

Discretionary Citations 2016

The Yorkshire Rose Permanent Landscaping Award

St. Gemma's Hospice

The grounds of St Gamma's Hospice have undergone significant changes during the past couple of years. Moving away from masses of brightly coloured bedding plants which need changing twice a year to a more cost effective and sustainable modern perennial and shrub style of gardens with a tropical garden thrown in for good measure with plants that can be moved indoors for the winter and re-planted again in the summer.

The perennial planting along the rill sways gently in the wind as the water flows gently to the far end of the rill. The newly restored alpine beds with their ground hugging plants is easily maintained, and the scent of the herbs in their raised beds drifts into the garden. The small conservatory is used for winter protection of plants and the growing on of seedlings and cuttings by staff and residents. Garden waste is composted and leaf mould made from the leaves from the shaded woodland walk. And the newly improved lawns with planted fruit trees add more space in which to absorb the wonderful atmosphere.

The hard work and forward planning of the staff and volunteers is paying off making a significant difference to the hospice garden which is a true haven in a busy world.

Proposed by Paul Marshall

The Yorkshire Rose Environmental Quality Award.

Sheffield Grey to Green

The grey to green project involves removing roads, solving flooding problems and ensuring new works do not cost a lot to maintain. Sheffield has taken landscaping to a new level by incorporating perennial planting within engineering schemes and the results have ensured that engineers now accept that Horticulture can not only have a place in schemes but also offer solutions.

The planting is in a series of engineered beds that retain surface water and release it slowly to reduce flood risk. The overall effect is to convert what had been a dual carriage way to in effect walking along a country lane with alternative types of vegetation. The project has been completed with art work that describes some elements of the area's history. The project is completed by the use of very high quality street furniture and paving.

Proposed by Brendan Mowforth

The Yorkshire Rose Commercial Award

Crystal Peaks Shopping Mall

I was blown away with the work around the natural landscape and the future plans for the Greenway Project, working with partners such as Sheffield Council, Sorby Natural History Group with guided walks and wildlife surveys.

The shopping complex sits in the heart of the South Yorkshire Community Forest and they are committed to improving the bio-diversity of the land around the site, supporting the local community initiatives and sponsoring work programmes to provide meadow land and improvements to Orche Dyke the local watercourse, tree planting, bird and hedgehog boxes, protect native orchid sites, and getting involved with traditional skills such as dry stone walling and bee keeping.

They are also committed to educating their visitors by providing information/interpretation boards to tell the story of their site and help identify the many wildflowers, birds and insects that can be found in the area.

Proposed by Jo Birch

The Yorkshire Rose Conservation and Wildlife Award

Horticap

Quote from marking sheet: 'In addition to its great strength as a provider of horticultural training, Horticap is also a wonderful example of an enterprise run on sound environmental principles. From rainwater harvesting, a wind turbine, composting, to provision of wildlife areas and re-use of plants pots, there are numerous sustainable practices in operation not only reducing their 'carbon footprint' but also providing examples of good practice to those in the trade, to other organisations and also to visitors.'

In addition to the brief summary above, Horticap also recycle wood (including creating items to sell in their shop), old clothes and plastic bags. The water recycling referred to above is on a commercial scale – they have four water tanks holding up to 112,000 litres. This is used not only in the greenhouses and gardens but for the toilets and to wash down vehicles and equipment.

As well as re-using and recycling they aim to reduce energy use through a number of methods including insulation of buildings, timed heating etc.

They also work closely with local business Bettys and Taylor on environmental initiatives.

Proposed by Deirdre Walton

The Yorkshire Rose Tourism Award

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

The Friends of Sowerby Bridge Station have created a comprehensive heritage project on the station platform. The project consists of 36 information boards which record the people of note and events in Sowerby Bridge's history. The panels include 25 boards of people of note including sportsmen, politicians, inventors, local prominent citizens and a geologist. There are also boards about events with a transport and war connection theme ranging from "the Battle of Sowerby Bridge" in 1644 and "When the Mallard came to Town" in 1961. The boards were painstakingly researched by members of the group and are intended to provide something interesting for the passengers to read while they are waiting for the train but also to attract more visitors to Sowerby Bridge. There are plans to turn the information into a book.

Proposed by Sue Wood

The Yorkshire Rose Public Park Award

Horsforth Hall Park

The park is used extensively by the public yet there is a complete lack of litter, graffiti, dog fouling etc. The herbaceous borders are excellent with a wide range of plant material including many unusual cultivars. The Japanese Garden is well maintained and adds another dimension to the park. Annual bedding supplements the sustainable planting and adds eye-catching colour, no dead flowers since dead heading had been carried out. All borders were totally weed free. All grassland is well maintained. All in all an exceptional public park.

Proposed by ...Roger Brownbridge and Jane Macaulay

Oakwell Hall

I thought this was a brilliant park, genuinely with something for everybody. It is clearly well-used and supported by the local community. On the day of my visit (not quite school holidays), there were dog walkers, families with young children, older couples, teenagers/young adults. I was also very impressed by the fact that the Rangers seemed to know many of them!

The new visitor centre is very attractive, as are the gardens surrounding the hall with their historical plantings. There is a wide range of activities on offer led by the very enthusiastic rangers. A very well embedded and managed volunteer programme helps support maintenance and development in the park, as does an active Friends group in this and other ways.

Proposed by Deirdre Walton

The Yorkshire in Bloom Community Award

Small Groups

Wetherby Care Home

The Care Home gardens have been planted with loving care both from the management and gardeners and with guidance from the residents who take such a pride in all the outside areas. Colourful flowers, planters, hanging baskets abound everywhere with residents being able to use the green house, plant vegetables for all to use and enjoy, all in complete safety. In the dining area there were posies of flowers on each table made by the residents from flowers in the garden. So near to the town centre but yet so tranquil and beautiful

Proposed by John Smith and Peter Oddy

Friends of Brighouse Railway Station

Brighouse station is a new station which was opened in 2000 at minimum cost for the construction.

In October 2014, a group designated the Friends of Brighouse Station was established with the aim of 'adopting' the station from Northern Rail. Grand Central agreed to provide funding for fence mounted baskets. The local cafe is the meeting place and HQ.

The Friends comprises 48 volunteers, including the Air Training Corps, the local area scout group, corporate members from the local business community and individual members. There is also close cooperation with the local community police, who are helping with a fly tipping problem

Volunteers are responsible for their own area – there are 20 areas each with their own individual action plan and we were shown an impressive wildlife area which had been well researched, seeded with wild flowers to provide habitats for insects and butterflies.

The volunteers have transformed the station into a delightful area to wait for the train to pass through and they have received many compliments from railway staff and passengers. Two notice boards display community notices for two churches, the scouts and the local Business Initiative while a newsletter keeps the community informed and gives details of the competition for children.

Health and Safety rules are rigorously enforced so that all volunteers working on the platform, and other designated, areas are safe.

The numerous planters are all sponsored by local businesses and with fantastic attention to detail, the trims on the barrels are painted to match the colours of the station lamp posts.

The Friends of Brighthouse Station have worked really hard to improve the whole of the station area.

The Judges were impressed by how immaculately clean the station is and how well researched and planned the whole project is with plants that are thriving. They are even trying to harvest water into large containers hidden under the platforms

Proposed by Linda Casper and Chris Breare

The Elsecar Park Team

Elsecar park has something for every age group and is enhanced by enthusiastic members of the friends/gardening group and park staff that all work together to complete the Elsecar Team. The friends group organise summer events including band concerts /children's activities and apply for grants for the Parks improvements which the many volunteers carryout with the Parks staff. All credit has to be commended for their determination to improve the facilities, keep the local heritage and history of the park going for generations to come.

Volunteers involved listed below.

Janet Gillott, Janet Cartwright, Linda Webster, Celia Townell, Jane Martin, Linda Daley, Gillian Hantzmann and Paul Daley.

These are the main Friends group – others help out when required.

Plus Pat & Richard Sullivan (Gardening Volunteers)

Proposed by Peter Oddy

The Yorkshire in Bloom Community Award

Large Groups

Northcliffe Environmental Enterprise Team (NEET)

Northcliffe Environment Enterprise Team is a social Enterprise, working with people with learning difficulties and very ably headed by Ian and his wonderful team. Formed 20 years ago the Charity became a Social Enterprise group 18 months ago and has developed enormously since then, receiving funding and help from Zurich Trust, Department of Works and Pensions and Electec to name but a few.

Greenhouses and Poly tunnels were erected and they now produce 50,000 bedding plants annually plus hanging baskets for sale. With the help of Marshalls they have

formed raised beds for a vegetable area, with access for wheelchairs. Pots of flowers and herbaceous plants are displayed on raised tables with the group tenderly looking after them. Produce is used in the new kitchen and cafe area together where the group have also built a brick Pizza Oven. The well-equipped Joinery Shop enables the group to repair many items, make new shelving and planters all from reclaimed timber. New toilets have been installed with the helpers on a rota to maintain them.

All the tasks are chosen by the helpers themselves, and give them a feeling of wellbeing and a purpose. A wonderful nurturing, caring resource which helps people who come to develop their potential in a safe, happy environment. The use of recycled products is to be commended. Sourcing of items on Ian's wish list is usually successful!

Floral displays of the plants they have grown, colourful planting up of a timber wheelbarrow, even a timber train are all delightful, as is the new cafe area with its new kitchen which is work still in progress. The generosity of the business and organisations Ian approaches is amazing.

This is an incredible organisation which helps to transform people's lives. Congratulations.

Proposed by John and Joy Smith

Barnsley Metropolitan Council

Whilst this may not be the traditional type of organization to receive this award, I feel that Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council has taken on the role of facilitator to both develop voluntary groups and engage with the community. Projects such as Love where You Live, a joint venture with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to train volunteers. Working with a property company to improve the approaches to the town centre, providing Barnsley by the sea for young residents during the summer. There is a shop competition organized by the civic trust, but all under Barnsley in Bloom banner. The school painting competition with the civic leader being part of the judging team, with the results being displayed in the town centre. Having a one stop shop is not new but as Barnsley town centre is being re-built it is essential to keep people advised as to what is going on and undertake consultation on various aspects of the development.

I think the levels of involvement shown by Barnsley MBC clearly show that they are at the heart of the community and provide that vital link that ensures things work.

Proposed by Brendan Mowforth

The Yorkshire Rose Town or City Centre Award

Leeds City Centre

The partnership in the City Centre is working hard to ensure that Leeds is successful, commercial, vibrant and a centre for culture. Leeds in Bloom provides a vehicle for involvement; an example of this is the children's flower bed competition where the two winning designs are constructed next to the Civic Hall and clearly signed to indicate what they are. Many business enter the Leeds in Bloom competition, the last count being 188 taking part. The floral displays are of a high quality and space has been found to grow edible plants in support of the healthy eating project, all within the city centre. New areas are being developed with very high quality landscaping such as at Sovereign Street creating more green space along with water features.

Work is ongoing with St Johns Church and the churches conservation trust to improve the grounds and make the site more accessible.

Given the high level of footfall, street cleaning is a challenge but one that has been taken on successfully and will soon be further improved by the BiD investment in City Rangers and a street washing machine.

The town centre team are working to gain a purple flag to indicate high levels of safety for visitors in the evening and at night.

Partnership in maintaining the area ranges from the grounds of Leeds General Infirmary, St Georges Crypt Community Garden and the Victoria Quarter property company among many others.

Proposed by Brendan Mowforth

The Yorkshire Rose Best New Entry Award.

Flemingate Shopping Centre

Flemingate Shopping Centre is a new shopping centre built on a 16 acre site of a former chemical works. Located near the train station and only minutes' walk to the Minster and the heart of Beverley Town. The main shopping area is well designed, and sympathetically retains the styling of its surroundings. A new Beverley College Campus is built to abut the centre, which affords such facilities as a Premier Inn Hotel, 500 space car park, a 6 screen cinema and children's play area.

The design of Flemingate Centre with its choice of brick (1 million) is all in keeping with the surrounding buildings and environment. Not surprising to discover it is a Site of Architectural Merit (SAM). The design and quality of the sustainable planting at the front of the development with great use of evergreen materials and enhanced with planting

large structures, create a safe and wonderful setting for the children's play area and visitors alike. An enclosed playground with seating and open 'lawned' areas to relax in with landscaped borders of lavender and box hedging all act to make this a pleasant environ. Used by the college students, it was an ideal setting for the 'Teenage Market Project' a scheme which was well supported and is set to be a yearly event. The clean spotless environment with a crew of permanent staff out working the centre helping to maintaining this appearance, with the 80 cascading baskets that adorn the lampposts throughout. As Graham Tait (The Centre Manager) is proud to announce that they have it on record that 95% of its waste is recycled, and they have recently had installation of electric car charging points.

Proposed by John Stanley and Joy Smith

The Yorkshire Rose Young Persons Award

Haworth School

On a lovely sunny day we were welcomed by Steve the head gardener and a group of children from the gardening club. Their enthusiasm was outstanding and all classes are involved each week, with the floral planting, the raised vegetables beds and even feeding the egg laying hens. Certificates are awarded in Assembly for Gardener of the week and there is a Gardener of the Year award.

Plants grown in the polytunnels and greenhouses are shared with other schools, old people's homes, the local hospice and the local Church for Harvest Festival and the children help to plant at the Cenotaph, Fire and Police Station. Steve's dedication to the school and its various projects deserves a great big thank you, as do the gardening group and Libby, their group leader, who organises the rota and keeps meticulous records of all the work done, and a wonderful brochure for us.

Staff as well as parents - known as "Ground Force" are always there to help. The school ethos of growing plants, using vegetables for meals and cookery lessons, the many displays around the school (including Yorkshire in Bloom - even the dining room has posters and displays encouraging healthy eating and environmental awareness.

The safe play area for pupils who need a little extra help is excellent.

It is very impressive that the school is so involved with sharing with other schools, organisations and charities - Fantastic paths have been formed into the wooded area and pond life is being monitored.

Very well done -- this is a school to be very proud of.

Proposed by

John and Joy Smith

The Yorkshire Rose Community Champion Award

Brett Nuttall - Posthumous

The tragic death of Brett Nuttall, only hours after the happy day we spent judging Manor Lodge Fields and Park at Sheffield came as a terrible shock to us all. It was an honour to meet someone who cared so much about the communities he was serving and for the wonderful projects which had been so successful. He was passionate about them both. Both because of the hard work he put in for local people and the difference he made to the community he richly deserves the Community Champion Award.

Brett started to work for Green Estate back in 2000. He was one of the initial core team that got the all too impossible task of engaging with a hugely disillusioned and excluded set of communities across the significantly deprived S2 area of Sheffield to re-engage with their own local environment

He brought skills and enthusiasm honed through earlier training at RHS Wisley, from his Arboricultural training and from his Masters course in Landscape Management at the University of Sheffield. He was passionate about seeing quality parks and places not just for the main stream but where people had very little at all and in places where beauty and quality was even more important in changing lives

Brett personally led on a wealth of individual initiatives that bit by bit made the outdoor environment across some 600 hectares of public open space in what at the time was suffering the stigma of being labelled 'the worst estate in Britain' safer, better managed, better loved and significantly better used. He worked on everything from football and sports facility projects, playgrounds, parks, woodlands, natural areas, formal gardens and school grounds. One day he would be found physically wielding a chain saw the next event managing 5000 people at a public bonfire party, which, according to the local police brought down associated problems and crime dramatically, and the next in a meeting to look at practical ways to improve design layout in a housing scheme.

Brett engaged with young people in all sorts of ways and has been instrumental in helping many to have a better start to adult life by using his and their enthusiasm for the outdoors. He secured funding for apprenticeships, for jobs, for training, he managed work experience, people with learning difficulties, many volunteers and had a legacy of supporting and developing staff regardless of who they worked for.

Brett provided something really different in that he brought people working for many different organisations with no track record of collaboration together to sort out common problems. For many years everyone thought Brett actually worked for them – and this got things done that had been stalling for years – and on miniscule budgets

Brett never backed away from the challenging – which was just as well as especially in the early years everything was a challenge. No one worked together, there was no

money and there was total apathy. The impact of Brett's contributions only really started to be seen as the long years of input started to be visible to all. Two neighbourhood parks under his management responsibilities were awarded the Green Flag Award – for the area an almost impossible standard and dream come true and the Sheffield Manor Lodge site hummed with activity, flowers and a wonderful productive landscape which again he had a significant hand in seeing realised over the years.

Sharing the landscape and talking about Green Estates work with others was something he did well and took great pride in. Brett died very tragically and suddenly just hours from spending a very happy and fulfilling afternoon with Yorkshire in Bloom Judges. His legacy though is the parks, partnerships and people in this neighbourhood that would not have existed without his input

Proposed by Beatrice Myers and Russ Bolland

Supported by Sue France, CEO, Green Estate Ltd

Pat Yates – Langdale Road

The work and improvements across the Langdale Road at Woodlesford is down to Pat. Her determination to improve the environment in which she lives and bring the community around her together is to be commended! Great improvements have been made in a relatively short time, people old and young are engaged and actively helping in maintaining the estates road side verges and maintaining planted areas for the benefit of everyone.

Nick Thompson Ripon Workhouse Garden

Workhouse gardens are rare survivals. The Ripon workhouse garden is about an acre in size on a north facing slope at the back of the former Ripon Union Workhouse at Sharow View. The restoration of the workhouse garden into a 21st century Victorian kitchen garden open to the public as part of the workhouse museum is the culmination of development work and gardening spear headed by Nick the volunteer Head Gardener.

Nick was involved right from the beginning 12 years ago when the idea was formed to restore the garden. He has led the volunteer team of gardeners who have made it happen working tirelessly almost every Tuesday and Saturday morning for over 7 years. On top of this he has also managed all aspects of the annual cycle of the gardening year - ordering seed, growing on the seedlings and young plants in his own greenhouse, managing the harvesting of produce and the partnership with Lockwoods restaurant. He has a lovely warm personal style, quick witted and a great way with volunteer gardeners and museum visitors alike. Now in his early 70's he is standing down from the head gardener role tho' he will still support the garden in a more low key way as a volunteer and with his invaluable advice and knowledge.

Nick contributes much to the City and its community and is well known not least because he ran the health food shop in the town centre for many years. In his role as volunteer Head gardener he has shared his passion for gardening and the garden with many local groups and partners include the cubs, school groups, young volunteers and adult groups visiting the museum. He is a keen veg grower himself and spends much of his spare time on his allotment in Ripon which he has had for many years. He is a bit of a foody and often has interesting recipes to share using the freshest ingredients from one of the gardens he is involved with. He also has a passion for music of many sorts and organises live bands to perform in the town which is much appreciated by those that share his taste for folk.

A little about the Ripon Workhouse garden. The restoration of the garden was initiated in 2008 based on good conservation practice and on sound research and on site investigation. A planting scheme appropriate for the site has been developed appropriate for its historical context (1890 workhouse garden) including heritage vegetables grown on a four crop rotation in allotment style rectangles and heritage northern fruit trees in meadow grassland.

The garden has received the following recognition:

- RHS It's your neighbourhood outstanding 2015
- Gold Award Wildlife Friendly Garden Award Harrogate and District Biodiversity Group
- Ripon Civic Society environmental award
- Contributed to Ripon in Bloom entry to both Yorkshire in Bloom and Britain in Bloom (2013). Nick liaised with the Ripon in Bloom Committee to prepare for judging, showed the Judges round on all these occasions and the garden received very favourable comments. The workhouse garden was given special mention in both Yorkshire in Bloom and Britain in Bloom feedback
- Lockwoods Restaurant in Ripon won Deliciously Yorkshire Taste Awards 2015 "Best use of local produce on the menu". As Matthew Lockwood said as part of the evidence for the award "One of the best relationships we have forged over the years, has to be with the Workhouse Museum Garden, just over the road from the restaurant in the centre of Ripon. Head Gardener Nick Thompson has worked miracles in their traditional walled garden, cultivating and introducing amazing heritage fruit and vegetables that went out of production years ago!"

Proposed by Sue Wood

The Yorkshire Rose Award for dealing with adversity

Mytholmroyd Station Partnership

When judging this entry in the neighbourhood section in early July 50% of the homes and businesses were still uninhabitable because of the damaged caused by the Boxing Day flood of 2015.

However this did not deter the Mytholmroyd Station Partnership from entering into the In Bloom competition even though there were as many skips as flower beds adorning the Streets.

A lesser group would not have entered but no, Mytholmroyd received all the weather could throw at them, they still had a smile on their faces and they picked themselves up and started all over again.

The local Catholic Church was under four foot of water in 10 minutes and the Priest thought that he was going to meet his maker earlier than he had hoped.

The station partnership members negotiated with Northern Rail to obtain free rail passes for those residents that had to move away into temporary accommodation so that they could return home to supervise the reconstruction works of the homes and businesses.

If you want to see community working together in adversity then go to Mytholmroyd you will be nothing if not impressed with what they have achieved

Proposed by Phillip Young and Beatrice Myers

The Yorkshire Rose Chairman's Award

Northcliffe Environment Enterprises Team