of planting, from the vegetable plot to pond and rockery area was all in really good condition. We really hope that the project will continue and grow in years to come.

Areas of Achievement

The effort the school has made to raise funds to support the project is impressive. It is good to hear of the support the school get from parents and local businesses. It was good to hear that the whole school are involved in the garden and we are sure that the potato competition causes great excitement. We were impressed by the use of companion planting to reduce pest attacks. We were pleased to hear about the compost and water conservation which takes place on site. We enjoyed seeing the wildlife area from the knowledgeable children involved.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue experimenting with various vegetable crops. Perhaps consider growing more lettuce and salad leaves, which will mature quickly so that the holidays are not a problem. Continue to work on planting to encourage wildlife, perhaps adding some native shrubs to the grounds. Consider extending the range of herb planting, many of which are attractive to insects. A small wildflower area in front of a section of the hedge would add further interest to children and fauna alike and would be relatively easy to maintain.

St. Joseph's School, Brighouse**Silver Rose Award****Introduction**

We enjoyed our visit to St. Joseph's. We were glad to hear of the support given by the Parent Teacher association and that seeds are being donated by parents. We were also pleased that the garden project is self supporting. Selling daffodils and lavender bags is a good way to raise funds for the project. We would have liked to talk to lots of children who enjoy working in the garden.

Areas of Achievement

Working with the Potato Council and the Woodland Trust will be of great benefit to the school. We were glad to hear about the environmentally friendly plant pots which you have been using. It is a good idea to use water butts to conserve water. Using bark mulch around the raised beds to keep weeds down is a good idea. Taking the children to Kershaw's Garden Centre to choose their own vegetables was a good idea and must have really motivated them.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Perhaps some added compost would really benefit the soil. Investigate ideas for crops to follow on from the daffodils in the raised beds. Don't take on too many projects at once. It might be a

good idea to really concentrate on the raised bed area first. Consider growing radishes, lettuce and other salad leaves in the raised beds. They would mature quickly and would not be affected by the school holidays. The bark mulch around the raised beds is a good idea to keep down weeds. Perhaps it would be possible to add some more to top up the area.

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Halifax - Gardening Club - Project Not "All Things Bright and Beautiful" but "LOTS of Things Bright and Edible"

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The entrance to the school is very inviting and well maintained. Within the grounds various areas have been created including a wild garden, library garden and productive fruit and vegetable plot where much of the produce is distributed to the children to take home. The children in the Garden club were all very enthusiastic and took great delight in showing me around.

Areas of Achievement

The gardens around the school provide varied areas of learning and are well used by the children. The children in the Garden Club are very knowledgeable about the plants and wildlife in the garden. Plants are grown for a summer fair to help raise funds. Volunteers and staff work hard to ensure the gardens are maintained to a high standard

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Although some parents and volunteers are involved with the school garden, there is greater scope for wider community and business partnerships to help develop the school gardens and children's learning experience.

Stakesby Community Primary School, Whitby

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The judges were greeted by an enthusiastic group of pupils and staff, eager to promote their school and all its achievements. The main entrance of the school provided a warm welcome with colourful planters and the Welcome sign, which set the tone for the visit.

Areas of Achievement

Stakesby School has successfully been designated an Eco school. The judges were impressed by the story gardens and the knowledge of the children as they were shown around. The individual class veg plots and herb gardens. The bee pollinator bed to encourage insect life, and the poster which helped to identify the different types of bees; bird feeding station, hedgehog house and wildlife pond. The willow arch which was also a source of cuttings to be given away to other schools.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Collection of grey water was currently difficult, due to the design of the school building, maybe consider other options. The provision of a small greenhouse could aid to extending the growing opportunities for the vegetable garden and in turn would give an opportunity for water collection.

The Whartons Primary School, Otley

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Many good environmental and community initiatives are taking place at The Wharton's Primary School in Otley. Children accompanying the Judges were of a mixed age group, and it was encouraging to hear them describe the various horticultural and wildlife activities that they had been involved with. The lettuce sandwiches presented to the Judges on arrival were an innovative way to demonstrate the 'Grow and Sell' project, which was sponsored by the local Waitrose supermarket as part of its nationwide schools campaign. It was clear that environmental works across the school grounds were designed to bring the community into the school, from the parent's vegetable raised beds at the front of the school, to the meeting area created to encourage parents to interact at the beginning and end of the school day. The development of two wildflower meadows on the school grounds in association with Friends of the Earth's Bee Friendly campaign is a new initiative, which will flourish in years to come.

Areas of Achievement

The wildlife feeders placed throughout the school grounds have clearly been created by the children, and have proved to be a good educational activity. Excellent environmental awareness was shown by the children who accompanied the Judges, and they were of mixed ages, representing all classes in the school.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

To improve water conservation, the water butts around the school grounds should, if feasible, be joined up to a rainwater collection system. Consider the development of a wooden composting site.

Travis St Lawrence CE Primary School, Doncaster

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The school grounds have been put to extensive use with raised beds for vegetable growing, a greenhouse, wildlife area, a pond, soft fruit growing, composting and a range of permanent planting beds. The pupils clearly participate with enthusiasm and interest, very ably guided by Mrs Jordan. The school achieve excellent standards and make gardening and the environment an enjoyable experience for which they are to be highly commended. The judge's visit was made all the more interesting with an informative tour commentary given by a school pupil called Joe, well done.

Areas of Achievement

The wide variety of horticultural features around the school provides a wonderful learning opportunity for the schools pupils. Their practical involvement in the development, planning and planting of the grounds is to be praised, as was the production of plants for a nearby residential home for the elderly. The RHS Level 5 award is a deserved accolade for the school. Encouraging the involvement of adult participation with the successful "Grown ups Gardening Day" was inspirational and deserves special mention, as does the support initiative with the local prison. The entire school complex was very clean and tidy, a credit to pupils and staff who clearly have a great pride in the school and its achievements.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The continuation of the tree planting within the school grounds and its development into a tree walk, with an information plaque or label at interest points would add a further learning experience for the pupils. Additional interpretation and information boards supporting identification of plants and features would further increase the learning experience.

Trinity Academy, Halifax

Bronze Rose Award

Introduction

This is a new modern building that has been open less than one year. The main landscape planting is to the front of the school, although to the rear of the school there is a large pond, wildflower banks and a vegetable area with raised beds.

Areas of Achievement

Being a new site there has been little time for new projects to be undertaken, although the raised beds had been planted with a selection of vegetables.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Unfortunately no students were available when I visited the Academy so I was unable to find out what projects are being planned for the future. From what I could see student involvement is minimal, although there is great potential to develop the garden areas and for students to be involved with the wider community.

Westways Wildlife Garden, Sheffield

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Westways Primary School is a vibrant, friendly, multi-cultural school, established in the Crookes area of Sheffield since 1900. The school gardening group, started by teachers and parents, has progressed with the help of funding from various organisations and this has enabled them to join in the Yorkshire in Bloom competition. They have progressed well over the last two years and have become a good, competitive entry

Areas of Achievement

1. The children have a sound knowledge of the projects carried out
2. Extensive records have been kept in the classrooms of all the recent work they have carried out.
3. Good selection of planting in the new raised beds.
4. The composting area is a good addition to the school gardens.
5. A partnership is being formed with the local Neighbourhood group.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

1. Continue to develop links with the local community through the 'Bloom' initiative.
2. Try planting fruit trees to give a variety in the gardens.
3. Carry on developing the new pond with more aquatic plants to encourage wildlife and refill the pond with recycled water.

Wilthorpe Primary School, Barnsley

Bronze Rose Award

Introduction

The school has extensive grounds that include large playing fields, woodland, orchard and vegetable garden. The garden areas are looked after by the after school garden club and there is an emphasis on the natural landscape and wildlife.

Areas of Achievement

The children have planted several raised vegetable beds with a selection of vegetables and to brighten up the large playground have also planted several containers. The orchard area is developing well and doubles up as a wildlife meadow.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Weeds were a problem this year especially in the vegetable garden. Encouraging parents and friends to come along to the garden club may help with the work load. Planting some of the ornamental containers with perennials or shrubs will also reduce work. Having lessons in the garden would allow more children to be involved in the school garden.

**Wisewood Community Primary School, Sheffield
Winner**

Gold Rose Award Category

Introduction

A delightful school entry that does consistently well in the Yorkshire in Bloom competition every year. The enthusiasm from Mrs Macintosh, a volunteer, and Mr Fletcher, plus the support teachers, has to be commended. The school continues to progress with new ideas every year. It was a pleasure to judge and we look forward to future planned developments. Well done to all concerned.

Areas of Achievement

1. The new raised beds donated from Meadowhall Shopping Centre.
2. Excellent display of summer flowers and vegetables grown from seed in the school greenhouse.
3. The school is supporting British Steel in Sheffield by planting in stainless steel containers. It is the year of the 'silver' theme.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

1. Redevelop the wildflower area with a mixture of annual and perennial seed to give continuity in flowering.
2. The plant labels for the beans and garlic are a good idea so make more for other plants as it will help children to learn plant names.
3. The school gardens are excellent so expand on this by considering an 'Open Day' for family, friends, the local authority and the community so more people can see what a good job you are doing.

Category 12: Universities, Colleges and Further Education Establishments

Craven College, Skipton

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The grounds of the college are extensive and have a varied range of habitats and landscape features, from demonstration drystone walling, landscape features along access roads to plant nursery, woodland and landscape areas surrounding the administrative buildings, giving visitors, students and staff a pleasing environment in which to work and learn the various skills on offer at the college. The financial constraints at the college are having an impact on the overall standards.

Areas of Achievement

The landscaping of new admin buildings and the adjustment to maintenance schedules to enhance and protect wildflower areas in the grounds of the college. The external landscape projects in the community, designing, constructing and planting landscape features in the local community and supporting the work of Skipton in Bloom and the Council, whilst giving students very valuable experience. Students designing garden exhibits and subsequent construction of displays at Regional shows.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Higher standards of maintenance of the college grounds could enhance the visitor and staff experience and provide students with experience of what is expected in the industry. The judging tour could be modified to highlight the major features of the entry and perhaps judges to meet a student or two.

Leeds Trinity University

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The grounds of Leeds Trinity University were in excellent condition despite the dry weather. Judges were led to the main reception by well laid out planting either side of the main driveway. Good mixtures of bedding and sustainable planting. Good to see students through their studies having a say in what was going on in the grounds and their environment. Despite only having two full time gardeners this site is very well maintained. Good to see wildlife habitats being developed along with ponds. These will only improve as they mature. Very clean entry and to a good standard.

Areas of Achievement

Well planted driveway leading to main reception area of University campus. Good mixture of bedding and sustainable planting. Well maintained grounds throughout the campus. Developing wildlife areas and ponds

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Student lead allotment garden for the future. Establish wildlife area and ponds. Replace some trees around grounds which have not established.

University of Bradford

Gold Rose Award

Category Winner

Introduction

The University of Bradford has two main sites. Heaton Mount School of Management, set in its own grounds with mature trees, a wild life pond, well planted shrubberies and colourful displays of bedding plants set in a quiet leafy suburb of Bradford. The main campus is nearing the completion of a multi million pound building programme with the new award winning buildings being almost carbon neutral. The extensive grounds contain a wealth of innovative ecologically sound planting techniques which the students and local community groups help to maintain. There are many areas of fruit trees and bushes from which anyone can pick the ripened fruit. The five grounds staff do a tremendous job taking care of both sites and the newly handed over sports facilities. Their enthusiasm and environmental awareness has to be commended.

Areas of Achievement

At Heaton Mount, the introduction of colourful seasonal flower beds by the front door adds vibrancy to the entrance. Much work has been carried out on the wild life pond which is planted with a good selection of marginal plants and water lilies to give shelter for the fish and numerous insects. There is also a newly opened reflective area housing a selection of tastefully planted tubs and hanging baskets. The main campus has a new green student accommodation block, medical herb garden, a sedum roof and numerous green walls as well as innovative plantings of lavender and wild flowers sown along the edge of some of the main paths which add interest to the grassed areas. Compost is made for the grounds by re-cycling food waste through an innovative bio digester. And part of an original wood still remains which the grounds staff give regular ecology tours.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Introduce labels or information boards in the medical herb area to help people identify the plant uses. Perhaps grow some more culinary herbs and leaves to be picked and used by students and staff. When planning larger wild flower meadows seek professional advice for flower mixes to give all year round colour. In future years look into the possibilities of building a small themed garden at the RHS Tatton Park Flower show which would give the university added public awareness

University of Hull

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The university is a collection of traditionally designed buildings and modern architecture, complimented by the well-maintained grounds, which give continuity throughout the campus. The

wider community, students and staff are encouraged to use the grounds and have a practical involvement in their development and improvement. The high standards of maintenance and provision achieved are to be commended along with the thoughtful planning of planting chosen for new beds.

Areas of Achievement

The extremely well maintained and colourful planted borders located throughout the entire campus. The wide variety of horticultural features and woodlands being continually developed to enhance, educate and increase use of what is a constantly evolving landscape. The determination to involve students and student union practically in community gardens and environment projects along with allotment area for staff. The well being walk with interpretation signs and exercise pods also open to the public.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Although some tree planting is taking place, a tree management programme would give better focus to future plantings and species selection. Improved publicity concerning the involvement in Yorkshire in Bloom competition and the advantages to the university that the developing grounds add to the student experience.

University of Sheffield

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The University of Sheffield covers a large area and incorporates many department buildings, of varying ages this is reflected in the landscape opportunities created. A team of 18 staff covering the maintenance of the site, from a few squares meters to many acres.

Areas of Achievement

Firth Court building, both outside and the quad area set a very high standard of maintenance and variety of plant displays, both sustainable and seasonal. Other sites of note included Regent Court, Nursing and Midwifery Unit, the Underpass and the Brook hill Roundabout. The entrances to all the University buildings were provided with colourful seasonal planters. Bio - diversity is a theme running throughout the sites, and is evident by the number of green roofs installed and areas of more natural plantings and varied maintenance regimes. The judges were impressed with the Bio - diversity Action Plan.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The new design for the front of Firth Building will be interesting to see develop. The provision of a site map would benefit the tour, as this would give the judges a better idea of the size of the University entry. The links and distances between the various sites be considered when setting out the route, potential for some transportation. Would have been nice to meet some of the other staff on route, or if still around some of the students that assist (maybe photographic evidence). Consider the quality of the maintenance at the most formal areas/building

Introduction

Recently York St Johns University underwent an extensive rebuild, linking the new build with the beautiful old buildings of the university. A warm welcome was made by the garden manager and senior gardener at the main entrance at Clarence Street.

Areas of Achievement

The new build landscaping, shows good use of plant materials used in areas where it was difficult to establish. i.e., full shade very dry and very narrow planting beds. The horticultural standards throughout the university grounds were of a very high standard indeed. The use of seasonal bedding offset in well maintained grass areas were fabulous. A riot of colour and plant interest, I was very fortunate to visit these grounds when the lavender borders were in full flower which made a dramatic boundary along the front path of Lord Mayors Walk. I feel I must mention the planning which was apparent, regarding the avenue of lime trees again on the boundary of Lord Mayors Walk. It was noted that because of health and safety issues, these trees had been reduced by 40% in height. But it was wonderful to see a row of new trees, which in time will take over from the new trees. Recycling was well in hand and the new veg/herb garden was well thought out indeed, with student participation and staff.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

I find it difficult to give any constructive remarks, as I felt that the garden and grounds were in very good hands with the present staff.