



Category 6: Public and Private Charitable Establishments

Abbeydale Residential Home, Ilkley Gold Award

Overall Impression

This large Victorian house on the outskirts of Ilkley has been carefully converted into a residential home, and has recently had a full refurbishment. The site is approached from Grove Road, and contains some very fine well maintained mature trees. Right from the roadside you are met with an amazing display of colourful bedding. The site is fairly steeply sloping up towards the house, which ensures there are good views of the surrounding countryside.

There is a wide range of bedding plants, over 5000 of them, mainly begonias and impatiens which front, in some cases, a background of trees, shrubs and roses. Sweet peas are also planted near to seating areas, and these not only provide colour and scent, but also cut flowers for the dining room tables and the resident's rooms. The lawns are immaculate, and the grounds are a tribute to the hard work of the staff. One resident looks after the herbs which are grown in raised containers, and used in the kitchen. A new larger greenhouse is due to be erected in the near future and it is hoped the residents may be involved in its use. The tarmac drive has recently been extensively and carefully repaired. There are also a selection of bird boxes. The recycling is also well concealed in a special area near the rear entrance to the site.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It really is most difficult to suggest further improvements as the present, on site management/owners have had the premises for the past 17 years, seeing all the developments, and now arrange to modify the bedding displays year by year, and upgrade any other planting as necessary.

All Saints Church, Barwick in Elmet Gold Award

Overall Impression

The magnificent All Saints Church stands proud at the junction of Aberford Road and Potterton Lane. The two entrance beds were in full bloom at the time of judging and new church gates added to the overall effect. The enthusiastic group of volunteers have dedicated many hours of work to get the church grounds and burial areas looking so good. Careful perennial planting around the church added more colour and interest. The grass cutting standards were very good and all the grave spaces had been strimmed and uniform. The group are always looking to add additional planting and are not afraid to try different plant combinations. The main path was weed free and must have taken a great deal of time and effort to control weeds growing between the stone work. The cemetery maintenance standards were also replicated in the extension of the church yard. Seating was well maintained and it was a credit to all involved in the work.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Some of the church head stones have a rich history of the local area. It is suggested that the inscriptions are photographed and details recorded for future generations.
- It would also be beneficial if there is an annual visual inspection of grave stones in the church yard to record any damaged or potentially dangerous stones which the church authorities would need to make safe.
- Bulk up on the perennial planting around some of the Church beds, suggest division of some of the plants from the Millennium bed or other areas within the village; i.e. divide the Bergenia's at the Bowling Green, these would be useful in the shaded areas.
- Consider additional bird boxes in some of the mature trees away from the church building.
- The maintenance around the edge of the church yard leaving the grass and herbage longer to seed was great for the wild life.

Barnsley Hospice Gold Award

Overall Impression

On arrival the first impression is a fairly ordinary car park. But once you enter the grounds the thought given to the residents and their requirements to see out or come out into the numerous small gardens are very sensitively covered. The planting is a 'riot of colour' – which we are sure helps the residents. The newly opened tranquil garden is well constructed and planted and will mature into a very pleasant sitting area. The Bloom Volunteers Terry, Paul and Alan worked hard to make a beautiful, bright, peaceful, garden for patients, families and friends to enjoy. We particularly liked the

outdoor areas where patients can be taken in their beds to an outer garden area, when bedbound.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- When it is time to replant the rock garden it would be nice to see a sympathetic use of the rocks rather than a random 'spotting' of the rocks over the planted area.
- There did not appear to be any provision for wildlife conservation apart from a few bird boxes and insect hotels – which may not be a priority given the resident's needs – but it would be useful to have more provision for insects and hedgehogs etc. to overwinter. It is hoped that any such provision would be welcomed by the residents.
- The sponsorship and staff support from M&S is to be commended. We wonder if there are many more companies that could provide similar support.
- There was mention of a large group of volunteers (400+) that help support the whole working of the hospice – but only a small proportion of that volunteer force carry out work in the garden (which they do very well). But it may be possible to exploit a greater proportion of the volunteer group by getting them to do small jobs in the gardens (for instance).

Case Training Services, Hull Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Once we arrived at the allotment site I was impressed with the work done by Matt and Shelly with the people attending the garden project. The service users have disabilities and special needs and were very involved with the tasks in hand with ideas and a work ethic that was encouraged throughout. A very varied garden which showed up well in all aspects. I particularly enjoyed seeing the recycled shed and areas of learning on site and enjoyed the diverse planting throughout both plots.

Water was being recycled and composting taking place, also bird boxes area a feature. The City of Culture Dead Bed was interesting and the various mosaics and hanging baskets added to the entry. The wildflower area and fruit area was good and different in its presentation.

The whole garden showed a very safe environment for the members to work in. All the food was used for the membership at the town centre canteen. A very enjoyable time spent looking at the two gardens.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- As discussed with Matt it would have been good to receive a short portfolio of the work done proposals for the future prior to Judging. I understand a lot of this information is available on wall mounted displays in the office in the city centre. It would have been good to see these prior to Judging.

- There are excellent prospects for an increase of land at the allotments to be used in some of the nearby overgrown and unused allotments.
- I enjoyed the feedback on how the members gave ideas and it would be good to see photographs and information on this.
- The Open Day had been a good idea and I was impressed that it had been so successful.
- Longer term it would be great to see a structured growing area with crop rotation and labels showing the various vegetables fruit, and herbs that are being grown.
- Silver Gilt is a good medal to obtain with your entry and Gold will be achievable with just a few additions as outlined above.
- Thank you for an enjoyable visit to your plot.

Dungworth Village Hall, Sheffield Silver Award

Overall Impression

Dungworth. The village hall is small with a little outside land other than the access pathways, however the Village Hall Committee have placed several fine hanging baskets around the outside walls of the building and planted tubs around each entrance.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consideration could be given by the Village Hall Committee to starting an in bloom group for the whole village.
- May be the local public house could be encouraged to enter the in Bloom competition in the public house section

Friends of Western Library, Hull Silver Award

Overall Impression

Friends of Western Library, working closely with Streetwise Community Association, support the community garden adjacent to the Library. Users are encouraged to go into the garden which can be reached via a side door in the building and joint events are held from time to time. The Friends also support the garden through fundraising, and practically through provision of rooms available for meetings, training and more recently a base for Groundwork Hull staff involved in delivering a lottery funded project in the St Andrew's ward. The garden itself encompasses informal perennial plantings, vegetable plots, a wonderful metal arbour, seating, outdoor wood oven, reclaimed statue, and at the time of visiting the brick walls were 'hosting' a photographic/interpretation display of the life of local born aviator Amy Johnson.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The community garden itself is attractive with some interesting features. It is important that it is a low maintenance garden. However, this has to be balanced against some practicalities such as not allowing vegetable plots to be taken over by other plants, ensuring paths, walkways and access points are kept relatively clear. A plan to have a herb garden on top of a shed roof while no doubt adding some interest is hardly practical for picking purposes!
- Looking at encouraging wildlife into the garden is also another aspect that the group might like to consider for the future.
- Children, along with their families are involved in practical tasks at the community garden. The association are aiming to involve older children/teenagers, a step which is to be recommended and may be helped by the substantial grant awarded to Groundwork Hull for community development in the St Andrew's area of Hull.

High Green Methodist Church Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

The Church Garden is outstanding. The hard work of Janet and David is a credit to them. The mix of bedding plants and permanent planting are excellent. The choice of plants and layout is 'Heavenly' it has to be seen to be believed.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration;

- Maybe consider using plants that are mentioned in the bible, just to create a bit of extra interest.
- Consider having more posters displayed to promote the in bloom competition.

Hollins Hall, Hampsthwaite Gold Award

Overall Impression

Hollins Hall is a retirement village set in 700 acres of grounds with houses flats and bungalows strategically placed around the former home of the Tetley's brewing family

The grounds are widely planted with the residents contributing to the horticultural features as they are able and wish. There is a pond to the rear of the main house which filters much of the greywater from the village

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The summerhouse could benefit from a refurbishment and painting

Horticap, Harrogate Silver Award

Overall Impression

A very well run and happy establishment giving daily pleasure to its students. One almost a founder member now being in his 26th year. Visitors have much to see and enjoy, besides purchases and a very pleasant cafe. This venue is a complete haven for its students who, with guidance, are able to really pay back to society and enjoy a proper working relationship.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- After being up and running now for 32 years, constantly improving, everything is in control.
- It was a joy to see almost everything given is recycled and put to good use.
- The venue allows all age groups to enjoy themselves.
- With the minimum of paid staff and many willing adult volunteers, it makes it a happy place to work.
- Two student teams of outworkers serve the district

Knarsborough House Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

A beautiful Ginkgo bilabo under planted with summer bedding provides a focal point. There is a lovely meander around the back of Knarsborough House with unfolding walkway on relatively new pathways, The large grass area is well maintained despite the many events held there and the outdoor gym is well used. The Introduction of additional native trees around the site is important for the future along with the 5 year rolling programme of maintenance.

There is active involvement of community groups e.g. Pet Day, Social Events and Big Screen TV in addition to the everyday visitors. Perennial border developing well with colour Astrantia and Eryngium. Complimentary window boxes and baskets provide a lovely welcome which have reduced maintenance within this area now saving time.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Look to developing a compost area during the Autumn.
- Look at seating being replaced when required but could be improved visually
- Lovely display of bright pink bedding viewed from main road with tiering to show off tall Cannas lowering to smaller plants e.g. Dahlias etc. and textures, however specialist bedding 'L' in need of attention: feeding and watering to develop

growth and infill gaps together with regular deadheading would improve the visual appearance and achieve the outset goals of a 'picture framed display'.

- General maintenance of borders could be improved through removing Sycamore seedlings and Dandelions at front and consider more planting around the trees where areas look bare.
- Pruning Cotoneaster to define 'ball shaped' and Conifer more would prevent the Conifer from deteriorating and going brown. Consider developing this rock garden to compliment the overall bedding scheme and front of house display.
- Weed and Feed programme would develop the main lawn feature which could be addressed during the Autumn months.
- Disappointing to see 'dead' shrubs along the walkway which should have been removed/replace some time ago.
- Consider deadheading/cutting back perennials for additional flowers later in the season.

Northcliffe Environmental Enterprises Team (NEET) Gold Award

Overall Impression

This is a lovely and inspiring place to visit. It was wonderful to meet a team who give so much of their time and efforts to providing the best possible service to each and every one of their clients. It was lovely too to visit such a gorgeous, flowery place on a bright summer day. The floral impact on entering the site was tremendous. It was lovely to hear about the support the team get from the private and business communities, support that is richly deserved.

The ethos that every problem has a solution is impressive and inspiring. The use of planters, such as the train planter near the entrance is original and imaginative. The hanging baskets and planted wheelbarrows are bursting with well thought out colour schemes. The variety and quality of planting in them is impressive and the plant quality was good throughout. The imaginative use of donated materials is exceptional. It was good to hear of the collection of spring water for use on site. The use of a professional hedge layer is a good idea. The range of opportunities provided for clients is impressive.

It was good to see the attention to detail such as the auricular theatre, restored lamp post etc. It was good to hear about efforts to support wildlife.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Perhaps consider planting soft fruit, raspberries, strawberries, currants etc. which could result in the production of more items like the award winning plum jam!
- Consider a slight increase in the prices of the quality planters and birdfeeders etc. made on site.
- Improve signage on the drive up to the site.

Overgate Hospice, Elland Gold Award

Overall Impression

Overgate Hospice is a beautiful old house, donated to the community by Sylvia Groucob after her husband's death and developed by a Committee run by Dr Brian Quinn into the peaceful hospice it now is. The beautiful, immaculate gardens are superbly maintained by Phil on two days each week with the help of an excellent volunteer. Needing to raise £6,800 daily the Hospice organises Midnight Walks, Colour Runs and Lantern Floats as well as being supported by third party fundraisers such as The Elland Community Partnership and legacies.

The front of the lovely building is softened by delightful herbaceous borders, pergolas and seating areas used by day-care patients. Lots of vibrant pots of annuals lead past the side of the hospice which has a beautiful metal memorial tree on its wall with the names of patients making up its leaves. The carpark is flanked by evergreen shrubs leading into the lovely rear garden with its lawns, many trees and shrubs plus a delightful terrace and seating area bordered by colourful tubs and scented herbs such as Lavender, Mint and Rosemary. The bottom of the garden, with very pleasant views, has lovely borders of perennials and shrubs and a small vegetable plot, with an enclosed compost area and a log pile for wildlife plus a small natural area with bird boxes.

This tranquil area has a counselling room as a further comfort for patients and their relatives - in short - Overgate Hospice is truly a comforting and beautiful source of caring and solace for patients and their relatives in times of need and distress. Very well done for making a difference.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Just keep doing what you already are doing!

The Manor House, Knaresborough Silver Award

Overall Impression

From what was formerly a timber yard to a very cheerful display of flowers for residents and passers-by with white barked *Betula jacquemontii* providing vertical structures.

As a relatively newly completed home there is a colourful display largely provided by good quality annual planting is a pleasing sight for residents and passers-by. An automatic watering system for hanging baskets and border ensures continued vigour to the displays.

Lovely seating area which is well maintained to reflect the inside of this beautiful nursing home. The hard landscaping is clean and well maintained.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Good quality plant materials have been used with an irrigation system to reduce maintenance, consider assisting with mulching.
- Whilst the current display is cheerful the existing plant material is not providing a sustainable future thus the need to consider developing perennial areas which would help reduce the maintenance and cost of bedding plants twice yearly.
- The choice of bedding does not encourage insects consider other varieties with more open flowers to bring in more wildlife in future.
- The pruning of Buxus sempervirens needs to be done more carefully and not back to the brown. The hazel planted near the fence is wrongly positioned and will cause problems very quickly.
- A wonderful display of Lavenders attracting wildlife could also be used to engage residents in utilising the lavender for use indoors from bunches of lavender tied to lavender bags – something for the residents to enjoy making.
- We feel the need to engage residents more which could be achieved by creating raised beds and planting plants which they would like e.g. very scented Roses and an herb selection offering colours and textures. Consider upright shrubs which can be view by the residents in the small recessed areas. The existing displays are missed from the inside.
- Whilst the Betulas area is beautiful in their own right, far too many have been planted within the grounds, the future would see a shady garden, balding lawns and not aesthetically pleasing at the front. Towards the side/ back area consider plants of different varieties to bring in autumn fruiting varieties adding interest and encouraging bird life.
- Conifers planted to the rear need attention now to prevent them overshadowing the property whilst maintaining a good shape.

The Methodist Church, Barwick in Elmet Gold Award

Overall Impression

The Church stands in a strategic location within the village. The judges were very impressed with the overall planting scheme of the Methodist Church, especially the use of small pockets of shrubs and perennial planting around the perimeter complimented by containers for colourful bedding displays.

The fuchsia's colours complimented the formal bedding display which created a glorious colourful vision when approaching from the main street.

The strategic placement of pots with perennial planting continues to enhance the area. Paving and footpaths around the church entrance were all weed free and clean adding to

the overall standard. The enthusiasm from the group indicated a great sense of pride in their village.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The formal bedding displays at the front of the church could be further enhanced by placing feature dot plants in the centre of each of the two larger flower beds
- The volunteers who have cared for and produced the wonderful displays have to be congratulated and we felt there is a real opportunity for the group to encourage a couple of teenagers or younger residents in the village to help with future work and displays around the church. Perhaps using this as a trial to get younger people involved in the in bloom.
- The balance of perennial plants and bedding displays for the site is about right and it would be difficult to suggest adding further containers or planting to the area.

The Police Treatment Centre, Harrogate Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Visitors to this peaceful place are met with a calm and serene atmosphere which clearly does so much to help the patients here. It was lovely to meet the hardworking team who do their best to make the stay here a healing experience for those involved.

The border in front of the main entrance showed evidence of thoughtful planning and had a colour scheme which created a calm and soothing atmosphere.

The wildlife area, left unmown, around the border of the site is a good idea, providing the soothing feel of being in the countryside whilst still in the safety of the site.

The wildlife pond with ducks is a lovely feature as is the man made stream running between the two ponds with the soothing sound of running water.

The sensory garden has lots of impact. The planting is varied and includes planting for sound and movement, which is pleasing. The separate garden rooms within it, with seating provide an opportunity for privacy if needed. The inclusion of fruit trees is a good idea. The whole site is maintained to a high standard. The smooth paths providing access around the site are impressive.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Perhaps it might be possible to provide a seating area with tables and provision for shade close to the building and the bedrooms so that patients can just sit or even eat and drink in the open.
- Consider planting more fruit trees to create a little community orchard.

- Consider even planting some soft fruit which patients visiting the grounds could pick and eat.
- Consider planting more buddleia bushes around the site to bring in butterflies and other insects. The grounds have space to include the spectacular buddleia 'Dartmoor'.
- Consider the use of saddlebag planters on the railings outside some of the bedrooms so patients are met with colour and scent right outside and eliminating any trip hazard.
- Consider further planting on the pergola. If the soil were mulched and enriched to conserve moisture on the side away from the trees the rose Rambling Rector might work and would spread to cover much of the pergola. Otherwise perhaps varieties of honeysuckle might be suitable.
- Consider Lonicera nitida as an alternative to box planting.

Wetherby Manor Care Home Gold Award

Overall Impression

The gardens must be a delight to all who live and work at the home as well as those who walk past. There is a good variety of seasonal planting with perennials, shrubs and trees giving year-round delight. There is plenty of seating areas which are easily accessed and well laid out paths weaving between the floral displays.

The fountain in summer is replaced by the Christmas tree in winter and residents are consulted on planning and enjoying the edibles. Flowers are often taken indoors and there are growing competitions all adding to the enjoyment of their garden.

An automatic watering system for hanging baskets ensures continued vigour to the displays whose positions are rotated bringing shaded baskets into sunlight. Problem areas have been creatively improved.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- In order to extend interest perhaps cloud pruning would be an answer for the corner near the greenhouse.
- For the rock garden consider a "Japanese" type theme with a carefully pruned wisteria as focal point.
- Be wary of over pruning spring flowering shrubs in summer as this reduces the branches which bear the flowers.
- The apple trees would benefit from summer pruning.
- Continue investigating the possibility of reducing the overhanging tress.

Category 7A: Public Houses and Restaurants

Graveleys of Harrogate Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Graveley's is a seafood restaurant and takeaway in central Harrogate, well known in particular for its fish and chips. Its hanging baskets and window boxes full of the bright colours of summer annuals provide a wonderful eye-catching floral display for both residents and the many visitors to the town. In the winter months, the display encompasses winter pansies and primulas thus providing colour throughout the year.

Graveley's regularly take part in Harrogate in Bloom competitions and have been successful on several occasions as can be seen from the certificates and trophies on display within the restaurant. Their example has inspired other businesses in the area to follow suit and indeed they have provided advice and guidance to some of these. They also engage with a number of Harrogate events such as the Christmas light switch-on and the various cycling events that have taken part in the town in recent years.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Whilst appreciating the constraints of the type of floral display that is suitable for this business and location, Graveley's might like to look at ways in which they could improve their environmental credentials without impacting significantly on their wonderful display. These might include some form of perennial (perhaps evergreen) planting to provide the 'backdrop' to the annual displays, the use of reduced or peat-free compost (it wasn't clear at the time of the visit what type of compost was being used) etc.
- When displays are cleared, there may be opportunities to pass at least some plants on to other local organisations such as schools or local community gardening projects?

Pipe and Glass, South Dalton Gold Award

Overall Impression

Space is too restricted to do justice to the "Wow" factor of The Pipe and Glass. We were shown a wonderland of edible plants and flowers by James and Stephen who are obviously very passionate about growing flowers, nuts and berries, shrubs, vegetables and herbs to complement the food served in the lovely restaurant by James and his wife Kate. Hanging baskets, tubs, flower beds and the wonderful vegetable plot with its fence planted with herbs are all edible and used in the dishes and sauces on the menu and hens provide this gastro pub with all its eggs.

The rear gardens are a delightful haven for wildlife with bug huts and log piles, a wooded area with beautiful wooden sculptures of a stag and a deer. Wild garlic grows alongside snowdrops and daffodils in spring and the grassy banks at the front are covered in 1,000s of daffodils. There is a 500 years old Yew hedge and an apple tree grafted from Isaac Newton's original apple tree housed at York University and a topiary Holly and lots of topiary trees in tubs plus countless evergreens provide year round interest along with the polytunnel which extends the vegetable growing season.

Care for the environment is paramount with recycling of plants, composting and water butts for watering – no pesticides are used and even the indoor furniture is made from recycled wood. The Pipe and Glass is a hugely successful Gastro pub and James holds cookery schools in the lovely garden as well as appearing on television sharing his passion for using plants and flowers in cooking and as part of a healthy life. Well done to all concerned – a stunning and very innovative entry.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- With such an incredible use of all the plants in the garden, a summary for guests could be very interesting and informative plus maybe some discreet advertising of its entry in Yorkshire in Bloom.

Stansfield Arms, Apperley Bridge Gold Award

Overall Impression

It was lovely to visit the Stansfield Arms on a lovely summer day. The display makes a massive impact and is sure to encourage people passing by to visit. It added to the effect because the colour scheme of the planting complemented so well the colour of cushions etc. in the comfortable outdoor seating areas. It was good to see the enthusiasm of the owners who are clearly making a great effort to make their establishment as colourful and exciting as possible.

It is impressive that the owners have raised so much of the planting from plug plants and seeds and clearly made a good job of it. The quantity of plants raised is very impressive. A lot of thought had been put into the colour scheme and it made a tremendous impact. The plants were in excellent condition throughout.

It was good to see the posters featuring Yorkshire in Bloom in the bar. The growing of a variety of herbs for use in the restaurant is a good idea. The cushions and planting sharing the same colour scheme had great impact. It was good to see and hear about the nesting boxes and insect hotels nestling among the planting. It was pleasing to see that more compost had been added to the cart display in keeping with the recommendations of the judges last year. Maintaining the grass verges close to the business is a good idea and a credit to you.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- As the judges said last year, do keep the Virginia creeper off the roof and out of gutters whilst still keeping the richness of the creeper in other areas.
- Continue developing the planting of herbs for use by the chefs.
- Consider adding an owl or bat box somewhere in the grounds.
- Maybe consider pots of herbs or lavender near seating areas to bring in butterflies.
- Keep adding insect friendly planting to the beds.

The Box Tree Restaurant, Ilkley Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

The Box Tree Restaurant is located at the junction on the Main Road as you approach Ilkley, providing a welcome focal point for including visitors, where it has traded for about 50 years. It provides a most colourful show as well as being a quite dramatic building. The floral displays are quite outstanding, offering this year a range of pastel shades in pinks, oranges and yellows, the plants being interspersed with neatly clipped box topiaries.

The garden area is relatively small, bounded by a dwarf wall, and within that there are immaculate floral displays, the ground space being covered in an attractive gravel, being so much better as a background than trying to use grass.

The begonias are the dominant plants, but there are also hanging baskets featuring a wider range of plants and colours. On the Ilkley side of the premises there is a smaller area with well-trimmed evergreen shrubs, which complement the main displays perfectly. On the Cunliffe Road side a triangular shaped area is devoted to some low wooden raised beds, designed to fit the shape, which are filled with a variety of herbs, including colourful nasturtiums which the chefs use in the kitchen. Inside the reception area the management have displays of the awards won by the restaurant in Ilkley in Bloom and Yorkshire in Bloom. An excellent use of a very limited space both outside, and within reception.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- This establishment's horticulture is of a very high standard and at present the only feedback is to continue.

The Carpenters Arms, Near Thirsk Gold Award

Overall Impression

It is important for a business in this sector to have roadside impact to engage customers. The Carpenters Arms does this with style, the hanging baskets were excellent, and the box planters are well maintained.

The landscaping in the hotel area is purposely designed to provide privacy to each room, but is formed to ensure that each ground floor room has a view across the outstanding countryside. The use of herbs connects well with the catering and adds interest for customers.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider a way of retrying the peat free compost to see if the outstanding results can be consistently achieved.
- Continue the control methods being used against box blight and monitor the plants to ensure it does not get established.

The Old White Horse Brasserie, Bingley Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

This is a lovely place to visit on a sunny summer afternoon. The garden borders on to the river where there are herons and the water is so clean watercress can be harvested for use inside. The owners are clearly very enthusiastic and knowledgeable gardeners having raised many plants from seed or plugs. The establishment was welcoming and colourful.

The number of plants raised from seeds or plug plants by the owners is impressive. The quality of all the plants was very good and there was a good variety. The idea of concentrating on edible planting was an original one and one that will interest the customers.

The use of raised beds fitted in well with the character of the garden and complemented the original cobbles. It was good to hear about the bird boxes and insect houses being provided. The window boxes at the front of the building were colourful and well maintained. The idea of using an automatic watering system is a good one. The bay trees at the front entrance complemented the age and character of the building well. It was good to hear that no chemicals or insecticides are used.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider the use of tubs of flowering herbs to bring insect life into the garden.

- Consider using labels in the raised beds to make customers aware of what is growing.
- Try an experiment with one or two tubs to see if peat free compost will work for you.
- Consider getting more sustainable planting in the garden among the edible plants to give year round structure and interest.

The Winter Gardens, Harrogate Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

A very colourful entry with displays creates an inviting welcome at both the entrances. There are many floral containers around the site and this seems to be increasing. There is an unusual choice of dot plants in some of the containers with trachycarpus but this will enjoy the sheltered conditions. The heucheras used in some of the containers offer a change to seasonal bedding and bring a different leaf texture.

A good way of collecting the cigarette ends on the tables but the team need to be vigilant for stray ends around the outside space

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider more trailing plants in the containers to cover the coir liners
- Consider adding some small insect houses near the displays to make available some nesting sites
- If it is possible cut down (or replace with something smaller) the laurels at the rear entrance to allow the view to the entrance to be opened up
- Possibly double up the half baskets on the fences so the colourful baskets can be seen from the outside as well as the inside inviting more customers into the pub.
- Possibly another year consider a colour scheme of just 2 or 3 coordinating colours in all the containers
- Consider adding some small insect houses near the displays to make available for different types of bees (If you are interested I know a local group who might make them for you)

Three Horse Shoes, Oulton Gold Award

Overall Impression

A blaze of colour best describes what was seen at this thriving pub. With around 100 baskets, containers, troughs, pots and barrier planters employed to present a stunning floral display, using both seasonal and perennial planting. The pub building, car park area and hard standing areas all seamlessly presented as a single canvas by Norma and Geoff. A well designed watering system is used to help with maintaining the staggering

number of plants seen, but many hours a week are still needed to ensure the displays are kept in pristine condition. With a similar sized Winter/Spring display of bulbs and pansies to compliment the summer colour, it is easy to see where hard work and commitment are employed throughout the whole year. Congratulations for a job very well done.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The entrant has clearly many years and experience in presenting a wonderful and successful entry, and therefore not an easy task to improve on what is a tried and tested formula. However consideration could be given to planting additional perennials, such as Winter Jasmine to enhance winter colour in the car park area and help reduce the numbers of seasonal plants used.

Waggon and Horses, Todmorden Gold Award

Overall Impression

The Wagon and Horses certainly gives a "Wow" factor! It is a riot of colour with baskets, mangers and planters in abundance and very appropriately a cart beautifully planted. Planting is extremely varied and the whole effect stunning - even the car parking area is softened with appropriate planters. Congratulations on a wonderful entry.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Possibly consider a more extensive automated watering system.
- Notices advertising "Todmorden in Bloom" could help to publicise the group and maybe a "Welcome to Judges" sign
- We look forward to see the rear garden when it is developed.

Category 7B: Guest Houses, Holiday Cottages and Small Hotels

Basin Howe Farm Cottages, Sawden, Scarborough Gold Award

Overall Impression

The gardens at Basin Howe are beautifully maintained by owners Richard and Heather Mullin and surround the holiday cottages giving guests a wonderful, quiet setting in which to enjoy their stay. The many different areas of the garden, including the pond, are a haven for wildlife and the oriental garden is outstanding. An excellent entry.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to develop the fernery/ stumpery as this is creating an area for shade loving plants not represented elsewhere in the garden.
- There are many beautiful specimen trees in the garden at Basin Howe. However, in some areas the native tree cover is beginning to overwhelm them. Maybe, consider a programme of works over the next five years to thin and/or reduce the mature trees allowing light and space for the specimen trees to thrive.
- Consider the planting in the courtyard/patio area to give a little more range and variety of planting and all year round interest.
- The trees in the old orchard are beginning to reach beyond their mature years. Could some consideration be given to planting some young trees as replacements for when the inevitable happens and the older trees are lost.

Lumb-Beck Farmhouse, Addingham Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

Lumb Beck Guest House is situated in a very remote area of Addingham, Moorside, with marvellous views across this part of the Dales. The house was originally built in the 1600s, but has been totally rebuilt from a derelict shell by the present owners using all the original stonework, who have also created the garden from just a rough area over 40 years. The site covers almost an acre, and is on a variety of levels, and also has a stream running inside one boundary. It is a garden for all seasons, with appropriate and attractive features including trees, shrubs, flowers, fruit and vegetables.

Within the garden they have created informal lawned areas bounded by boundaries of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants and bulbs, and among the day of judging we noted agapanthus, various clematis, primulas, roses as well as a range of annuals, There had been soft fruits and there were good crops of runner beans, cabbages, cauliflowers, peas, etc., as well as tomatoes in the greenhouse which they have created, in an octagonal shape, incorporating the local stone; the octagonal shape is copied in the

vegetable beds and in a summer house. They have a small informal waterlily pond, the lilies being in bloom. On the patio they have old stone troughs filled with alpines, and to more clearly give access to cars they have newly built dry stone walls. It is amazing how much work has been done, and how much they still manage to accomplish. A superb location of calm, peace and beauty.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It is very difficult to see where new initiatives can be created; perhaps the stream could be opened up a little to good effect

Richmond House, Near Thirsk Gold Award

Overall Impression

The re-furbished cottage is enhanced by the well designed and well planted garden. The design seeks and achieves a long period of interest from the selected plants set off by a small area of lawn. Planting such as Malus Everest provide a living hedge that flowers, fruits and colours. On the day of the visit there were vast numbers of bees visiting the perennial plantings.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- This is a case of continue the high standard of maintenance that is carried out at the moment.

Category 7C: Large Hotels

Kings Croft Hotel, Pontefract Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

The Kings Croft Hotel and Restaurant has been used for many things since it was built as a private residence in the late 1800's. It is now a thriving business specialising in weddings, proms and numerous other high quality functions.

The grounds are well landscaped and planted with evergreen shrubs of varying sizes and colours which look attractive all year round. A wide stone path leads through an arch with a backdrop of mature trees, ideal for wedding photographs. A path lined with bay trees leads to the large under cover glass wedding venue which overlooks a newly planted wildlife pond containing fountains and a water feature with views across the rolling countryside.

The car park is well designed using gravel as a base to allow water to permeate through to the tree roots. The mixed boundary hedges give shelter to wildlife and make a natural boundary. Much of the water used is from a bore hole on the premises. There is plenty room for everyone outside and in with large windows of the dining area looking over the garden which help to make the hotel successful.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Re-plant the gaps in the boundary hedges with mixed species to support a wider diversity of wildlife.
- Consider installing an automatic watering system for the hanging baskets which will give a more even supply of water.
- The trailing plants in the hanging baskets did not cover the liner. Try sourcing baskets with more trailers. Doing this could make the main entrance a real wow factor.
- Go ahead with planting up the new wildlife area near to the proposed site of the new log cabins.
- While there are many mature trees on site, some are coming to the end of their natural lifespan. Seek professional advice and start to re plant trees to eventually take over from some of the older ones.

Middlethorpe Hall & Spa, York Gold Award

Overall Impression

As one approaches Middlethorpe hall you cannot help but be impressed with the 18th century house with its mellow red brick and limestone construction. This old brick feel, continues through the old stables, courtyard and the impressive walled garden and

grounds. Restored in the mid 1980's it is home to a great display of unusual, traditional and contemporary, plant and tree specimens. A delight to stroll and admire on such a warm judging day. Two full time staff are assisted with 'Friends of' volunteers and students from the nearby college, to tend this wonderful 20 acre estate. A plantsman's delight, with many features to admire throughout.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It was a missed opportunity not informing the day's residents of the judging visit. This could easily be a precursor to residents enquiring, visiting and admiring all your excellent work.
- A visitor guide for the garden would lift the entry profile.
- Information boards placed within certain beds or garden areas would soon inform or educate the reader to the many unusual and specimen plants /trees and features you clearly have pride in. These could with imagination act as an enhanced feature.
- The Judge understood the ethos of non-pesticide usage and commend the team for such. However non chemical and organic controls can be used to control the numerous outbreaks of aphid seen both in the ornamental and veg gardens.
- The maintenance of the paths and beds is managed to a very good standard however attention could be made to improve weed control in some of the flower beds and paved areas to bring the entry up to a consistent high standard.

Nidd Hall Hotel, Harrogate

Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

What a delight to share such a wonderful daily pleasure with so many visitors. Its outstanding care, thoughts and planning are enjoyed from every window. A great privilege to constantly returning visitors who on filling in their holiday end report consistently give the gardens a gardeners top marks, an unforgettable pleasure to see and enjoy its ongoing improvements.

The vast array of tastefully located gardens throughout its vast grounds and outside facilities for residents to partake, putting green, tennis, skittles, exercise machines and croquet.

All wildlife is catered for, bug hotels, bird feeding stations, hedgehog homes, owl boxes, a haven for all nesting birds. A large lake for larger birds to enjoy. Nature trails for every taste to enjoy.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- When you reach this standard of achievement from such a small group, its praise and acclaim not suggestion comments.

Raithwaite Estate, Whitby Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

It was obvious on turning off the main road into the Estate that this visit was going to be something special. The driveway through the ancient heavily wooded valley along the beck leads past the attractive and well landscaped new development to the Hall. The view from the manicured lawn terrace is superb. This being a green roof over an events suite. The Garden Map is very informative and leads the visitor to the many interesting features. The impressive gazebo is the central feature on the main lawn surrounded by a display bed and many well maintained beds edged with box on the slopes of the valley. The rhododendrons must be a spectacle in spring. The approach to developing and maintaining this Site of Interest for Nature Conservation is to be commended. It was encouraging to note the range of community events organised for children and wildlife groups, and the network of public footpaths maintained to an appropriate standard. Thank you Robbie and your enthusiastic team for an informative and enjoyable visit.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to review your choice of seasonal bedding to produce maximum impact over as long a season as possible.
- Some locations are not suitable for seasonable bedding and suggest you replant with perennials and/or ground cover. E.g. the top of the wall at the base of the laurel bank would be suitable for trailing specimens. Shady areas would suit hostas and perhaps variegated ivy.
- If your efforts of controlling box blight are not successful in the short term consider replanting with another species
- Consider developing the grass bank adjacent to the newly planted birch copse as a wild flower area with appropriate species for this north facing slope
- Some rose beds would look more attractive in summer if under planted in a similar fashion to the Margaret Merrill bed

Rogerthorpe Manor Hotel, Pontefract Gold Award

Overall Impression

The privately owned hotel provides immediate impact with its reclaimed architectural arches decorated sympathetically with vibrant colourful planting. Every area has been arranged to give a different perspective and identity, using varying shaped espaliers of

pyracanthus to enhance the stone walls; beautifully clipped and shaped shrubs and hedging of varying species and colours, one shaped like a Christmas pudding and decorated as such every year; surprise hanging planters dotted among hedges: a natural wildlife garden with a five star bug hotel.

The newly completed extension has been enhanced with mangers bursting with colour and thriving plants, raised beds with shrubs of varying heights and bright begonias with more reclaimed architectural features adding the finishing touch. Vic, who takes such pride in these gardens, with the most immaculate lawns, has an open ended budget and is to be congratulated on his dedication and choice of braces.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider planting herbs and aromatic plants such as lavender in the new raised planter near the Tardis.
- Consider extra wildlife areas where appropriate with a small water feature which would attract wildlife
- To provide extra interest and entertainment for the younger residents, consider providing a numbered nature trail around the hotel grounds.

Rudding Park, Harrogate Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Although recent extensive building additions have taken place, great efforts have been ongoing to create a new spa roof-top garden and surround landscape with surprising results. The old Kitchen Garden continues to supply all three on site kitchen demands. Everywhere throughout the park great emphasis is given on privacy creating a superb effect, numerous exhibits from previous Chelsea Flower Shows have been planted. Great success.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Teething troubles are apparent but are being addressed
- Creating pleasant gardens adjacent to the ground floor bedrooms, causes problems when noisy machinery needs to be used. A system is in place daily to inform all staff of movements which is of great importance to activities.
- I am sure now that all the building work has been completed the new planting scheme will establish and flourish and become an excellent enhancement to this hotel.

Tankersley Manor, Barnsley Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Tankersley Manor is a gold accredited Eco Hotel. It has introduced a bio mast plant for its new build. Nesting boxes are fixed to trees - some are occupied. Composting and water butts are evident. The wildlife area at the back of the hotel and the bug hotel all enhance this entry.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration;

- There were a few weeds in the footpaths
- As discussed - the bed that has mayors tail in probably will require replacing
- The hedging at the front of the hotel is tired. Consider using English Lavenders as a hedge, they will give colour and have sensory effects.
- As discussed - consider using alchemellia mollis (ladies mantle) and purple perennial geraniums in the empty bed. The use of perennial geraniums is a good way of increasing ground cover and creating colour.

The Principal York Hotel Silver Award

Overall Impression

Approaching the Hotel from the station side there are colourful displays of troughs and planters filled with seasonal bedding. The Refectory outdoor seating area is clean and well maintained, enhanced with troughs of colour making the area very attractive. There are more containers as you progress round the building which also adds to the impression of colour and care.

The drive at the front to the car park has well-presented grass verges with views to the right of the large garden and borders. The fountain has been cleaned and the area provides secluded area where guests can enjoy the tranquillity although in the centre of York.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The garden of a hotel is its shop window, it is the first thing a guest experiences and should very much be part of a hotel experience.
- The woodland area has huge potential to be a great place for guests to relax, this could be developed by extending the path and planting appropriate woodland plants. The edge of the woodland is a perfect area for introducing a wildflower area with spring bulbs.
- A circular or linear trail through the wood could be utilised for fitness.
- The woodland and strategic places in the borders would provide ideal sites for wildlife habitats which could be enhanced with boxes, shelters and bug hotels,

many guests will find pleasure in watching out for the wildlife. Interpretation boards would add another dimension.

- The old Herb Garden could be turned back into an herb Garden and the produce used in the hotel, herbs in cocktails and edible flowers in salads.
- Explanations could be given to guests enhancing the guest experience.
- Some borders, sadly are overgrown with weeds and time and attention needs to be spent on this. The border awaiting replanting must have ground elder eradicated before replanting to avoid future problems.
- The borders are full of lovely and interesting plants but serious maintenance is now required. Time and bodies are needed to fulfil this and at the right time of year, but it would be money well spent.
- The rooftop seating area would benefit from being more secluded and sheltered, good use of planting here would make this pretty simple to achieve. Water retaining gel could be used in compost for planters.
- This garden needs and deserves more time spent on it, dead heading and feeding would prolong and enhance the overall appearance and health.
- A summer house would offer shelter to enjoy the garden even if the weather is less clement.

West Park Hotel, Harrogate Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

The frontage of the building, although only separated by the pavement to a very busy main road was spotlessly clean. The side and rear very private seating areas are very tastefully planned. Again maintained to a high standard, lots of permanent planting, but others are grown in house within the group with interchangeable planting boxes for different seasons along the whole frontage. Being part of a large hotel group, the attention to planning and detail has to be commended.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Although there is lots of permanent planting, they would benefit from more added colour to match the front.
- Perhaps consider extending the permanent planting with topiary structures to the frontage balcony to compliment the array of trailing plants. Also the entrance would benefit with similar topiary to enhance and theme the hotel throughout.

Category 8A: Visitor Attractions

Keighley & Worth Valley Railway Gold Award

Overall Impression

Keighley and Worth Valley Railway is a top visitor attraction. It is steeped in history and as such clearly demonstrates its heritage. The railway is run by a team of 400 volunteers, who all make an amazing contribution. There are six stations all very different with their own features. Each one has a team of its own volunteers. There are beautiful gardens, floral displays and hanging baskets along the line and all areas are clean and tidy.

Budgets are tight so most planting is provided by volunteers. Plant selection is very good providing colour throughout the year and appropriate to the area. Additional help is provided by young people and other organisations. The signage and information is excellent throughout providing visitors with ample opportunities to experience the very important history and features of this railway. There is good evidence of consideration for wildlife and interest for children. There are good plans for the future and a lot of enthusiasm

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- There is an amazing amount of work to be done here, often in very difficult growing situations, due to the terrain and the poor quality soil as a result of ash being deposited along the line for many years. It has been done successfully in places so just keep going.
- Try to keep on top of the growth of tree shrubs and plants.

Knaresborough Castle Gold Award

Overall Impression

A beautiful Castle in the heart of Knaresborough offering a variety of interesting features for all to enjoy.

The Castle provides a diverse selection of interesting features: views across the town to areas for all ages to sit, relax, enjoy carpet bedding and enjoy the Mosaic historic display or even watch a game of bowls.

Good wildlife maintenance programme in place around the Castle grounds with pockets of carpet bedding strategically placed to capture the best shots of the viaduct and designs made by the local school children. Events regularly take place and provide an interesting Trail for visitors. Staff dedication provides a well maintenance Castle for all to enjoy.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Development of an irrigation system along the perennial border would help to develop the plants which are shaded by overhanging but beautiful tree canopies. Some reduction of overhanging branches may be a solution.
- May need to consider a hand rail at the entrance to encourage more disabled access/use of steps.
- The hand rail on outer wall near memorial is in need of attention.

Ripon Racecourse Gold Award

Overall Impression

Known as the Garden Racecourse it lived up to this tag. The annual bedding was excellent and although seasonal one has to bear in mind usage of the venue is mainly April to September. 12-15000 bedding plants are used and 25% are grown on from plugs with the remaining 75% being grown from seed. There is a move to more sustainable planting with the main parade ring mainly perennials. There are 80 troughs and tubs and 40 hanging baskets as well as extensive bedding. The telephone box planters are unusual and outstanding. Continuity is provided by Bellis and Polyanthus early in the season followed by the summer bedding. Grassed and hardstanding areas are extremely well maintained.

On the environmental side rainwater is collected in the old septic tanks, all compost is produced in house with any excess being donated to the local allotments, all picnic benches are recycled plastic. Ripon racecourse was the first in the country to have a children's play area. There are excellent mature trees but looking to the future others are being planted.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Re- think the use of coleus in the troughs these were not successful.
- More sustainable planting should be in the future plans – the judges understand this is the case but look forward to seeing this.

The Forbidden Corner, Middleham Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

With over 100,000 visitors and being 1000ft up in the dales there are a number of challenges in developing and maintain the green parts of the site. The seasonal planting mainly in planters were excellent, possibly being in less visited areas of the site.

The design of Forbidden Corner is to provide excitement for visitors using plants to divide areas and hid areas so it is understandable that they become worn and would not have a place in a formal garden but they are fine in these circumstances.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The herb garden with the magic fountain is part of the visit but also needs to provide plant interest during the open season, as well as been planted with tulips. It may be worth considering more Buddleia as larger plants and use plants such as phlox in the areas planted with tulips to give a continuation of colour.

The Treasurers House Gold Award

Overall Impression

Hiding behind hedges this is a jewel well worth seeking out and clearly enjoyed by a multitude of visitors of all ages.

The garden is sympathetically designed to reflect the architecture and is beautifully maintained by staff and volunteers who clearly share the passion as no power tools are used.

The colour pallet is of blue and white, not the easiest for year-round colour, but the displays surrounding the well-kept lawn, were a delight enhanced with a mix of textures utilised to beneficial effect. The raised viewing area now gives a different view of this jewel.

Sadly Grace Court herb garden is not open to the public, but it is being developed further to provide cut flowers for use in the house and restaurant. Here, also, is the evidence of recycling and wildlife habitats which include a bee hive.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Perhaps to look at veteranizing the existing historic trees - perhaps putting them on a retrenchment program and putting up signage to educate visitors.
- The Herb Garden would benefit from being more productive in its crops, possibly growing more herbs and edible flowers, displaying in the house and using in the restaurant with an explanation for diners.
- Apple trees would benefit from summer pruning.
- If at all possible; a bigger budget would allow and assist with the progress and future of this beautiful little garden.

York Racecourse Gold Award

DUE TO UNEXPECTED EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE JUDGES REPORT HAS BEEN DELAYED.

Overall Impression

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

Yorkshire Lavender, Terrington, York Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

Yorkshire Lavender was a pleasure to visit even on the wettest of days. Lavender is not the only thing you'll find when you drive through the gates. Stunning views across the 60 acres of gardens, rolling hills, water features, bog garden, sensory and dry gardens, the white deer attraction, art in the landscape and a warm welcome in the cafe and shop.

Over 40 varieties of lavender are grown here, and both Julia and Nigel, inspire you to seek out different forms that will suit your garden. Ideas of companion planting are abound, and features like the wobbly walk, the maze and snakes and ladders, along with the new play area, look to keep the kids involved too.

The herbaceous borders are spectacular, and the lavender beds for commercial oil production, the terraced meadows, wildlife pond and new lily pond, and woodland area can all be explored, beyond the blue gates...the novel "cricket match" up on the hill brings a smile, and a rest at the cafe further inspires the use of lavender for recipes, herbal infusions and more. It's a treat for all the senses.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It was good to hear that the business supports over 35 members of staff, including lots of young people, and how students come back each year.
- The ideas of offering different workshops through the year to schools, floral groups and the public can only inspire the wider use of lavender and it's many benefits.
- The amphitheatre lends itself to music performances in the summer months, which would again add to the many features on offer.

Category 8Ba: Business Premises Small

David Higgins Hairsalon, Pocklington Silver Award

Overall Impression

David's Hair salons frontage is covered with a mixture of seasonal and sustainable planting, giving the hair salon a unique and special feel to the local community. David is clearly passionate about his garden and every space is used to show off his unique style of planting.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Look into using containers with reservoirs and or a wetting agent in the compost to help reduce water usage.
- Consider extending the central raised bed to reduce the use of pots around the front edge of the display
- Introduce more perennials into the planting which would help to encourage biodiversity of the garden.
- Look into installing water butts to reduce water usage.

Filey Bistro & Coffee Bar Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

It was just an ordinary café from the main street with a couple of tubs outside the entrance but a careful look up the alley way make you think that this entry is something different.

The courtyard at the rear of the premises has been turned in to a beautiful dining area with good quality seating and parasols with the walls and planting beds full of quality plants. Floral containers and hanging baskets provided splashes of colour to compliment the wide range of perennial plants and low growing trees, taking advantage of the sheltered environment including some scented plants.

The wisteria pagoda provided shading to some of the tables in this sun trap courtyard. The plants spill out in to the ally way up the side of the Bistro and Coffee Bar and all the plants are tended by the staff with watering taking place early in the mornings before start of business. A very colourful entry.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- There is a need to demonstrate a link with Filey in Bloom campaign through posters or publicity which would show a commitment to the town's entry and could act as a catalyst for business nearby.

- The entry has potential to be marketed at tourists and visitors to the resort.
- It will be a challenge to keep some of the trees in check to avoid them dominating the space. Careful pruning will be required each year.
- It would pay to upgrade the two tubs at the Bistro entrance to make them more colourful and use the displays to attract customers in to the premises
- There may be a future need to look at some form of automatic watering to some of the established planting to reduce the daily watering workload

Hutton Cranswick Fisheries Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Situated on the main High Street through Hutton Cranswick this small family run business puts on a very good floral display not only for customers but adds to the overall attraction of Hutton Cranswick. Attractive hay racks and baskets adorn the front of the building which has very little space, but gives the area a lift with colourful plants. The owner should be proud of not only running the business but also putting on a colourful display outside for others to enjoy.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration;

- Well-coordinated floral displays in each hay rack and baskets.
- Maintained to a good standard and for size of area owner has done well.
- Consider self-watering system to assist in maintaining display.

James White High Class Butchers Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression;

One of the few remaining family butchers in the area not only selling fine meat but also producing colourful floral displays both inside and outside the small shop situated along the main high street in Hutton Cranswick. Although only having a small area to work in, the planters outside the shop give maximum impact and add to the overall floral display in the village. Plants inside the shop window give extra colour to the display and are grown to give long term colour throughout the summer then changed to give long term colour in the winter months. A very good effort for such a busy small business. Floral planters outside the shop give colour to the area and make it more attractive. Very clean area both inside and outside the premises.

Well done.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration;

- Liked the idea of a butchers bike and basket for the future. Make sure it's secure to the fence.

Mount Pleasant Kennels Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

As you enter the gates of these premises you enter a beautiful landscaped garden, which immediately gives the impression that this is a good caring place where your cats and dogs can be left with confidence knowing that they will be well looked after. Alex and Sandra have built up this successful business to such an extent that advertising is no longer needed. Stan the gardener obviously loves this garden which he has developed over the last 10 years starting from scratch. He grows a lot of the plants himself and likes to develop something new each year. There is a good mixture of sustainable planting with some bedding to add colour.

Everything is very clean and tidy, and designed round the natural environment with its stone walls and trees, taking into account the needs of the animals they look after including the lovely aquatic area for the cats to look at!

Judges feedback on areas for consideration;

- The way in is difficult to find so improved signage from Moss Carr Road might help.
- Stan obviously loves this garden and likes to develop something new every year while maintaining this very high standard and hope this continues

Paul Harrison Cars, Hutton Cranswick Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

There are not many working garages which would put on a floral display like Paul Harrison cars do. Pleased to say the floral displays have been carried on with the next generation of the family. The petrol pumps may no longer exist but colourful planters can be seen in their place. As well as planters more permanent planting can be seen along the boundary palisade fencing. This helps not only to break up the look of fencing but also to screen the large warehouse type buildings at the rear not belonging to the garage. Well done for going that extra mile in putting out floral displays at a busy working garage along a busy main road. Well done

Judges feedback on areas for consideration;

- Continue with screening of fencing. May consider some self-clinging climbers.
- Baskets and containers great but may consider removing fuchsias in pots from pump areas. Small leaved variegated ivy would train along chains to give better impact.

Category 8Bb : Business Premises Large

Country Style Foods Ltd, Leeds Gold Award

Overall Impression

This modern day craft bakery clearly wants to make an impression. The walk to the reception through the car park is a delight with a staggering display of colour everywhere. Both customers and staff can't fail to be impressed by the sheer volume and quality of the seasonal and perennial plantings across the site. With a well thought out watering system, recycling of green waste and used food ingredient containers, a second stored set of containers for the next season's bulb display, and whole hearted commitment from Christine and her colleagues, others will have to try very hard to emulate this impressive entry.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Clearly a successful entry with experience over the years to produce a display of merit. There may be the opportunity to challenge the entry with the use of additional perennial plantings for improved autumn and winter colour with a green wall concept on the car park retaining wall.
- Also consideration could be given to introducing winter flowering and berried shrubs, supported and trained along the wooden panelled fence line.

Farm Shop at Cranswick Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Hutton Cranswick Farm Shop is a newly developed site which has only recently opened but will develop for the future. Everything is new at the moment but plans to develop the site will take time. With 32 full and part time staff the site was certainly busy with an extensive car park area at the front and seating / grass area at rear. There are plans for a children's play area and seated picnic area all of which will enhance this site. Good to see such a development and all good for visitors to Hutton Cranswick

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Wild flower strips along boundary fence until shrub planting becomes established.
- Plant fruit trees at the rear of farm shop,
- Good paved seating area at rear of farm shop may be expanded as visitor numbers grow.
- Both play area and picnic areas good ideas for the future

Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate Gold Award and Joint Category Winner

Overall Impression

The Great Yorkshire Showground encompasses many different areas. Within the actual showgrounds, used for several large events though the year, there are formal areas, woodland/wildlife areas, ponds, a school garden, an orchard and functional areas such as the show ring. Additionally, the Regional Agricultural Centre comprising offices and Fodder (a café and farm shop), and Pavilions (an event centre) have adjacent beds and borders. An important element in the varied plantings is that they should be appropriate to their function and this has been successfully achieved. A drystone wall 'theme' links buildings and features across the site.

Addressing environmental sustainability is a key theme, from the use of grey water in some buildings, recycling and encouraging wildlife to name but a few initiatives.

The grounds are used throughout the year for educational purposes and the organisation has good links with neighbouring community action groups. They have also used in Bloom as a successful tool to bring together staff from across their site to work on a project to tidy up and replant an area of the showground

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consideration might be given to looking at some additional interpretation in certain areas of the site (e.g. the woodland and school garden) for the benefit of show visitors and others attending for educational events.
- The planting on Pavilion Road was a little sparse in one or two places possibly due to the growth of the adjacent trees over the last few years. Staff are aware of this and I am sure will be addressing this in due course.

Park Fisheries, Beeston, Leeds Gold Award

Overall Impression

This well-known establishment continues to excel in its annual floral displays in what is a compact area. The floral display benefits the business but also has a dramatic and positive effect on the whole area providing reward for the work that goes into producing the colour coordinated seating area, the coordination includes wall painting and the material used for the shades.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration;

Please continue to provide the display for your business and to the benefit of the community

Proudfoot Supermarket Newby Gold Award and Joint Category Winner

Overall Impression

Proudfoot Supermarket at Newby is situated on the busy Whitby to Scarborough Road and attracts much attention from passing traffic and local residents alike. The flower baskets and mangers are of an excellent quality and are placed on three sides of the building. There is ample advertising of the Yorkshire in Bloom Competition and the company are extremely supportive of local community groups throughout the area. An excellent entry with a definite WOW factor.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- An excellent entry. Could some thought be given to adding floral enhancement to the other stores in the group?
- There is some perennial weed growing in the shrub borders which could be easily dealt with and maybe some attention could be given to the main entrance to the car park which is a little untidy compared to the rest of the property.

Category 8C: Shopping Centres and Retail Parks

Airedale Shopping Centre, Keighley Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

The Airedale Shopping centre is a bright and welcoming place to visit. Clearly the management and tenants are proud of the site and it shows. The pride which the management and staff take in their work is impressive. The involvement of the centre in the ongoing life of the town and in supporting local groups with their efforts is also impressive.

Plant quality throughout the centre is good, baskets and planters bursting with bloom. The fig trees planted in the centre are a lovely feature. The Overall Impression of a watering system was a good idea. The number of hanging baskets around the centre is pleasing. The recycling initiatives are very productive and worthwhile. The events held in the centre really benefit the community. The whole centre was clean, litter and graffiti free and it was pleasing to see that chewing gum was being well controlled. It was pleasing to see that efforts to develop a relationship with the bus station as recommended last year are on-going.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration;

- The work with charities is already impressive. A suggestion could be to use one or two planters to show support for particular charities by planting in their colours, gold for childhood cancer awareness or pink for breast cancer awareness perhaps.
- The planting to add interest and soften the car park area is a good idea. Perhaps investigate plants which are useful in dry shady conditions, and experiment with their use.
- To foster even closer community links invite local schools to design planting for one planter each year and celebrate their efforts.

Crystal Peaks Shopping Mall & Retail Park, Sheffield Gold Award

Overall Impression

Crystal Peaks is a busy shopping centre well used by the local community and beyond. On entering the site passing immaculately presented sponsored roundabouts which the complex sponsors you are welcomed by well-maintained soft landscaping interspaced between the many car parks.

The management and maintenance team are forward thinking in all aspects of conservation, horticulture and community involvement and are rightly proud of their achievements.

The quality and choice of plants used throughout the site is excellent whilst the areas of hard landscaping were well kept and litter free. Overall an excellent example of a shopping complex who deals with waste responsibly and efficiently whilst demonstrating excellent horticultural excellence!

Judges feedback on areas for consideration;

- The 'Living Wall' is a fantastic floral concept and if funds allow should be replicated around other parts of the mall.
- The management of the wildflower meadow and area of adjacent banking could benefit from the recommendations of a wider professional audience. The pulling and removal of Ragwort from site and the removal/thinning of self-setts could be included in a specific management plan.
- Enhancing the available green space with the addition of strategically placed flower beds utilising sustainable planting may add interest/variety.
- A visit to the bee hives and glasshouses/ nursery may be beneficial on future judging tours.
- Showcase successes brought by community engagement / working with other stakeholders
- Minimise the use of herbicide by utilising wood chippings as a mulch across the site, work towards a herbicide free environment.
- Look at providing an interpretation panel for the wildflower garden possibly aimed at younger members of the community.

Flemingate Centre, Beverley Gold Award

Overall Impression

Flemingate Shopping Centre is a new and developing centre ideally located close to the Railway Station and a short walk from the main town of Beverley. On the day of the judging the centre was free from litter and graffiti. The sustainable planting around the main centre and play area had a good choice and variety of evergreen shrubs which complimented the excellent vibrant hanging baskets. The use of artificial lawns works well within the landscaping adding visual impact and obvious usability. Good partnerships developing with the shop watch scheme and the college.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Develop links with the town centre through interpretation/signage, a co-ordinated engagement with the Town Council should be explored to create a designated route from/to the town centre.
- Complement existing hanging baskets with floral towers/planters within the hard landscape of the development
- Focus on providing bio-diversity by considering the sowing of wildflower species and providing habitats in suitable locations.

- Consider small scale events to utilise space – small scale farmers market / specialist pop up market?

Market Cross, Selby Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Market Cross is a bright and interesting place to shop and a valuable addition to Selby. The development of the centre is very much in keeping with the rest of the town which is very pleasing. The development of shop fronts in a traditional style and colour is very much in keeping with the town.

The use of York stone for paving is very appropriate. Events in the centre such as the Food Festival are a good idea. The watering system for the baskets is good. The planting throughout the centre was bright and colourful and in good condition. The use of wooden litter bins was a creative idea. The Hub is a lovely area for shoppers to sit and chat. Working with the Brownies to plant herbs around one of the benches is a good idea.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration;

- At the market entrance the names of some traders are shown with the same prominence as the centre name, consider making the centre name bigger or clearer than the rest.
- Consider using scented planting for shoppers to enjoy in the Hub area.
- Consider having welcoming signs at the other entrances to the centre.
- When the herb bed is planted perhaps nearby traders would have recipe leaflets for herb use available for shoppers to take.

Woolshops Shopping Centre, Halifax Gold Award

Overall Impression

A delightful welcome awaited the judges with cheerful hanging baskets leading us down a very clean open shopping space. The site offers a tempting desire to return and explore further. A new Overall Impression has been appropriate circular seating to compliment the design of the hard landscape materials.

Management are heavily involved in a 5 year strategic and operational development plan to continue to implement small and larger projects. Strategically placed planters which look beautiful – the hidden agenda being to deter unwanted vehicles from this pedestrian area – a well thought out plan providing colour and security simultaneously.

Recycling of all the waste from the shop keepers and by the management team is exemplary with zero materials going to landfill due to the extensive recycling facilities available within the site.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The site could be further enhanced using a Winter Planting Palette of Shrubs, Perennials and Annuals encouraging sustainability.
- Consider water harvesting around the projects
- Continue to develop the Bicycle display by offering 'Help Yourself Edibles' to community groups.

Category 8D: Caravan, Camping and Chalet Parks

Harrogate Caravan Park Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

After standing vacant for several years, Harrogate Caravan Park was re-opened in 2014 following a full refurbishment. Since then the site has continued to be improved, with feedback from customers being integral to this process. Aside from the mowed lawn areas, the site includes perennial and annual plantings, trees, and wildlife areas. A particular feature of this site is the range of unusual and imaginatively used containers, from the more conventional beer barrels to milk churns, tyres (also doubling up as protection for low level lighting) and pallets adapted in a number of ways including a vertical herb garden, a 'floral sheep' display, and a 'hospital' bed to nurture donated plants.

Recycling and re-using is a key theme of the site, an example being old agricultural implements retrieved from the adjacent showground provide an interesting display adjacent to the campsite reception and reference the park's links with the Yorkshire Agricultural Society. The site is clean, tidy and maintains a good balance between looking attractive, being appropriately functional, and having good environmental credentials.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- This is an excellent entry, so keeping up the good work is very important!
- In some of the wildlife areas it might be possible to put some interpretation/guides as to what might be found there.
- Pallets are well used at the site for a number of features. A 'bug hotel' made from pallets (and other materials) can be an attractive feature in a wildlife area as well as providing shelter for a range of creatures.

Weir Caravan Park, Stamford Bridge Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

The judges were given a warm welcome by Jeff at Weir Caravan Park. The site is well maintained with some striking perennial planting around the utility block to the main site whilst the touring site was tranquil and blended into its natural settings which makes it a unique holiday setting if you wish to be away from the hustle and bustle of modern life.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It would have been nice to see some interpretation on site about the history of the canal that cuts the site in half.
- The floral displays outside the reception area would benefit replacing with self-watering planters that could be moved by a trolley truck in case of flooding.
- Try to encourage water collection from the caravan's roofs to help reduce water usage for their floral displays.
- To encourage caravan owners to get involved with in bloom you may want to introduce an internal in bloom competition.
- More could be made for the new visitor of the conservation award by adding interpretation of the species to be found on site.

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

Brodsworth Hall and Gardens, Doncaster Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

Visiting the site in glorious sunshine was always going to help show this entry in all its glory but the judges were simply blown away by the stunning grounds and incredibly high level of maintenance displayed here. The knowledge of horticulture applied here is at its highest level and is testament to the hard work and dedication of both paid staff and volunteers.

Highlights are many: The magnificent, ancient Lebanon Cedar which predates the hall and the giant Californian Redwood are 'must sees' for tree lovers; the superb collection of bedding complementing a vast array of herbaceous plantings all which were almost totally weed free, the charming Fern Grotto – the only one of its kind in the country; and the exquisitely maintained hedges and shrubs.

Amazingly, there are major ongoing restorative projects about to start to compliment these features even further. All who are involved with this site have definitely provided the 'WOW' factor!

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The judges would like, if at all possible, to see evidence of nest boxes and or bat boxes, but we understand the restrictions in place. Perhaps these and some wildlife interpretation could be provided in less 'informal area'.

Cannon Hall & Gardens, Barnsley Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Cannon Hall is a much loved and well used country Park in Barnsley. The gardens are well maintained with many old varieties of plants and fruit. The hall has a very active friends group and with the lottery grant things are going in the right direction

Judges feedback on areas for consideration;

- Consideration should be taken when implementing the major changes that are to be planned. Try to maintain what is already there to a higher standard before implementing too many changes.
- Consider if the new changes, once implemented can be maintained - i.e., are more staff or funding required for the years further on?
- Continue to encourage the good work undertaken by the green works team.

Cliffe Castle Park, Keighley Silver Award

Overall Impression

Cliffe Castle is an important and lovely resource for the people of Keighley and visitors from further afield. It was lovely to meet the enthusiastic and committed people who are working to improve it further.

It is still very early days for Cliffe Castle but the new hot houses will be a wonderful feature when completed and planted. The lake is still under redevelopment but when finished will have great impact. It is lovely that the bandstand is being redeveloped.

The new planting is developing well and it will be lovely to return and see it when it is completed and settled in. It is a good idea to retain and develop the grotto area.

Judges feedback on areas for improvement;

- Consider alternatives to box for edging etc. due to the problem with box blight which has damaged gardens round about.
- Consider interpretation boards to inform visitors about the grotto area.
- Consider developing areas of the park to benefit wildlife and consider areas of scented and insect friendly planting near the buildings and where people sit.
- Perhaps a planted area around the restored bandstand might further enhance the area.

East Park, Hull Gold Award

Overall Impression

This is a Green Flag Park which was welcoming to its visitors. It was diverse in that it provided most of what any visitor would require from formal beds to bowling greens with bikes and many activities provided for its visitors. A wonderful wildlife section was used for visitors and the education centre had children from a school enthralled for their full day visit.

Recycling and good cleaning ensured the Park looked good even though it was raining throughout the visit. An active friends group of 200 members supports the work done by the city council workers. An excellent clock feature had recently been installed. A number of codes of practice were noticeable for dog owners and fishermen on the lake. CCTV was in evidence throughout the park and this was linked to the City-wide scheme. A lovely Park to visit.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It would be helpful to the judges to have a short portfolio before judging so we can be aware of points being shown on the tour.

- Consideration for the tree that had fallen on the Mount to be made into a chainsaw art model to fit in with the view over the park from this point.
- In the area around the memorial to those who had fallen in the wars perhaps an area of wildflowers to commemorate the Great War could be considered
- A number of perennial weeds such as Ragwort and Willow herb spoil the effect around parts of the park, Could this be something that the friends could perhaps tackle to stop the weeds taking control
- Around the Pavilion with its nice water features it would be nice to have some literature or signage to tell the story of the area.

Elsecar Park & Nature Reserve, Barnsley Gold Award

Overall Impression;

Elsecar Park is a well-used and well maintained park. There has been some amazing work undertaken by the small group of volunteers and dedication of staff. Excellent idea to use sheep to keep the grass short on the reservoir banking. Lovely maintained area around the bandstand. Lots to mention including a bird hide, memorial benches, bird feeders and the walk-a-mile project.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration;

- Consider replacing the litter bins
- Consider repainting of railings and gates
- Consider introducing some floral containers/baskets around the cafe area.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Homestead Park Gold Award

Overall Impression

Homestead Park is a private Joseph Rowntree Foundation owned park open to the public for the people of York. What a sheer delight it must be for the nearby residents to have this facility within their community. This well maintained, exquisitely designed and planted park has many superb features to enjoy, not least the herbaceous border, formal gardens and the imaginatively designed dementia garden. Offering play facilities is nothing new but Homestead now have an outside class room in lower meadow for the Forrest Group and Clifton Green Primary School who come twice a week to learn through exploration, play and nature in an inspiring setting. Pride and dedication to work is evident in the staff and managements enthusiasm and quality of design and execution of the flower bed plantings. This year the honeycomb design features are expertly enhanced with the giant willow beehives and honeypots, and the nectar feeding giant bees. On the day of judging many visitors were clearly enjoying these features with a steady stream of picture taking. Well done to all involved.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Creating a friends group and the community garden project will act as a link between JRF and the community.
- The serpentine path highlighted on the tour does need replacing. The 1970s crazy paving is not always good for access and weed control, and replacement would enhance the area and accessibility for all.
- The judge agrees with the site management that the Cherry Walk trees are nearing the end of their life span, and total replacement looking to the future is the way forward. If finance allowing a one hit replacement would be more effective than a phased redevelopment.
- The addition of the popup café is an asset to the park. Development of a permanent site and visitor attraction facilities will open up the possibilities for the park as a venue for many more varied events.

Lister Park, Bradford Gold Award

Overall Impression

Lister Park is a wonderful resource for the people in Bradford and indeed in a wide area round it. It was lovely to visit it on a nice, sunny summer day and to meet some of the dedicated team who work so hard to make the park the best it can be. The variety of features in the park is impressive and it was good to hear how closely the park and museum team are able to work together for the benefit of the community.

The use of areas of bedding in front of the museum has masses of impact and is very appropriate to the site. The beds of sustainable planting among the bedding areas is a good idea and the various beds worked well together. There were clear and accurate maps to show visitors the position of features in the site. Providing an outdoor gallery where local schools can display work is a good idea. It was good to hear of the many community groups who make use of the park and the inclusive cycling project is a wonderful initiative.

Using barley straw extract to clear the lake is a great idea, no chemicals. The exploration trail for children and the geological trail are a great idea for younger visitors. All the paths and hard landscaping was well maintained and there is no dog fouling or litter or graffiti visible in the park. The Botanical Garden is very impressive and a great credit to the park, a tranquil, cool oasis in the middle of a busy city.

The canal garden is a unique feature. It was pleasing to see well used facilities such as the children's playgrounds and multi-use courts. Everywhere the maintenance was of a high standard and the plant quality good.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider clearer signposting for the main car park.

- Consider developing the sensory garden further to include a wider range of plants and possibly consider replacing the sensory garden sign.
- It was good to hear that Eid prayers take place on site but perhaps an informal approach might be made to other religions in the area so that they are fully aware that they too are welcome to use the site in the same way and that the park welcomes all religions.
- If possible consider a bed based on bee friendly planting which other people might get ideas from for their own gardens.

Newby Hall Gardens, Ripon Gold Award

Overall impression

Horticulture and visitor attraction is very impressive with much diversification. On the horticultural side much of the propagation for the gardens is done in house. There are clear views for the future with ongoing plans to open up vistas within the garden. Good interactivity of the gardeners with the visiting public. School groups are welcomed and volunteers are given much information about the planting and gardens.

Grassed and open areas are well maintained and there is a complete lack of litter, graffiti etc. The new Doll's House display and the Bear House create other interesting areas and give a degree of weather independence. The work with Jennyruth workshops is also to be commended.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Where areas are seasonable e.g. laburnum walk it would be good for the visitor to see an information board with the area at its best when this is out of season – this is on the web-site but not in the garden.
- Possibly a leaflet with plans for the future
- Leaflet on the historical side of the garden
- A horticultural guide to the garden?
- Again with the seasonal items it would have been beneficial to the judges to have pictures of these when at their best.

Oakwell Hall and Country Park, Birstall Gold Award

Overall Impression

In order to continue to meet the severe budget cuts, the service supporting Oakwell Hall has been re-structured, the new structure only recently being put in place. In spite of this it was a privilege to meet such enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff. They are continuing to run the country park dealing with around 350,000 visitors as well as implementing further changes largely aimed at increasing income. They are supported by volunteers who contributed over 5,000 hours of work and a friends group who assist at big events apply for grants and so on.

A considerable investment has been made to the hall and out buildings including new interpretation material and methods such as pictures that talk to visitors.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The success of increasing income will depend on the condition of the gardens, car parks and facilities so it is important that these are maintained and as opportunities occur invested in.
- Attracting financial and physical support for the park from local companies helps not only with the running of the place but ensures it is part of the community.
- Whilst the input from volunteers is impressive and needs to continue, always be aware that this is only achieved with management time being invested into volunteering.

Pannett Park, Whitby Gold Award

Overall Impression

Pannett Park has a wide range of attractions, informative and entertaining features, many of which date back to the 18th century when it was developed as a 'Pleasure Ground' for the health and wellbeing of the residents and visitors to Whitby. In recent years these features and facilities have been upgraded, enhanced and new attractions added. The Friends of Pannett Park in cooperation with the Local Authority staff have achieved a great deal, being awarded significant Lottery funding to carry out refurbishment works.

The knowledge, enthusiasm and dedication of the Friends and Parks staff is impressive, as is the numerous and wide range of events organised by the group – workshops, family fun days, visits etc. The numerous leaflets included in the publicity pack, guides and informs the visitor through the Tree Trail, Jurassic Garden, Works of Art and of course the Museum. The restored floral clock is a real gem! The publicity display promotes what's on offer in the oasis of this 'Pleasure Ground'. Congratulations on being awarded 'Green Flag' status for the eighth consecutive year – well deserved!

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The planned entrance pillars on Chubb Hill Road will further enhance this area
- You may wish to consider increasing the diversity of species in the wild flower areas to give a longer period of interest to the benefit of wildlife
- Carefully consider the maintenance and treatment of the steep slopes at the Newton Street entrance.
- Encourage participating groups in the Community Garden to further develop areas of interest and productivity.

- Consider some planting to provide a 'back cloth' to the shelter at the end of the lily pond.
- I would encourage you to seek additional active members of Friends to enable you to continue to develop the excellent standards you have already achieved.
- The choice and quality of floral displays could be enhanced! (a personal view)

Roberts Park, Saltaire Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

It was lovely to visit Roberts Park and the team who work so hard to care for the park. It is a fitting part of the conservation area of Saltaire and a lovely open space for visitors and residents alike. The restoration of the Victorian ironwork in the park is impressive. It was good to see how well the park has recovered from the Boxing Day floods. Altogether a lovely relaxing space in the middle of the town. It was also good to hear that the park has a hard working Friends group to care for it.

The cricket ground with the café near it is a wonderful resource. The restoration of the Victorian ironwork to colours found on the tiles of the café is a very successful project. The Dragon Boat Event is a wonderful activity, no wonder it is so widely supported. Bringing the Wildlife Trust on board to advice about planting is a really good idea. The wildlife trail for children is a good idea. It was good to hear that weeding is done by hand to benefit wildlife. The various blossom trees around the bandstand must look lovely in springtime.

The work of the Friends, providing the bands in the park and helping with events like litter picking is good to hear about. It is pleasing that local sites such as the Victorian tramway and the Boathouse Public House are working well together for the benefit of all. The croquet lawn is an unusual attraction.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue the good work on managing the hollies but as mentioned they may well need cutting back and re-growing from the base.
- Continue to work on the West Bank to encourage wildlife. It might be possible to introduce there and in other areas planting for early nectar sources to widen the food season for wildlife.
- The rose bed was fragrant and lovely, consider planting other roses of the period in other areas of the park.

Sutton Park Stately Home Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Nestled in the countryside but within easy reach of York and worthy of visiting. The restoration and innovations that have taken place in recent years by a very small work force stands out. The drive way entrance is now welcoming with lavender, box and shrubs and spring bulbs. Paths have been re-laid and the lily pond has been restored as has the fernery. It is clear that the gardens are being lovingly tended but more people are needed to fully accomplish the task of restoration.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

Along the driveway the restrictions of avoiding ivy for evergreen colour on the shared walls could be overcome by adding some euonymus in gold or silver.

Additional signage along driveway and car park could welcome visitors, a large colourful planter could be utilised for best effect. The walled garden could be enhanced with wildflower "islands" and a mown maze which would remain in keeping with the landscape.

The kitchen garden is a lovely feature but needs more attention to weeding. Encourage participation of all ages, schools and young people could be involved in making bug hotels etc. and all might enjoy putting together bat or bird boxes, which could be numbered and a trail designed for future visitors interest.

An area could be developed for winter "grotto" planter with winter colour for a "Santa" event. An Easter egg hunt and other special events timed for school holidays would extend visit enjoyment.

A tree trail could be developed to encourage visitors to identify, explore and enjoy the fullness of the gardens.

Thorp Perrow Arboretum, Bedale Gold Award

Overall Impression

The 100 acre arboretum has been established by different generations and families, and we should be grateful to them for creating this important resource. The arboretum is home to five national collections and 59 champion trees. A number of the trees are rare and or unusual in growing in North Yorkshire they are able to do this because of the shelter belts that create micro climates. Highlights are spring and autumn but a visit at any time will be rewarding and informative.

The education programs, at the moment the bug trail for children is a good example of what is provided. Maintaining the plant collection and carrying out replanting on a regular basis ensures the continuity of the arboretum. Volunteers assist with maintenance and plant identification again ensuring that the correct records are maintained.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- To monitor tree disease such as Pine needle disease, whilst not being able to control these diseases it is important to understand the what is it and its effect as more diseases are discovered.
- When resources allow complete the education garden area.
- Consider if or how more information about key trees could be given of course security is an issue in this matter.

York Museum Gardens Gold Award

Overall Impression

What a horticultural gem this 10 acre site is in the heart of York. Beautiful treescapes, lawns sweeping to the banks of the Ouse, and extensive and varied planting and collections providing year-round colour and diversity.

The new extension behind the Art gallery is a fascinating development with the "Edible Wood" and herb adding greater variety and interest. The new geological map is a triumph.

That the gardens are maintained to such a high standard whilst open all year round and hosting over 1.7 million visitors is quite remarkable.

Other visitors and residents include the remarkable Tansy beetle and a range of rich and diverse wildlife encouraged and catered for by well-chosen planting and habitats.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- We think a development of the wildflower area, to perhaps extend it and varying the seasons would be great.
- Bug hotels would be a welcome addition to the wildlife encouraging things already in the garden. Perhaps their construction could be undertaken by younger visitors or groups.
- Look at veteranizing the existing historic trees to prolong their life – perhaps putting them on a retrenchment program and putting signage up to educate public.
- Interpretation boards carefully placed could engage visitors further with the horticulture and wildlife.

Category 9: Open Spaces

Calverley Park Gold Award

Overall Impression

Calverley Park is a great asset to the community. It is very well maintained, clean and tidy, and benefits from sponsorship from local company Zenith.

There are a variety of sports catered for and there are active bowling and cricket clubs in the park. The area is well used by the local school and other community groups, and the children's play area has been recently improved with new equipment.

There are a variety of horticultural displays, including traditional bedding, a lovely perennial bed created by the WI and an 'edible' bed.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider a programme of shrub renewal, to add more interest to, for example, the areas under the trees
- Look for ways to increase wildlife habitat
- The Edible Bed is a good idea - increase the variety of veg grown to get an even wider variety of colour, texture and height. If the veg is there primarily to demonstrate how edibles can be grown in an ornamental way, alongside traditional garden plants, or as an alternative to traditional bedding, some information to that effect might be useful.
- Perhaps the cricket and/or bowling club might consider occasionally offering some refreshments (pop up cafe?) to encourage more people and activities.

Churchfield Peace Gardens, Barnsley Gold Award

Overall Impression

This is a small area within the Barnsley Town Centre that offers a peaceful area for recreation or contemplation. The gardens are a little bit clinical in that the flower bed alongside Church Lane and the centre bed are the only areas of bright colour. But that is part of the calm amongst the town. The rearrangement of the gravestones to provide a 'border' to the winding pathways makes for a neat and easily maintained area. The seating is to a very good standard – very well maintained and clean. The efforts of Doreen Cureton and the Central Residents Association to raise funds for improvements seems to be producing the goods. And their efforts to keep the gardens in good order are providing a very pleasant spot to sit and reflect or enjoy a break from your day. This was evidenced on our visit as many people were sitting enjoying an outdoor lunch break in the open air, which was good to see.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The bird boxes seem to be under attack – provision of metal covers to the entry holes seems to be a little late. Consider adding more boxes. There was mention of bat boxes (none were seen) more could be added without it affecting the look of the trees.
- It would be good to have some provision for other wildlife, perhaps 'bug hotels' could be placed in the trees but as the ground is free from obstruction any other provision would be difficult to install. Mention was made of the area to the north end of Church Lane but this area seems to be too small for any useful conservation projects.
- The use of the old Ash tree for a sculpture was an excellent idea – and fits in with other statuary around the town.
- The plan to move the glass war memorials from their previous location in front of the town hall will provide a new impetus to visitors to the garden and the opportunity to promote the origins of the gardens and the good works of the residents association could be exploited to the full.

Churwell Park, Leeds Bronze Award

Overall Impression

On the day the judges were encouraged by the work that is being carried out to re-establish this small open space for the good of the community. Good work has already been undertaken with the herbaceous border which is now becoming established with a variety of planting and colour.

A welcomed new play area for the community will again help sustain the future of the park and further enhance the work already being undertaken.

A well established and well run bowling club with well-maintained borders making this a pleasant area within the park.

Once the play area is complete and footways reinstated the foundations will be set for an attractive and welcoming little park.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider removing the shrubs from the front of the border leading up to the play area to open this up and reduce anti-social behaviour
- Establish a maintenance plan for the paths and benches – consider using the National Citizens Service, Employee Supported Volunteering and/or Community Payback for work days.
- Further consider links with the community and the bowling club through open events to encourage participation

- Encourage the community to start a Friends Group for the park

Churwell Urban Woodland Platinum Award

Overall Impression

Churwell Urban Woodland is a hidden gem with surprises around every corner. A thriving and expanding volunteer organisation which has built up strong effective partnerships from its early conception in 2008. Particular mention to the impressive and imaginative way the miniature railway has been integrated within the woodland.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- To compliment the unique woodland railway and excellent pond dipping facilities, perhaps consider a winter bird feeding area. A small screen could easily be put together and, coupled with some hanging feeders and table, this feeding station may well present excellent photographic opportunities for visitors.
- To make maintenance of the 'coal tub bed' easier, consider planting some spreading, low growing shrubs, which should reduce the need for weeding.
- If possible, perhaps consider engaging with the National Citizens Service for any large job. The judges are sure that young people would jump at the opportunity to join in with an environmental project here, as it is ideal.

Cross Flatts Park Platinum Award

Overall Impression

The largely grass park with well-established trees is extensively used for many purposes which limits the use of alternative maintenance regimes or extensive floral features. However this shows the value of this green space in a densely populated area where its role is to provide a green lung. The active friends group supports the council and carries out work in the park. There is a community fruit area, bug house and some areas introducing longer grass.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The use of wood chip on the rose beds may lead to a loss of nutrients for the roses.
- The tree stock is of an age and that age is at a stage where new planting needs to be part of a program to ensure mature trees for the future.
- Continue to work on the millennium garden with the corporate partners you have engaged

Friends of Carlton Marsh Nature Reserve, Barnsley**Platinum Award****Overall Impression**

Carlton Marsh Nature reserve is an excellent example of the local community, local authority and other interested parties working together on what i can only describe as a little gem of a nature reserve. The work and knowledge the volunteers have here is a credit with all year round monitoring of the site, bird visitors and wildlife all recorded. Wonderful records kept by the group going back 41 years. The site had everything you would want from a nature reserve. Bird hide, dipping ponds and stream, seating / educational area, and good informative notice boards. Secure car park well maintained and clear walks. Bordered by the biggest scrap yards in Europe you would have never known. A site I would not want anyone to visit if it was mine yet everyone should visit at least once in their lifetime. A wonderful visit despite the rain and one I won't forget in a long time. I will return again in my own time. Well done especially the volunteers who turn up on site in all weathers.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration**Friends of Cudworth Park, Barnsley Gold Award****Overall Impression**

The Friends of Cudworth Park work alongside the local authority in maintaining this wonderful old park, carrying out a variety of tasks from litter picks, sweeping, planting out flower beds, putting up and maintaining bird boxes to organising galas and other events. Through fund raising they have managed to carry out many tasks in the park in particular taking over a disused bowling green and turning it into a peace garden, which now contains a War Memorial and mural remembering the Battle of the Somme.

They have also managed to take over the old bowls pavilion to use as a meeting place and discuss ideas. Particularly on rainy day. A very good example of how community groups with local knowledge can come together sharing their expertise and helping to keep the park alive. A well loved facility for both young and old.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration**Friends of Dean Road & Manor Road Cemeteries Scarborough Gold Award****Overall Impression**

The cemetery is maintained to a good standard given the difficulty of mowing grass around grave stones. But the interval between mowing needs attention. It is hoped that the funding bid to renovate / improve the chapel building in the centre of the Dean Road

site will be successful. The task of stabilising and re-erecting the grave stones is huge. This work needs to be continued across the whole site. Continuous work is needed because of the destruction of the head stones over many decades.

There are fallen grave stones but this is still a very pleasant area. The continuing support of the friends group maintains the momentum on all to keep pushing forward on this very worthwhile recreational area within Scarborough.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Liaise with the local authority who provide the grass cutting, to provide a larger machine for the clear areas so that the time interval between cuts is reduced as the areas to be done "next" are quite long.
- The presence of some large trees in the Manor Road end is making some areas very dark (during the summer) whilst this is not a major issue it will only get worse with time. Tree felling tends to be greeted with despair but felling to thin should be considered.
- Planting initiatives using "gifted" plants are ok (Manor Road – plumbing shop entrance) – or provided by various fund raising events by the Friends is reasonable but the Friends should remember that better vigour and establishment may be obtained by using professionally grown plants that may be available via commercial sponsorship from local businesses. E.g. – "JCB Solicitors sponsor the South Entrance etc.
- One factor that I think could make a major improvement to the area is the building of hedgehog and insect over-wintering areas using piles of twigs etc. collected from fallen branches and placed out of sight in sheltered areas to attract over-wintering wildlife. Thus making their presence known in the summer and adding to the interest in the area and also helping reduce the decline in these species.
- The provision for wildlife needs more consideration.
- The Heritage Lottery Funding that is financing the study into the conversion of the old chapel into a café / meeting rooms deserves to go ahead because the current state of the building indicates it will be a pile of rubble soon if nothing is done.

Friends of Falsgrave Park Scarborough Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

The park is very pleasant and has a play area for the young, lots of space to exercise dogs, and people, albeit after a fairly hefty climb up the steps to the upper layer of the park. There are a good variety of trees for interest and lots of places to play, walk and just lounge about. The litter situation is generally good on the lower levels but needs attention in the upper levels of the park because this detracted from the overall experience.

One feature, recently added, was a communal book share unit – appropriately made locally of stainless steel (it was raining) and roofed with a living roof – to provide opportunities for all ages to take in and take out books. There were reported to be large areas of spring bulbs and evidence of such planting was evident from newly mown long grass.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Litter needs to be more thoroughly addressed – lower levels were good and quite clear – but upper levels in the more wooded areas were generally ok but in some places were very untidy. Recycling of litter (Litter bins should have provision for recycling) was not evident.
- The group take a lot of time and effort to encourage all ages – with 'daft dog shows', Halloween events and 'nature' walks with youngsters etc. There is a 'bug hotel' that did not look very inviting (to bugs) it was covered in chicken netting which would keep out larger animals such as hedgehogs and was too exposed for general use. A good visual aid but not placed correctly for over-winter habitat for the beneficial animals that could be encouraged on the site and would then become a feature for further visitors.
- Mrs Russell seems to be very good at attracting funding from various sources and seems to be easily able to persuade people to provide items free or cheaply – the book exchange and the entrance gate post etc. The communal book share may be abused – not sure how that can be made more secure without making it unworkable – but will need close attention over the coming months.

Friends of Filey Parks

Platinum Award

Overall Impression

The Friends of Filey parks are making a real difference to the quality of green spaces within the seaside resort. We were met with a very enthusiastic group to show us the many projects they have been involved with to compliment the maintenance work carried out by the local authority staff within the town. The friends have raised funds to give the organisation an identity and logoed sweat shirts and high vis you cannot fail to see them on various areas around some of the key sites of Crescent and Glen Gardens weeding beds and litter picking to keep the area clean for the many tourist and visitors to enjoy.

The incorporating of public art features in planting displays and the wooden sculptures along the footpath network in Glen Gardens provides added interest.

The vast numbers of visitors to the seaside resort during the summer season provided added challenges for the group who have a monthly program of work days and provide a program of events and activity within the parks ranging from plant and table top sales to ship wreck walks and mammal trapping at Filey Dams.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Establish more links with the franchise operator of the sports facilities within Glen Gardens and Pavilion café.
- Look at potential funding via the local authority for any planning gain contributions which would help to establish a strong financial base for the group
- Look at a joint promotion of facilities with the town council and borough council building on the excellent work already done in the Filey Town guide and Glen and Crescent Gardens brochures.
- Look at using the community pay back scheme to re-paint the youth shelter and multi games area to refresh the area prior to high season visitor periods in 2018
- There were concerns at the quality of some of the large areas of grass cutting in Glen Gardens with the amount of grass left on site particularly around former bulb planting areas.
- Look at relocating the wild flower area from near to the boating lake as the area is too rich to support wild flowers and identify a more suitable site.
- Start to think about a long-term plan for the maintenance of some of the public art features, wooden sculptures and interpretation boards to retain the quality of the features.

Friends of Monk Bretton Memorial Garden Gold Award

Overall Impression

It is obvious that the local community take a very great pride in the Memorial Garden and work hard to look after it. The Garden is a bright, cared for place which everyone involved can be very proud of. It was lovely to meet the children involved in looking after the garden and with their involvement the future of the garden looks very bright.

The planting was varied and in very good condition and it was pleasing to hear of the tulips in the garden in spring. It was impressive to hear that the cracks in the pavement are weeded by hand without the use of weed killers. The metal poppies on the railings, one for each soldier lost is a lovely idea. The planned recording of the lives of soldiers named on the memorial is a good idea. It is good that insect friendly planting and bird boxes are being included in the garden. It was good to hear of the two churches coming together to be part of the Remembrance Service.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Perhaps consider introducing more scented planting.
- Perhaps have an interpretation board so people understand the significance of the railing poppies.
- Consider extending the poppy them and by planting bright red oriental poppy 'Marcus Perry'

Friends of Monk Bretton Park Gold Award

Overall Impression

This is not a big group and they love and care for a big park. It was lovely to meet such committed and caring people. Monk Bretton is certainly lucky to have people like these working for them. The careful planning done by the group for the benefit of the park is impressive. Good efforts have been made to find funding.

It was good to see that as mentioned by the judges last year, the wildlife pond is being improved on an ongoing basis. It was impressive that the group have paid for wildlife surveys in the park.

The group are making great efforts to maintain the beds and borders, even purchasing their own shredder to create their own mulch. It is lovely that local schools have been involved in the park. The Brass on the Grass event run and funded by the group is impressive.

The efforts the group make to link with the local community are very good.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It might be a good idea to consider using social media to make others aware of the good work and perhaps gain new members.
- The paths are becoming uneven in places, noticeably near the entrance to the park. Perhaps in the long term it might be a good idea to consult with the council and look for funding to renew them.
- Perhaps in the future consider an interpretation board making visitors aware of the ridge and furrow feature in the park and even another giving details of the park history.
- In future planting seek out specimens which do not grow out of bounds and ones requiring little watering to reduce the work involved.

Friends of Royston Canal Club Gold Award

Overall Impression

The canal is a lovely place and such a great asset for Royston. It was lovely to meet a group of people who make great efforts to care for the canal and care so much about it.

The resurfacing of Cronkhill Lane in partnership with the council was clearly a very big task and will be so beneficial to all canal users. The refurbishment of the fishing pews

was impressive, especially the provision of a disabled peg, making fishing accessible to all.

The litter free nature of the canal is a great credit to the people who spend so much time working on it.

It was good to hear of the involvement of local children by the group. It was good to hear that the group are taking care of wildlife, especially water voles. The water quality is impressive thanks to the work of the group.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider developing the canal in other ways as well as fishing. Perhaps a local expert might be willing to do a nature walk or events.
- Where possible consider developing native waterside planting.
- If gaps in the hedges become available consider planting British native berry shrubs to bring in birds.
- A yearly photography competition based on the canal might increase appreciation and strengthen links with the press.

Friends of Sandringham Park Gold Award

Overall Impression

The newly resurfaced entrance area gives a clue to the continued improvement of the park for all to enjoy. Sandringham Park offers a variety of activities for all age groups through the hard work of volunteers and use of a variety of funding mechanisms available to them. The welcoming and informative noticeboard is enhanced with containers of colourful planting.

Excellent community engagement covering a broad range of ages and groups e.g. RHS involvement and College of Secure Learning.

Many people used the park during our visit which is pleasing to see: young children, families, school children, mothers and tots.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Funding programmes identified and used for the development of the park's signage, Big Lunch Day, Bat Watch and Bee Boxes.
- Within the planted border a good mix of shrubs and colour for seasonal interest with further areas identified for other groups to develop.
- Large areas have been assigned to wildflower areas which could be reduced and developed to form another interesting feature e.g. a serpentine walkway with perennial plants at the front thus ensuring children can be viewed safely

by parents with a bark chipped path recycling pruning's. This could run from the left hand side where there is the Florist memorial up to the training equipment. Additional space would be gained for permanent use.

- Develop planted areas to bring diversity and a complimentary planting palette to the park providing scent and texture.
- Consider the addition of native autumn berry/crab apples.
- Continue to encourage wildlife using a varied planting palette with a regular maintenance programme to eradicate weeds and regular mowing regime.

Friends of South Cliff Gardens Scarborough Gold Award

Overall Impression

The location is spread along the South Cliff and includes some very picturesque gardens and viewing points. The standard of work is very good in places but is slightly let down by a small number of gardens or portions of gardens that could easily be better. The efforts of the group are difficult to fault as they have had the first round of funding from HLF to present a full lottery bid for the major refurbishment of the cliff walk and associated projects. If successful the full funding will produce vistas down the cliff which were, we assume, there when the first planting took place and produce an improved lower cliff walk.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It is hoped that the refurbishment of the lower cliff walk will take the conservation and natural aspects of the area into full consideration to maintain the diversity of wildlife and the beauty of the area. The involvement of the community in the final design should be very useful as they need to be taken along with this refurbishment if it is to be accepted.
- The new planting in the Shuttleworth Garden is a great improvement on last year and goes to show what can be done in a short time. It was disappointing to see the miniature garden in a fairly poor state with litter (school handouts) that should have been cleared away and dirty water (algae) that detracted from the overall look of the very nice small park area. It is hoped the planting behind the refurbished Victorian shelter will discourage young people from climbing onto the roof. If this is not successful then some publicity to indicate the fragile nature of the structure may help – although it is understood that this could have the opposite effect.
- The rose garden in the Italian Garden was looking quite good but the presence of crematorium ashes in the rose beds and leaf rolling rose sawfly in one bed detracted from the overall enjoyment of the site.
- The refurbishment of the gardens below Prince of Wales Terrace is moving on with the preparation to re-instate the pond and the fountain in the pond, the electrical supply for the pond and the Christmas tree has been installed with little damage to the turf. Two of the rose beds have been re-planted but they

now show up the older beds. It is a pity that the garden adjacent to this area is poorly maintained – detracting from the look of the area.

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station Platinum Award

Overall Impression

Friends of Sowerby Bridge Station are a fine example of a very friendly cohesive group determined to enhance their local station and its surroundings. With 60 colourful planters, newly developing gardens and an evergreen and perennial garden at the entrance, commuters receive a warm welcome.

The Bronte garden is a delight with flowerbeds planters and a recycled Slingsby platform trolley and travelling trunks overflowing with beautiful annuals and information boards about the Bronte's and the plants and flowers they sketched or wrote about - plus the re-sited War Memorial where the Stations Annual Remembrance Service will now be held.

Plants are all grown organically with no pesticides and all watering is done from very impressive rainwater tanks and grey water and beer run off water from the Jubilee Tea Rooms. The group have links with scouts, local schools and business, funding comes from Council grants and business support and sponsorship of planters plus community events such as the Annual Carol singing which are very well publicised by four large banners and local newspaper coverage. Through the work of this group rail users are welcomed by beautiful well maintained planters, a wealth of local history on the platforms and the wonderful Jubilee Refreshment Rooms which in addition to providing lovely food is a "Mini Museum of railway history - a great credit to all involved.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

Friends of Thurnscoe Park Gold Award

Overall Impression

Thurnscoe Flower Park is an unusual name for a park but that is exactly what it is. Several years ago three pensioners had an idea to transform what was said to be a no go area with lots of anti-social behaviour into a lovely park which is appreciated by the whole community.

Gone are overgrown shrubberies, boggy ground and dilapidated benches. To be replaced with open grassland planted with thousands of Crocus, Bluebell and Snowdrop bulbs. Wild flower area seeded by children from local schools. A raised bed and other areas maintained by pupils from the Robert Ogden School all add to the diversity of the park.

The War Memorial has been refurbished and new park benches, litter bins and gates made by a local business have recently been fitted. As you pass through the park into

the different areas you can smell the roses, lavender and herbs planted in the different areas. The different fragrances have been commented on by many people with limited or no vision.

Summer and winter events are held in the park which helps to bring the community together. Important links have been forged with local schools encouraging children to learn about the environment. A bug hotel has been constructed, hedgehog conservation area and compost heaps have all been introduced into the shaded areas under some of the mature trees.

The group have done much to improve the park and encourage its use over the past few years. Well done to all concerned.

Judges Feedback on areas for consideration

- Carry on experimenting with different methods of non-chemical weed control in the block paving round the War Memorial taking care not to damage the soil in surrounding areas.
- Continue planting lavender plants and herbs along the main access routed through the park. Encourage park users to pick small pieces of herbs from the raised bed for culinary use.
- Plant bare patches beneath some of the trees near the main path with Cyclamen Coum and early flowering Colchicum for added colour.
- Add more seasonal flowering perennial plants to some of the main beds to add to the existing colour.

Friends of Valley Gardens Harrogate

Platinum Award

Overall Impression

The Friends of Valley Gardens work extremely hard and are passionate about their corner of Harrogate. Blending high class horticulture with history, the Friends are doing a great job working in partnership with many other organisations to ensure that Valley Gardens remain as beautiful as always.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The Friends are very ambitious in the projects they undertake and aim very high. Keep volunteer recruitment and retention at the top of the list if you are going to continue to be successful in all the plans you have for the future.
- Look at a possible tree trail through the gardens and consult with the various experts who could help you bring this project to fruition.
- Are there friend volunteers who could lend a hand to the park gardeners by doing some practical tasks such as helping with edging of footpaths, especially around your Magnesia Pump Room? This may seem like a mundane

task but may just add a touch more sparkle to an already polished and beautiful garden.

Friends of Wilthorpe Park

Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Wilthorpe Park is a linear park with an esteemed heritage on the outskirts of Barnsley. Within three years 'The Friends of Wilthorpe Park' have made great strides in maintaining and enhancing features including the rockery, rose beds and Bike Park. The portfolio presented was concise and included all relevant details with some excellent photos.

The core group of volunteers are knowledgeable and enthusiastic about future projects and events in the park as well as undertaking tasks such as mowing, litter picking, planting and pruning on a regular basis.

The creation of the children's bike track from an old lake/paddling pools has endless scope for development. The 'Saturday Club' attracts volunteers into the park for a few hours on an 'ad-hoc' basis which is another great initiative.

Overall a very enjoyable visit which highlighted the value of Friends Groups / volunteers in the future upkeep of our Parks. An entry that can only continue to improve year on year!

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider entrance signage for the park especially off Greenfoot Lane
- The creation of a wildflower meadow / bed would be a welcome addition to the park, possibly locating on the banking above the playground could enhance bio-diversity and add colour in summertime.
- Continue pruning shrubs at entrances to improve sight lines into the park.
- In time and within resources consider including the bottom of the park in the entry. Possible siting of outdoor gym equipment could be included in this area? Thus creating zones within the park – Fitness / Play / Formal?
- Consider creating specific planting plans/schemes for new schemes and beds under maintenance. Focus on plant selection, compatibility and quantity to ensure beds become focal points within the park.
- Continue to develop the bike track with the younger members of the community in mind, possibly develop links with infant school for outdoor learning in this area?
- Continue with fund raising events focussing on specific areas of improvements. E.g. Signage, Rose Garden, Rockery etc.
- Ensure path / grate defects are reported and actioned by BMBC.

Overall Impression

The Friends of Wombwell Cemetery are a remarkable group of volunteers who since 2003 when a Cemetery Watch Scheme was begun have transformed the cemetery into a place that the community could feel safe and have trust in. The friends group obtained funding to transform the area into a well-managed and maintained area open to everyone.

New railings have been donated. The fire ravaged South Chapel has been converted into an open air Peace Garden and the North Chapel into a thriving community hub with modern catering and toilet facilities. Paths have been re-surfaced and a new water supply installed along with steel benches for the use of visitors.

The community hub is open for coffee and refreshments during the week on regular days for locals and visitors from further afield to enjoy. The Queens Award for Voluntary Services was given to the group only three years after the group was established. This is only one of the many awards given to the group over the years. Social media is well used with enquiries coming in from all over the world for information regarding lost relatives and family trees, there is also a data base of the burials in the cemetery.

The Baby Memorial (2) area is due to be levelled and re-paved by a local contractor later this summer. Birds, Bats and Bees are well catered for and information cards are on display in the community hub for everyone to study.

The sheer enthusiasm of the volunteers is quite remarkable and goes to show that the effort of the few can overcome such huge problems for the benefit of the many.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The grass areas, paths and shrubs were well looked after, considering the size of the area. Well done to all those concerned.
- The flowers in the Peace Garden really showed off the stone work by adding brightly coloured plantings in various containers. Consider seasonal containers and displays for special occasions and tastefully increasing the number of flowering displays.
- Consider improving the soil in the circular flowerbed outside the North Chapel which will in time add vigour and health to the bedding plant display. Could the display be supplied and sponsored by a local plant supplier.
- The information on the notice boards is very comprehensive for residents and visitors. Keep on supplying as much information as possible.
- Some renovation of grave stones and memorials has taken place over the years, consider a long term programme of skilled and professional repairs to memorials and stones which have been laid on the ground for any reason.

- Consider setting aside a small area in which to create a wild flower meadow using a mix containing red Poppy seeds which could regenerate annually.

Friends of York Cemetery Gold Award

Overall Impression

Judging Friends of York Cemetery as a first time entry, and to be escorted around by Clive and Hazel was a delight. A truly global supported friends group of 563 members of which approximately 100 are active within the group. With so many activities going on all year round this friends group are a truly community inspiration. Just by looking at the guided walks, talks and events list shows the dedication and commitment these volunteers have to the project. With many themed walks: The Victorian; Scented; Rock; willow; herb garden; orchard and fernery all planted and maintained to create their own ecosystems, one is spoilt for a choice of walk and seating areas. With such an array of biodiversity, and wildlife, (including bat monitoring and walks), the relationships with RSPB, Wildlife Trust and Bat Preservation Society, and with support from genealogy volunteers and volunteer wardens, this is a little know gem just off the city centre of York.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Look at initiatives for water storage and access at strategic points. Having only two accessible water taps for the whole site necessitates much walking to reach a water source.
- The varied walks and themed areas are a delight to visit. Consider finger post to direct visitors or installation of cemetery plan and interpretation boards.
- A visitor guild made readily available will enhance the experience and encourage the differing areas of the site to be visited.
- There are many old and interesting tree features within the site. A tree trail and information about such would be an asset

Harold Park Platinum Award

Overall impression

Harold Park is a lovely place and it was a pleasure to visit it on such a lovely summer day. It was a pleasure too to meet a group who work so hard to gain the best for their park and community. The number of schools involved with the park is impressive and it was impressive too to hear about so many community groups who support and indeed volunteer in the park. The park must look lovely in spring with so many bulbs planted.

The list of year round events organised by the group for the community is impressive. There was good provision for children of all ages and the ping pong table is a lovely idea.

The group members involved in the sensory garden were clearly knowledgeable and skilled gardeners and the level of maintenance in the sensory garden was very high.

The sensory garden had plants to involve every single one of the senses, it is clearly an excellent example of a sensory garden. The bed of phormiums and grasses was a striking feature. The provision for plant and animal life is good, it was pleasing to see the wildlife beds and hedgehog house and to hear that there is yellow rattle in the park.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The Boer War Memorial is a very interesting thing to have and is clearly valued very much. However some of the beds round it were in need of weeding and edging. Obviously this is a very big park to maintain so perhaps it might be possible for some of the group to help in this area.
- The other main thing was that Harold Park is linked to the ironworking heritage of the district. Perhaps it might be possible to find a way of bringing more information about the old iron works into the park.
- It was a lovely idea to bring Ping-Pong into the park, perhaps there might be a way to bring in other games to engage with young visitors.

Horsforth Hall Park Platinum Award

Overall Impression

Horsforth Hall Park is situated at the edge of Horsforth village itself facing onto the busy Leeds outer ring road. But it is at the heart of Horsforth's community. With many features and events attracting visitors from afar. The Japanese garden was a delight with its many acers and water features. A tranquil area to relax in the park. The wide expanses of mown lawns make it an ideal area for activities for all ages, from mums and toddlers, yoga classes, cricket, BMX and croquet. The herbaceous borders were a credit. Well done to Sue the park gardener for all her efforts. She deserves a medal as well as some extra help. An excellent park and well worth a visit.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Some walls in need of repair around the herbaceous beds near car park.
- Do away with the grass strip around herbaceous border, it is worn with foot fall. Allow the herbaceous plants take over.
- Turf up to the edges in flower garden and do away with large channels around grass.
- Remove graffiti from cricket pavilion.

Hyde Park Cemetery, Doncaster

Silver Award

Overall Impression

Due to its age, this Victorian era cemetery retains a unique charm and value in the area. It is clear the group are extremely passionate and knowledgeable about the site and this shines through in their work. As this is a very long-term project with regards to restoration the group are sensibly doing small projects at a time. It was good to see and hear about the engagement with the National Citizens Service, and the Tree Trail is a nice touch, plus there is useful interpretation for wildlife.

It was also encouraging to see efforts in place to create a wildflower meadow.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue seeking funding to restore the neglected graves and the boundary restoration.
- Perhaps consider approaching Doncaster Council and/or the local voluntary action group to see whether work days could be arranged through the Employee Supported Volunteering initiative. Clearing out path edges and cutting back and mulching up of the herbaceous beds are possibly two jobs which spring to mind.
- If the wildflower area fails to improve then, if possible, try spraying off a smaller area, rotavating it, spraying off any new weed growth and then sowing new seed.

Keighley Town Hall Square

Platinum Award

Overall Impression

It was lovely to visit the Town Hall Square on such a bright, sunny day and to meet the people who obviously care for it so much. The square is a bright, flowery oasis in the heart of Keighley and clearly appreciated by the people of the town. It was impressive to hear that the Square also welcomes visitors from around the world, it is definitely something Keighley should be very proud of.

The use of layers of beeswax to protect the bronze statue shows the level of care being given to the memorial. The square is obviously carefully maintained in every way. It was good to hear that schools are given a chance to be involved.

It was pleasing to hear that there are no chemicals or pesticides used in the beds. Planting new trees as a replacement for older ones is a good idea. The planting was good and obviously well cared for. It was interesting to hear of the square being included in Heritage England's magazine. Clearly the area around the memorial is well used for community events.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The development of a Peace area is a good idea.
- Planting dwarf lavender under the Peace roses might be considered to bring both scent and insects into the garden. Planting lavender under roses is traditional.
- One or two of the seats in the area are getting ready for painting.
- Consider developing the planting in the Worker Memorial Garden further with perhaps somewhere to sit near it.

Peasholm Park Friends Scarborough

Gold Award

Overall impression

The park and ravine had many visitors despite the dreadful weather. This is an indication of the draw this site has on the local and visiting population. The site is one of the premier sites in the area and you would expect the plantings to reflect that – and it does. The sponsored flower beds along the main entrance are a good draw to bring people into the main park and also connect the park to the community. The ravine is still a very nice walk through with an impressive collection of mature trees.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The planting of Primula along the banks of the stream and small lakes leading down the ravine are adding to the interest but there are still large areas of paving that look very forlorn on a wet day.
- Consider individual notices for the stand-out specimen trees alongside the overall tree walk information.
- I think more could be done in the ravine with the very dry area under the road bridge – other than somewhere for graffiti artists to hang out
- The seating in the ravine is much better than last year.
- The carvings add to the interest in the ravine and are to be encouraged.
- There are many opportunities for wildlife conservation that are being used – such as trees being felled and left for insect and fungal activity. Perhaps more could be done with birds / bats / hedgehogs / insects – particularly in the ravine area because of its secluded aspect.
- One of the difficulties in the ravine is the shade from the trees causing poor grass growth in what used to be grass borders alongside the path. It is always difficult to consider tree removal in situations such as this – but as canopy thinning is impractical and too costly I think this needs to be considered.
- One last point it is very nice to see the waterfall into the main lake is starting to weather, whilst it is still looking new the green algae and plant growth is starting to make it look more of a natural feature.

Rodley Park, Leeds Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Rodley Park is a lovely open space - a green oasis in a built-up area of Leeds. It is well used by the local community with a children's play area, sports area, and wide open areas of grass with plenty of seating and mature woodland.

There are well maintained beds, with both traditional bedding, perennial planting and annual flowers. The whole park is well maintained, clean and weed free.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Look at ways of engaging with local community groups - Churches Together, uniformed youth organisations and the fledgling Rodley in Bloom group.
- The annual flowers are lovely, so do try to create another area to replace the current beds which are becoming too 'weedy'
- Maintain the trees that form avenues to the sides of the park.

Spofforth in Bloom Ginny Greenholes Environmental Play Scheme Platinum Award

Overall Impression

An excellent facility providing play space in a safe environment and good community involvement in the development of this including input from the local school children and the facility is well used.

Good information boards throughout giving details of flora and insects etc. There is further community involvement with the sponsorship of bird and bat boxes. The planting of heritage fruit trees (also sponsored) is to become a community orchard. In addition to the bird and bat boxes there are log piles, insect hotels, and pollinator friendly planting. The respect for the area is shown by the complete lack of graffiti, dog fouling, litter etc. and no vandalism.

The work with the school children in this project surveying the wild life and doing the bio-diversity survey is to be commended. Pro-active pursuit of sponsorship enabled this project to reach fruition.

Good work liaising with the Woodland Trust.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The planned nature trail linked to the web-site and further paths to be cut will only continue to improve and develop this facility and the judges look forward to this in the future together with other future plans.
-

Spofforth in Bloom Millennium Garden Platinum Award

Overall Impression

The Millennium Garden is a beautiful area for the people of and visitors to Spofforth, formerly neglected and overgrown allotments the concept of a peaceful and tranquil area has been very successfully achieved.

As with other projects in the village pro-active fund raising enabled this area to reach fruition. Use was made of local students at Askham Bryan Collage in the design of this, the successful design being by communal vote in the village. Spofforth in Bloom maintain this and it is kept completely weed and litter free and well maintained – well done Lynda. The sun dial is interesting combining GMT and BST.

The planting is sustainable and pollinator friendly incorporating lavender, buddleja, erigeron etc. and the theme of white, silver and blue was chosen to enhance the peaceful feel to the garden and the grasses and lavender appeal to the senses of hearing and smell. There is planting continuity with snowdrops and daffodils and other Spring bulbs followed by bluebells and then the later herbaceous planting. The village Heritage Trail commences in the garden and a dispenser is kept topped up with leaflets and there is a good information board. Tree planting also gives year round interest and shelter for birds (and humans!!) The garden is wheel chair friendly

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The growing of hellebore seedlings for the garden will add further early interest at a time when gardens tend to be "asleep"
- With the blue theme in mind and the well-drained nature of the ground how about an experiment with a few gentians and on the white front hydrangea paniculata?

Streetwise Community Association, Hull Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Streetwise Community Association is substantially based in the community garden they have developed in a previously derelict area adjacent to Western Library in Hull. This garden is well used by the local community and visitors to the library are encouraged to go into the garden and vice versa. Joint events across the library and garden are held from time to time and larger community events are held throughout the year.

Maintenance of the garden is carried out by volunteers of all ages from children and their families, to older retired individuals. The garden itself encompasses informal perennial plantings, vegetable plots, a wonderful metal arbour, seating, outdoor wood

oven, reclaimed statue, and at the time of visiting the brick walls were 'hosting' a photographic/interpretation display of the life of local born aviator Amy Johnson. The group under the enthusiastic direction of Chairperson Tracey Henry has been extremely successful in attracting funding and their example of community involvement is being rolled out to other community projects across Hull.

Judge's feedback on areas for consideration

- Children, along with their families are involved in practical tasks at the community garden. The association are aiming to involve older children/teenagers, a step which is to be recommended and may be helped by the substantial grant awarded to Groundwork Hull for community development in the St Andrew's area of Hull.
- Streetwise have taken a practical approach to the maintenance of the garden with a 'naturalistic' planting style and many plants self-seeding across the site. There is no doubt that this is a sensible strategy, but in some places the 'self-seeders' have taken over areas which might better be used for other purposes, such as in some of the raised beds designed for vegetable growing with the children and families.

The Hollies, Leeds Platinum Award

Overall Impression

This park is a real gem. It was originally a private garden, but has been in public ownership for 85 years. It still has the feel of a private garden, with many of the original features well maintained, but at the same time with some adaptations for today's needs. These include the National Collections of Deutzia and Philadelphus, the tennis courts and the borders where there was once a croquet lawn.

There are many substantial specimen trees and shrubs which are well preserved. The Friends of the Hollies led by Frank have made a real difference, and their contribution to the maintenance of the park is to be commended. The tennis courts and the Band Concerts attract visitors in an appropriate manner, but do not detract from the very special qualities of the park.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- There is a lot of maintenance required and this needs to continue in a way to preserve the heritage and the natural features of the garden.
- There is so much of horticultural interest here that it is an ideal place for students and apprentices so these placements should be encouraged to continue.
- This is very much a spring garden and it will be lovely to see the rhododendrons, azaleas, spring bulbs, many of which have been planted by

The Friends and the national collections of Deutzia and Philadelphus, some pictures would be lovely to see.

The Rose Garden, High Green Gold Award

Overall Impression

A lot of work has been undertaken to improve this area of the Park by a small but very keen group of volunteers who are making a real impact in this area of the park. The planting has been well thought out and the amount of fund raising is to be commended.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration'

- There are still areas that can be developed but the work done in this one area is outstanding.
- Consider replacing the path around the edge, to match the path that has already been updated.
- Continue to plant alongside the hedge that runs around the park
- Continue to try and encourage new members to join the group.

Category 10:

RHS It's Your Neighbourhood

Acomb Alive, York

Level 3 Advancing

Areas of Achievement

Great strides have already been made by the group supported by individual and willing residents. The barrier baskets were of very high quality and clearly well maintained. Cleaning and litter picking of the area has been enhanced by placement of floral displays. Well done to the resident who has cleaned the steps on the green removing the weeds.

There have been a number of events to attract attention and support to the group including Tea on the green and a tombola on the market.

Money has been raised to make significant improvements at the public toilets.

Some local businesses are supporting initially by improving displays at their premises and also by assisting the group with sponsorship and in-kind help.

There is good liaison with the library.

Areas for development

- Getting children and children groups more involved is key here as it will also bring in parents and families. The library garden is a wonderful place for this to happen, the inclusion of a wildlife garden/project here would be a perfect project.
- Children could be asked to design and build bug hotels, habitat piles and such like.
- Have fun with the get together of volunteers to encourage team work and share some of the "stories".
- Ensure thanks are given to any supporters particularly from local businesses, a newsletter or list of supporters could be placed on local noticeboards.
- Forging stronger links with the church community garden could be key in finding more man power to achieve future planting plans. Further encouraging homeowners or keen gardeners to take responsibility for ongoing watering and weeding of planters near their homes would release other volunteer's time to start on new projects. Surely everyone will benefit from teamwork.
- The banking near the large pots would be a great place for wildflowers, this would be low maintenance and hugely beneficial as well as educational.
- Many individual's willing to do a little and children are the key to this amazing venture, they are the future of this project.
- The judges feel that with more support this could springboard into a transformation which will benefit everyone but especially local residents.

Boothtown Partnership Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

This partnership does so much for the local community it deserves the fullest praise. Vicky a driving force raises vast amounts of much needed funds through her very local second hand shop. These funds along with funds from other sources are then used where they are needed either on an individual basis or for projects for the community.

The recently refurbished pod and children's play area are a good example. The conversion of a poorly supported bowling green into allotments has shown real innovation so it is now a fully functional and productive area. Dougie is inspirational in this partnership and does a tremendous amount of hard work, in that he also looks after the war graves for the community. Re-cycling is definitely a key word in this partnership.

Areas for development

- These self-managed allotments are thriving but care does need to be taken to keep them tidy and free of rubbish. Most of the plots are very good but care also needs to be taken to ensure the original features of the Bowling Green are maintained to the same very high standard.

Clean Green - Green Moor Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

The Clean Green Moor team work very closely with their Parish Council who are extremely supportive of their work in the village. Grants have been won from the lottery fund which has enhanced the work in the village. Delph Field - an old quarry now a lovely peaceful seating area. The Information and Library in the old telephone box which is kept up to date and is very clean and tidy.

Wildflowers planted at the roadside soften and blend with the natural landscape. The playground - created from an old road stone quarry and involved young people planting bulbs in the autumn is a great resource for the village. It was lovely to see the variety and number of wellies planted and placed around the village.

This area is of Regional Importance - Geographical Site - this is something the team and Parish Council are working hard to maintain and protect.

By the way, just in case Jo forgot to send you the name, the bush you were asking about is an Olearia, Daisy Bush

Areas for development

We discussed cutting back some foliage in front of Edith's seat. Consider a dedicated Facebook page and possibly a twitter feed. I would encourage this village to enter into the main Yorkshire in Bloom Competition.

Constable Community Allotment, Hull Level 2 Improving

Areas of Achievement

The group is planning how to use the area they have to establish an allotment site for the people of the area. Raised beds and buildings have been erected and are being used to produce plants to grow and to rid the area of perennial weed. Composting is good, and a compostable toilet has been built on site. Water butts are on site and saving of water from the polytunnels into a bath is a good idea to be commended. A good all round effort from a group of ten people who have only being going for one year

Areas for development

- I suggest the group looks at splitting the area up to provide individual plots and then grows vegetables and fruit in crop rotation i.e. pods brassicas roots and gross feeders with Fruit and herbs as addition beds.
- A main priority needs to be stopping perennial weeds such as ragwort and convolvulus growing on the plot.
- The raised beds were good for the members who were unable to garden at ground level and could be a feature in future years.
- The Pizza oven and areas around the site could be good for fundraising and encouraging new members to join.
- A very good start and I encourage you in your work at Constable Community Allotments and hope to see your Allotments grow in the years to come.

Cottingley Level 2 Improving

Areas of Achievement

A determined group working under challenging conditions which is to be highly commended. The wildlife and orchard projects are two initiatives which demonstrate the determination to improve the landscape and engage the community.

The open space around the flats particularly the raised beds has enhanced this area with colour and sustainable planting.

Special mention goes to Dulverton Court and the Community Centre. The residents of Dulverton Court have taken ownership of their open space and turned this into a well-used seated area and vegetable plot giving residents somewhere to engage with other

residents, the surprise within this complex is the oasis of colour Margaret has achieved with a rooftop garden transforming an otherwise dull area, well done.

The Community Centre is working hard to engage the local kids through horticultural projects which is proving successful as well as bringing health benefits to the group, well done keep up the good work.

Areas for development

- The bank in front of the Dulverton Court entrance would benefit from re-landscaping which was mentioned on the judge's visit as a possible future project.
- If possible, remove weeds and tidy up edges around the Dulverton Court car park.

Cudworth Environment Group Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

The Cudworth Volunteers without whom the area would not survive are a real credit to the area and the work they take on no matter how large or small is impressive.

Bringing colour into the main high street with planters and baskets encouraging businesses to get on board with their own displays. Planting up of beds outside the cooperative is a real credit to them.

Maintaining areas within Cudworth Park, and putting on events for the community bringing people into the area. Arranging clean ups and litter picks no matter what the weather. Turning the old disused bowling green into a pocket peace garden. They are keeping Cudworth on the map with volunteers of all ages working closely with the local authority. A good example of what communities can achieve.

Areas for development

- Continue to work with local businesses in the high street.
- Where you are bedding out in Cudworth Park look to put in more sustainable planting such as herbaceous plants which can give all year round colour.
- Develop borders around the peace garden with wild flower seeds in particular seeds collected from the Robert Street Allotments, which is a readymade seed supply and local.
- Continue to encourage the groups you already have and try to bring more volunteers on board no matter how small the projects may be

Dishforth Airfield Gardening Group Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The involvement of the men, women and children on the base, with the growing project is inspiring. In a relatively short space of time, with the help of the RHS Community Team, they have built not only "transportable" gardens but built lasting friendships, encouraged one another and shared gardening knowledge. The "Boots" project with the children is not only a fantastic idea and shows what you can grow in an old boot, but cannot fail to bring a smile to your face. The imagination of each and every one gives an array of individually decorated and differently planted growing spaces, which have already been "on tour" to the recent Harlow Carr summer show. The ingenious use of old pallets and crates, to create growing walls, with not only decorative plants, but vegetables and herbs too, shows just what you can grow in a relative small space and with the added benefit of it being moveable and easily replicated with little cost, is an added bonus for this constantly changing community.

Areas for development

- Good to see that the project is helping to build community cohesion, and to continue to encourage the residents around the base to get involved and use the other communal facilities.
- The idea of the Children's Garden at the community hub will be an asset to the project.
- The women have already identified other areas around the base that would benefit from brightening and are looking at ideas to create and improve their green spaces at home.
- The benefit of being able to take their ideas with them when they move from base to base is to be encouraged, and it would be good to see this simple growing project transferred throughout military bases.

Dodworth Environmental Group Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

Excellent slide presentation. Engagement with partners and other organisations is very good enabling the group to receive regular funding and support. Good environmental responsibility is evident with emphasis on a clean environment.

The new planters provide a visual impact at strategic points in the village. Excellent income/fundraising streams through coffee mornings/donations and ward alliance. Good communication channels are used to 'spread the word' and the group are clearly well thought of throughout the local community.

Areas for development

- Continue developing visual impact features in the form of planters/troughs through the village.
- Consider taking ownership of manageable grass areas ensuring good standards are achieved.
- Consider a sustainable planting design for the library raised bed ensuring plant choice and quantity is appropriate to bed size, once established consider mulching to cut down on weeding.
- Continue canvassing local businesses for support to aid future entries.

Earswick Scented Garden, York Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

Hidden behind a rectangular leylandii hedge you find Earswick Scented Garden. Enter through the ornate steel gates into the former Bowling Green, and now volunteer run and maintained community garden. A formally shaped layout with mirrored beds and central feature there are many pleasing features for the visitor. New picnic seating benches, notice board and shaded seating under wisteria clothed pergolas all help to enhance the colourful planting. Achieving flower displays in such a heat trap and free draining sandy soil is no easy challenge. The team should congratulate themselves on their work they have achieved, in establishing an array of free draining drought loving plants that they share with the community. The open days and plant sales go to boost vital funds and are well supported.

Areas for development

- Having suffered from the early drought this year, with many plant losses the 'thinning out' should enable volunteers easier access to the flower beds for adequate weeding.
- Due to the free draining nature of the soil, consideration should be given to an early seasonal spring mulch. This will not only aid the soil substructure and moisture retention, but be both decorative and reduce water evaporation.
- Look at the possibility of planting around the site of small decorative tree varieties to enhance the garden, provide shade and aid wildlife.
- A visitor guide or leaflet about the garden and what it contains would enhance the visitor experience, (perhaps a permanent one on the display board)

East Ardsley Level 1 Establishing

Areas of Achievement

This small group have undertaken some promising work with little support in what is an occasionally challenging environment. The judges liked the beds on Main Street and these provide a nice display on the roadside. The planter in the community centre also looks very nice.

It was the good to hear the group have a high profile at the local gala. The group are clearly doing the right thing concentrating on a small area and not overstretching themselves.

Areas for development

- Consider contacting Community Payback or similar to undertake maintenance jobs such as painting the community centre and perhaps strimming down the unkempt area by the path from Main Street to Forsythia Avenue. This would complement the work the group do in the community centre.
- Consider investigating small grant suppliers such as Tesco Bags Of Help, which may fund improvements such those needed on the 'bowling green bed' at the back of Forsythia Avenue. Some edging stones and decorative woodchip would markedly improve this.
- If possible consider re-turfing the small grass plot in front of the notice board at the community centre and perhaps reduce spaces between bedding plants in the borders if you can.

Elland & District Partnership Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

This small community group led by Joe and Brian certainly make a difference to Elland and District. Members of the group pay annual subscriptions, rental of market stalls at May Market contributed £1,600 this year and recycling of cardboard earns them £150 per month - this enables them to pay the Council for the lovely hanging baskets, barrier planters and tubs which enhance this litter free Town and also for watering.

Schoolchildren help the group with planting in the Town Precinct and also along with The Boys Brigade, Scouts, Guides and the Forestry School are making bird and bat boxes. The group plant up a large bed and tubs in the beautiful local park and all plants are recycled by the council who then sell compost back to them. The community are involved in the 700 years anniversary of the town's Royal Charter on 29th July with celebrations and a Market with 60 stalls - this is commemorated by a beautiful Town Stone showing the impressive coat of arms and the lawned area will have seats donated by Marshalls, 4 new trees and the newly restored War Memorial.

The group are involved in fundraising for Overgate Hospice with a concert at Brooklands School by Elland Brass Band and students from the local comprehensive school. Christmas is celebrated with lights, Santa (this year Brian!) arriving at his Grotto by sleigh and Carol Singing around the Christmas tree - what a lovely end to the year! Very well done Elland and District Partnership.

Areas for development

- More publicity for the group and also its entry in Yorkshire in Bloom.
- A poster competition for local schools could possibly be organised.
- Keep updating the group's portfolio - and keep up the good work!

Firth Park Community Allotment Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

This scheme is inclusive of all ethnic groups and is encouraging younger children to become involved in growing plants for food and teaching them what can and cannot be eaten whilst at the same time providing mothers with a social group to support one another

Areas for development

- If better levels of weed control and maintenance could be achieved it would be helpful to all concerned

Friends of Brighouse Station Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

Whilst the task may seem straightforward growing plants in effectively a wind tunnel with the added disadvantage that fast non stopping trains pass through at speed adds to the challenge. The group has certainly overcome many problems to create possibly one of the best floral stations in the country.

They have not stopped at the platform ends but taken on planting in the car park created bug hotels, and are extending the area they maintain by cutting down 15 foot high laurels to create a more cultivated space.

Areas for development

- The group has a wide range of skills that it can call upon to ensure the best advice and practice is achieved with everything they do, so it is really a case of continue the excellent work.

- In respect of the difficult areas under the bridges, I feel the solution will be in finding art work of some sort that may enable secondary school pupils to participate or even via a design competition open it up to non-gardening people.

Friends of Crow Wood Park Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

This group was set up in 2011 a by group of dog walkers who "Wanted a Nice Park" They have moved from strength to strength. The park is now well used with more facilities and considerably less anti-social behaviour. They hold regular coffee mornings and the Jo Cox "Great Family get Together" was a great success with 100's attending. They have worked well with the community and other organisations for funding and assistance to achieve all the improvements and their maintenance. Well done on getting Centenary Status from the British Legion
Information Boards are good.

Areas for development

- The good record of "Before and After" shows what a tremendous amount has been achieved by this small group but it would benefit from more help both from individuals or groups as has been used to great effect on the past.
- This is a lovely park, with lovely trees. It needs a lot of work to keep it clean and tidy, and some of the standards of gardening could be improved.

Friends of Lister Lane Cemetery Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

This cemetery was first opened in 1841 and is a place rich of historical and architectural interest to Halifax. It is also an area of peace and tranquillity with its natural environment, where great care is taken to ensure that the needs of all wild life is taken into account.

There are 20,000 burials on this site, many of which are of great importance to the area. The small group have achieved a lot and made a huge contribution, in converting a wilderness into what it is today. Planting when undertaken is in keeping with the environment. Communication is good, via the internet and on the notice boards etc.

Areas for development

- There is still a vast amount to do here and work will I am sure continue for many years to come, so keep going.
- Keep making use of sources of labour to further enhance the site.
- Continue to develop the educational aspects of this very important cemetery.
- Make sure that there are visible notices of the opening times for people walking by to see, when the gates are closed.

Friends of Western Library, Hull Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The strength of this group lies with its' community participation. Working closely with the Streetwise Community Association, volunteers of all ages are involved in the development and maintenance of the garden. The garden itself is situated adjacent to the library and users are encouraged to go into the gardens which can be reached via a side door in the building. Joint events are held from time to time.

The Friends of Western Library also support the garden through fundraising, and practical support is through provision of rooms available for meetings, training and more recently a base for Groundwork Hull staff involved in delivering a lottery funded project in the St Andrew's ward.

Areas for development

- The community garden itself is attractive with some interesting features. It is important that it is a low maintenance garden. However, this has to be balanced against some practicalities such as not allowing vegetable plots to be taken over by other plants, ensuring paths, walkways and access points are kept relatively clear. A plan to have a herb garden on top of a shed roof while no doubt adding some interest is hardly practical for picking purposes!
- Looking at encouraging wildlife into the garden is also another aspect that the group might like to consider for the future.

Grow IT, Richmond Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

Grow it is one of a number of growing and environmental projects undertaken by volunteers in the village of Tunstall so they have an impact throughout the village. The growing project being revitalised and with development plans in place for a greenhouse and so on.

Out of the growing area the determination of the group and a lot of volunteers was the planting of 10,000 daffodils.

Areas for development

- As the project expands into TIGER some care will need to be taken to remove the more aggressive plants (weeds) from the natural areas. Whilst many of them are of benefit to wildlife there will be a need to gain a balance across the whole site.
- Whilst the site is a venue for events there may be an opportunity to increase the fruit trees possibly with a wider range such as damson. It would also be possible to separate areas with standard gooseberries using little space but providing a crop as well.

Hamlyn Bloomers, Hull Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

An area where neighbours work together with the neighbourhood to make an enjoyable area in which to live. The grass verges were a credit along with the displays around the lampposts.

The local gardens were being looked after and even the builders working on the street respected the work that was being done in the neighbourhood.

Pictures were shown to the Judge of the spring bulbs and the community working to provide milk containers for the lampposts and the preparation of the growing and setting of plants for the summer bedding features. Edging the grass and watering plants were proof of all working together. Facebook was being used along with a newsletter.

Areas for development

- In this area, it was noted that all people were trying their best to make this area a place to be proud of and the efforts were commendable for the group.
- Perhaps a competition for the children growing let's say a container of plants with a small prize or certificate would help in the community.
- The children's garden at No 12 showed this to the Judge.
- Continue with the picket edging around the lampposts and do not worry that they all are not the same.
- This is a nice area with little improvement required to become outstanding.
- A good idea could be wildflower /vegetables to cover all aspects in the garden.
- An excellent avenue to see can we look at the crescent next time as I think they would enjoy being members of your excellent group.

Heeley City Farm, Sheffield Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

The involvement and inclusion of the local community is to be commended as is the reaction to new challenges with innovative ideas and concepts.

Areas for development

- Securing continuity management for the future could be a challenge and is something that may need looking at

High Green in Bloom Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The new planter at the roundabout. The weed and litter free route. The dedicated group of volunteers that are making a real impact in High Green. The amount of fundraising is amazing

Areas for development

- Continue to encourage local businesses to participate with the in bloom group

Incredible Edible Brighouse Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The outstanding achievement is the creation of Bridge End, the Community Garden, this area of overgrown waste land was last month changed into a garden. Using resources from Lloyd's, Arco Tesco and the council raised beds have been installed and the firm foundations of what we are sure will be a successful community garden were established.

The establishment of an orchard and the management of food growing initiatives in the town centre

Areas for development

- The group has undertaken a large range of tasks this year including the new garden and Tour de Yorkshire which has stretched their resources. There are difficulties in sourcing water for the town centre beds and the group acknowledge that some of the planting could be improved. So whilst there

will always be things to do the group is aware of areas that can be improved and is taking action to implement improvements such as establishing a working party during the day to provide volunteering opportunities to meet peoples availability.

Killingbeck Gardening Group Level 3 Advancing

Areas of Achievement

Linda's enthusiasm shines through this gardening project, and although early days, she has made great steps to improving the estate on which she has lived for years. It's good to see the Community Allotment and how young people are being encouraged in the growing and eating project.

The Community garden commemorating benefactor "William Sutton" is well maintained and the new paths help set off the lawns and planted area. Highlights of seasonal and perennial planting have been provided around the estate which enhance the appearance for all to enjoy.

Areas for development

- Look to encourage more volunteers to help with the work load, and continue to support the young people on the estate to take ownership of their green spaces and be involved with planting and maintaining.
- Look to provide more perennial plants in the design as this will help with the sustainability and maintenance of the project.

Kirkstall Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The judges were met by one of the younger member of the bloom group who were very enthusiastic and proud to show us what they had achieve in only their second year. They have certainly taken on and improved areas of Kirkstall which had previously become overgrown and neglected. Their work can be clearly seen at the busy Kirkstall Junction in an area known as 'Worlds End' once the site of the towns police cells.

The groups work has begun to expand with regular meetings taking place in the local pub, litter picks on an evening each month, looking after and maintaining the local War Memorial, creating wildlife areas on derelict land by the new Kirkstall shopping centre and planting up and maintaining several beds by the leisure centre.

Not only have they maintained and improved the areas but also looked into the history and heritage of the sites which they explained very well. Good to see such a group and hope they can expand for the future.

Areas for development

- The 'Worlds End' bed is coming along nicely, try to incorporate more plants but in keeping with present scheme.
- The raised bed outside the leisure centre requires more soil to lift plants above the walls.
- Continue to develop wildflower areas particularly along the walk to Kirkstall Abbey.
- Proposed planters by the shopping centre; take care on the choice of planter and how they are positioned and secured. Liaise with your local authority.
- Continue to develop as a group, don't take on too much work that other areas deteriorate but what has been achieved so far is excellent.

Low Moor Community Kids' Allotment, York Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

After fourteen years Low Moor Community Kids allotment continues to thrive with children from a very young age along with some of their parents coming to learn how to grow a variety of vegetables fruit and flowers. Each age group having their own plots.

Even on a wet judging day they were busy planting raised beds outside the allotment hut, emptying potato buckets and weighing the produce but most of all having fun. Also good to see that they could eat some of the produce at the end of the day.

All the children were keen to show me what they had done or were doing, and no one afraid to get their hands dirty. Angela who runs the group should also get a special mention for her fourteen years hard work and patience keeping the scheme running. Despite the changing climate. Originally set up because schools had no gardening clubs in area. Even though some have now created their own growing areas, it all stems back to Low Moor and the work there.

Areas for development

- Continue to work with the young children showing them how to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers.
- Continue to find ways to keep the Mares tail under control. Good Luck.
- Encourage more parents and volunteers to come on board and assist with the good work which has been achieve.
- Some really good work carried out here.

Loxley Community Garden, Barnsley Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

It was surprising for the judge to see how much progress the team at Loxley community gardens had made in just two years. The enclosed area surrounded by houses was once unused but has now been transformed into a thriving community garden incorporating 22 raised beds in which varied and healthy vegetable crops were being grown for use by individuals and the community.

Numerous shrubs and fruit trees had been planted round the perimeter and a covered pergola is being built for use as a sitting and social area.

After some assistance in clearing the site, some funding and donations the group has achieved an awful lot. Everyone has worked together to achieve something to be proud of.

Areas for development

- Add the finishing touches to the pergola.
- Re- site the container so that it is less obvious to neighbours.
- Members of the group gradually take on the roll of secretary, chair and committee members.
- Keep on including everyone in the areas sharing the space for leisure, gardening and small events.
- Use the knowledge of the more experienced gardeners to pass on their growing and gardening skill.

Mirfield Promenade Level 3 Advancing

Areas of Achievement

This is a developing project, along with areas that have been successfully reclaimed and planted. The group has used imaginative ways to achieve results such as engaging with a development adjacent to the tow path to provide planting, planting beds and path surfaces.

The Co-op store has a commitment to provide ongoing working parties to assist with the implementing the plan. The success in gaining grants and funding.

Areas for development

- To implement phase two of regaining the towpath and improving the facilities for Mirfield canal users and general visitors.
- Continue to keep in view the big plan whilst working away at small parts as and when possible.

Mytholmroyd Station Partnership Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

This is indeed what Yorkshire in Bloom is all about - making a difference to the neighbourhood and the Station. The Partnership has certainly done that. Lovely planters outside The Church of The Good Shepherd with a mix of annual and sustainable planting. The entrance and path up to the station is delightful with bulbs and year round planting, enhanced by a wonderful 4* Bug Hotel, recycled ceramic wind chimes, clay artwork and colourful information boards done by the Scouts, 3 local primary schools and members of the community.

On the platforms further stunning artwork by the schools, posters depicting The Iron Man by Poet Laureate Ted Hughes, notice boards publicising regular clean ups and events such as the annual Carol Singing, plus lovely themed red or white planters done by The In Bloom Group make this a very welcoming and interesting place for commuters. Funding comes from sponsorship and signage, plus cooperation with the council. The group have made a real difference to the station and the surrounding area making this an outstanding entry to Yorkshire in Bloom. Very well done.

Areas for development

- Just continue with re-establishing the garden recently re-planted following last year's floods.

Northallerton Secret Garden Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

Apart from creating the garden from a very neglected and overgrown area of land next to the high street, securing the adjacent plot and starting to clear it. This is a significant mile stone for the garden.

The excellent bed of floral mix wild flowers at the entrance to the garden. The development of the garden to include fruit, vegetables and ornamental features. The inclusion of and provision for young people.

Areas for development

Continue to develop and incorporate the second area of land as the soil conditions and lease allow. The potential to develop the old potting shed will increase the number and range of activities that can be undertaken.

Remember that the RHS services are available to help you with identification of plants, pests and disease.

Ossett in Bloom Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

It was a thrill to visit Ossett in Bloom! Although the group have only been in existence for a short time they have achieved a lot. Clearly you have made great efforts to get the community involved. It is good that you are so willing to listen to the community and that you have made such successful efforts to get the young people of Ossett involved. Social media are being made full use of in a creative way and it is impressive that a dialogue has opened with local people using social media.

The idea of concentrating on growing herbs in tubs in the town centre is an original one and the relationship with especially the local butcher and recipes for use of the herbs is a very good idea. Thanks to the group all the street furniture is freshly painted and smart. It will be interesting to learn how the idea for bird boxes and little wildlife planted areas among the more mature trees turns out. You are making a real difference to life in Ossett and richly deserve the support you are getting from all aspects of the community.

Areas for development

- The gravel in the gratings in the town centre looks smart and clean but it might be good to consider what a good weapon gravel makes for silly people to use against shop windows. Perhaps in future it might be good to consider pea gravel as an alternative.
- The area considered for a wildlife area is under mature trees and will therefore be shady and dry. Research plants which are really suited for these conditions and for lighter areas consider woodland edge planting and remember digging is going to be difficult because of tree roots.
- Consider more sustainable planting in the town centre to give all year round interest.
- Just keep on trying to involve the community as you are doing and you have a bright future.

Outback, Halifax Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

This is an excellent centre providing facilities for many groups with differing needs. Caroline, with her team of volunteers, does wonders in her 16 hours a week. Children are encouraged to exercise as well as it being a place for learning and doing.

It is good example organic of gardening, with re-cycling, encouraging wildlife and composting etc. The good quality fruit and veg is successfully sold to the community making it nearly self-sufficient.

Areas for development

- This centre is continually moving forward and assessing the needs of those who use it and should continue.
- There is obviously so much to do here and priorities have to be made to ensure the safety and wellbeing of those attending.

Oxspring, Barnsley Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

The work undertaken at the school is mirrored in this lovely village. The Parish Council are helpful and positive in their support for the village. Horticultural practice follows an environmental ethos with plenty of examples of composting, suitable planting and wildlife consideration. The 'Help Yourself' planters are a great idea and work on a crop rotation basis. Woodland Trust saplings have been planted and used as pollinators. The Oxspring Titavations along with the Parish Council are creating a lasting heritage in this village.

The list of projects are impressive and include; The planting of Woodland Trust Saplings for pollinators, The Rookery - where bush craft events are held and school classes can take place. The historic Pinfold and trough. The proposed orchard at the back of the Pinfold. The yearly removal and burning on site of Himalayan Balsam is making an impact and reducing the growth. Bower Dell - a wonderful natural habitat. Family days for planting saplings and clearing areas.

Areas for development

- It may be worth considering interpretation boards, in particularly the historical elements at the pinfold and trough area.
- The Orchard plans will enhance this village further, I hope you are able to commence work on this soon.
- Consider using mulch in the pinfold area.
- It is worth considering moving into the village category of Yorkshire in Bloom, whilst I believe you may feel this is a big jump forward. I am sure your village would do well.

Rainbow Community Garden, Northern Hull Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

What a wonderful secret colourful haven we found when we entered the Rainbow Community Garden. Cared for by two part time workers who are funded by the Lottery and The Rank Foundation plus volunteers, the garden is constantly changing and

evolving and is used by the whole community, including children of all ages, NHS referrals, people with disabilities and training groups from schools and colleges. There are paths for wheelchairs, raised beds, a greenhouse growing tomatoes and grapes plus a small woodland area with bird feeders, a bug hut and painted logs for children to sit on or lift to hunt for bugs! Conservation and recycling is important - with trees planted by The Woodland Trust - as is the sensory garden with secluded seating areas all integrated into a wonderful garden filled with colourful pots planted by the visitors, lots of paintings, toadstools and hidden treasures to be explored.

Volunteers and apprentice groups have varnished or painted seats and tables and replaced the wooden tops on the raised beds Wilmott Dixons provided roofing for The Gardeners rest eating area and Tesco have provided reclaimed sleepers and a community worker to help make the new vegetable plots.

A delightful willow tunnel leads to the newly acquired garden area which was cleared of brambles and rubbish and now has donated seats where community events will be held- another amazing space for the community to get together.

Congratulations to all - especially Jeannie - who have made this wonderful oasis.

Areas for development

- Continue with the developing vegetable plot and just keep up the fantastic work -Very well done.

Rawdon, Leeds Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

Rawdon has come a very long way since it was set up three years ago. The amount that has been achieved is to be highly commended.

There is excellent community involvement, with good support and contributions from the population and various groups and organisations, both in kind and financially.

The group is fully aware of environmental issues which are evident. The war memorials, the allotments, the focal point at the Rawdon Stone are all good examples of how the area has been improved.

Gardening practice is excellent throughout. Plans for the future are exciting and should lead to a long and successful future.

Areas for development

- The aims of the group to do a limited amount and to do it well are to be commended and will keep the group busy for some time, while maintaining the existing high standard.
- Composting is a good idea and instead of using the brown bins all the time it would be good to try to make your own compost which can be used as a soil improver.

- As this is such a good entry, with so much going on it might be time to consider entering the competition as a small town which will then give added status to the excellent work that is being done.
- Funding support has been very good but sponsorship in the future may be an asset.

Robert Street Community Allotment, Barnsley Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

Developing a community garden in such a short time with the help of volunteers and community groups. Making it a facility not just for allotment holders but other visitors to the site especially local schools.

Good raised beds showing what people can grow in their gardens as well as a controlled composting area which is well set out. The work the volunteers do to show what can be achieved through growing your own plants and allotments.

Areas for development

- Continue to let out empty plots, don't let them get overgrown.
- Encourage people to grow their own as you are doing.
- Keep up the community spirit which you certainly have down at Robert Street Allotments.
- Keep looking at further funding for the site.

Royston in Bloom Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

It was lovely to meet a group of people who are prepared to make such great efforts for Royston. Obviously there is a lot of support for the group in the area and rightly so.

The pocket Park is a lovely, bright space with healthy, well maintained planting. The idea of letting volunteers choose plants for the containers they look after will really encourage their efforts. The planting at the Old Wells feature and the retaining of the old inscription found at the site really adds colour and interest.

The feature of the wall decorated with apple trees to record the fruit growing heritage of Royston is a lovely idea. It was good to hear of the local school maintaining a planter.

The organisation, recording and planning by the group is very impressive. The beds at Royston Lane were very colourful. Where stone circles were used around small beds to keep back grass and weeds it worked well.

Areas for development

- Think of uniting the planters around Royston by adding sustainable planting to add height and soften the planter edges while allowing volunteers to choose bedding to enhance them.
- If it is possible to get over the present objections adding some seating and a litter bin to the Pocket park would really give it a valuable purpose. People might eat lunch there or just sit among the planting.
- Continue to develop the Old Wells which is such a valuable part of Royston. Since apples were grown here perhaps some containers with fruit for people to pick might be a good idea.
- Consider containers of herbs and other scented planting around the seats at the Old Wells.
- An interpretation board explaining the meaning of the apple feature there might be of interest.
- There are several groups working hard and doing their best for Royston, perhaps at some future time it might be possible to form a federation and come together under a common title.

Shadwell Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

Very good quality seasonal floral planting, including some 85 hanging baskets. The range and scale of projects that the group has successfully undertaken is impressive and has made visible and physical improvements to the village. The willingness of the group to undertake additional grass cutting to improve on the reduced frequency provided by the Local Authority.

Areas for development

- This is a very good entry and these comments are only suggestions for consideration should resources allow. It may be possible to provide an information panel in the play area displaying wildlife and plant life that may be observed in the whole area. A little like the walks map that is sited in the village.

Stonefall Park and Panhandle Harrogate Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

A relatively young group who have identified their short term and long term goals and are working steadily with these aims in mind. Partnership working with local councillors, schools and residents has been established and is working well.

The park areas are well defined by the differing mowing regimes, close cut turf for children's play, meadows which are managed for the wild flowers and an area which remains untouched. Paths are mown through the meadow areas and are evidently well used.

The volunteers are adept and very keen on keeping records of wildflower found in the park. This is to be encouraged. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the park.

Areas for development

- Stonefall Park and Panhandle presents a large area to look after so recruitment and retention of volunteers is vital if the group is to continue to thrive. A small programme of events held in the park would encourage people of all ages to participate and once awareness has been raised your volunteer base will increase.
- Keep a record of your volunteer hours and involve the local press at every opportunity. Can you advertise your Facebook address more widely?
- The project to reposition the notice board will help further to increase communication and awareness to local people.

Streetwise Community Association (Kids), Hull Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The key strength for this group lies with their community participation with families involved in the development and maintenance of the garden. The garden itself is situated adjacent to Western Library and library users are encouraged to use the gardens and vice versa with joint events being held from time to time.

Larger community events are held throughout the year. The association are also looking at ways in which they can improve the environment in the nearby former Cemetery Park and the adjacent pedestrianised walkways. They support local schools and their 'model' is to be rolled out across other community projects in the City.

They are also very good at ensuring sustainability of the association and the work it does going forwards. They have been successful in attracting funding from a variety of sources including through partnerships and they invest in their volunteers through training, skills swapping and utilising the skills they already possess. They work in close partnership with Friends of Western Library who also support the garden.

Areas for development

- The community garden itself is attractive with some interesting features. It is important that it is a low maintenance garden. However, this has to be balanced against some practicalities such as not allowing vegetable plots to

- be taken over by other plants, ensuring paths, walkways and access points are kept relatively clear. A plan to have a herb garden on top of a shed roof while no doubt adding some interest is hardly practical for picking purposes!
- Looking at encouraging wildlife into the garden is also another aspect that the group might like to consider for the future.

Tempest Road, Beeston Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The small group has recovered a small area of land outside a disused church. This has resulted in a garden which is visible from the road. The improvement is so good it now means that service can be held around the War Memorial something that was impossible before the group recovered the garden.

The work has now spread along Tempest Road with the provision of floral planters.

Areas for development

- The group are well aware of what they are achieving, and should continue to make environmental improvements in the area as opportunities occur. Much of what can be achieved depends on the future use of the church.

The Friends of Sandringham Park Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

Excellent community participation, leader motivated to engage all citizens from concept to implementation of ideas demonstrating changes and impact made to this ever growing Park group. The group has secured grant funding to assist with involving young people with planting schemes.

The community are engaged to nip in the bud any potential untidiness through litter, graffiti or dog fouling and it was evident that people of all age groups were using the facilities created.

The entrance noticeboard is informative.

Areas for development

- A nice planted border of mixed shrubs with perennials would add interest. Around the site other pockets of planting could be developed to create additional fragrance and textures for all to enjoy as well as having ample wildflower areas.
- Possibly encourage some groups to survey the flora and insect life on the site.

The High Spring Residents Association, Keighley Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

This project was commenced seven years ago on an area that was full of Japanese Knot Weed and totally unusable as a footpath. It was interesting to see the before and after photos and to note the area is now enjoyed by the local community and the footpath used as it was intended. It has now all been cleared, a footpath constructed and the area well landscaped.

There is a small greenhouse in which are growing healthy vegetables. Good planting can be seen, which is in keeping with the lovely stone walls which were revealed when the site was cleared. Consideration for wildlife is evident. There is an attractive seating and BBQ area, with facilities for children who are involved with the project.

A very good project with financial and community support.

Areas for development

- The planting is good but try to aim for all year round colour including spring bulbs.
- Some fund raising would be beneficial to help obtain future planting schemes while continuing to accept plants from residents.
- Continue to work with and provide facilities for children.

The Shay Garden Project Level 3 Advancing

Areas of Achievement

We can imagine that the Spring displays of Narcissus, having been created using Rotary funding, provided a wonderful display for passers-by. Purple crocuses donated by Rotary to publicise the End Polio Campaign have been planted to enhance the Spring display. The shrubs planted earlier are beginning mature and take shape.

Areas for development

- Create an overall concept for the Shay Project and implement in stages as and when funds allow.
- Show appreciation of participants work and their contributions through creating signage which they can show their family and friends their achievements.
- Utilise and network with other community groups to add a diverse range of shade loving plants and create a harmonious planting scheme rather than the current plants.

- Planting in drifts and successional planting would offer a dramatic display using White Anemone for example at the back of the borders would light up the space!
- Use the community groups to apply mulch to the area and recycle tree shredded materials.
- Whilst the cobbles have been recycled from around Halifax it was disappointing to see them completely covered by weeds.

Tidy Gardens Services Level 4 Thriving

Areas of Achievement

It is useful to build relationships with local retailer to sell surplus fruit and vegetables
 Excellent conservation work carried out on the site including a wormery, bird boxes, composting, a pond, planting for pollinators, log banks, hedgehog house and butterfly boxes. Also there is lots of recycling, making pots from paper and labels from milk containers. It is great to see that nothing is wasted on this site
 There are further opportunities for a variety of work with other groups such as Hookstone Wood Balsam bashing, Starbeck in Bloom and Harrogate and District Allotment Society.

Good use of all the produce from the garden including fruit, vegetables and lavender
 The group have a useful space for selling at the Starbeck Library

Areas for development

- Consider selling some of the painted stones for further funding or painting them like ladybirds
- Consider making insect houses (the size of bird boxes) either to be put up on the site or sell for funding

Woodkirk, Morley Level 1 Establishing

Areas of Achievement

The mosaic takes pride of place here and deservedly so, and is testament to the excellent maintenance work the group regularly undertake. The orchard project proposed would be a good asset for the community in the future. It's encouraging to see groups take on the responsibility of projects like this which will take a lot of hard work at the beginning but will be very rewarding once it starts to bear fruit (ouch!)

Areas for development

- The group could possibly consider a larger Interpretation board located to the front of the border on the main pathway to the bus stop on Leeds Road to

compliment the mosaics giving members of the public a visual reference to the mosaics while reading the information supplied on the board.

- The steak should now be removed from the Christmas tree
- The planters on the central reservation could do with some maintenance
- The larger verges would welcome some more community tree planting with the introduction of bulbs to add colour

Woodlands Community Garden Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

Woodlands Community Garden is an outstanding example of how local people can work together through community horticulture to create a vibrant and beautiful meeting place.

People of all ages are being brought together by this project from the very young to the young at heart. All are benefitting from opportunities the garden is offering to work together, enjoy exercise in the open air and, most important of all, socialise through a programme of events taking place throughout the year.

The healthy eating event for youngsters working with local chefs and the rocket science workshop are a terrific way of stretching the imagination and learning whilst having fun. The Sharing Ideas Day is a great idea in itself. Woodlands Community Garden tells a very impressive story.

Areas for development

- Under Catherine's leadership the garden and associated programme has been established and is now running well. However, for long term sustainability continue to share responsibility and leadership across the group wherever possible.
- Continue with your imaginative and well thought out programme of events reaching out to people of all ages.

Woodside Flats Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

Dougie, one of the residents has built and maintains this beautiful garden for the residents of these 12 flats. It is immaculate with an excellent variety of plants and shrubs, many of which are grown from seeds and cuttings etc.

Environmental issues are very well attended to, and a lot of recycling goes on.

Help is provided by the Housing Association when and if it is required.

Areas for development

- This garden is so good it is difficult to suggest areas for improvement. Keep going and well done.

Wortley Hall Walled Garden Level 5 Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

Wortley Hall Walled Garden is slowly being restored to its former glory. Extreme care is being taken to source the correct bricks required to rebuild the walls. This garden started life in the 1790's as a Georgian walled kitchen garden. It has been certified as an organic site since 2006.

There are 40 volunteers who help at various times in the garden, they also encourage the young people from Green Acre Specialist School to work in the garden. The south Garden holds 16 Yorkshire Heritage varieties of apple trees.

They produce their own seeds and do not buy anything in, creating their own compost and fertilisers. The use of companion planting allows nature to assist with removing predators.

The main aim of the garden is food production, they currently sell produce for a box scheme and to a co-operative in Sheffield as well as selling to visitors when the garden is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Areas for development

- It would be arrogant of me to suggest development areas as the skills and knowledge displayed on my visit were excellent. it is an understatement to say I was impressed the whole ethos - the size and scope and the passion for this garden. I would recommend it to anyone to visit and learn how gardening organically can be successfully done and to quote Darrel 'by being brave and to keep going'
- I can understand it must be difficult in our current climate to find funding to support this wonderful operation but commend you for all the efforts you are making and I am sure will continue to make to raise the necessary funds to continue long into the future.

Category 11: Young Peoples Award

Birkwood Primary School, Barnsley Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Despite the wet day the children at the school were keen to show the judge what they had achieved in their outdoor gardening club. All the planters around the school had been planted up by the children and maintained by them.

The outdoor growing area at the far end of the playing fields had an array of raised beds for different years in the school. They had a wide range of vegetables and fruit as well as flowers.

The children who showed us round had a good knowledge of plants and also showed us their wildlife garden with an array of bug huts, bird boxes and hedgehog hotels.

Despite the rain it did not deter the children's enthusiasm. Thank you for an excellent visit.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider developing a wildflower area along the boundary of the school. Present area is shaded due to large trees.
- Continue to grow in beds as you are at present developing the children's growing skills.
- Good to see produce being used in school.
- May be worth growing Gooseberries and some currents as cordons to prevent children being scratched by the thorns
- Good growing area and some good crops, well done.
- Children's knowledge and enthusiasm excellent.

Friarage School Garden, Scarborough Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Friarage Community Primary School lies in the heart of Scarborough Old Town. Despite its grounds being substantially tarmac, they have done well to develop perennial beds which enhance the front entrance and to the side of the playground plantings of shrubs and bushes were effective in 'greening' an otherwise man-made site. Other features included raised beds for productive use, and both temporary (tyres, wellington boots etc.) and permanent planters planted with brightly coloured annuals. The judges enjoyed meeting enthusiastic members of the gardening club who are clearly involved in a 'hands-on' capacity.

The school uses the garden effectively as a teaching tool, linking to curriculum areas such as science and to themed projects in the school as well as their many extended school activities (e.g. Children's University). They proudly display their certificates from local and regional in Bloom competitions. Produce from the garden has been cooked in the school kitchen and used in tasting sessions with pupils.

Well done to all those involved. It is good to see a commitment to the outside space which benefits not only the school and its pupils but the surrounding residents in the built up area.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The raised vegetable beds were sited in a somewhat shaded area and may benefit from moving to a brighter spot if this is practical.
- In choosing crops, it would make sense to focus on those that are easily grown e.g. lettuce, radishes, beans, peas, rather than battling with those which are a struggle to maintain. This does not preclude the pupils from choosing what they would like to grow, but perhaps they could choose from a more limited and practical 'menu'. Additionally, even though the beds provide only a small growing area the range of crops produced could be increased if desired by using an approach such as 'square foot gardening'.
- It is recognised that schools are busy places (particularly at the end of the summer term!), but a couple of areas were in need of some attention – one being the willow arch and the other the permanent concrete planters to the front/side. The help of a volunteer(s) either regular or occasional can be very useful with some of these maintenance issues.
- The buddleias in the borders were attracting butterflies (some had been released into the area) but it would be nice to see a wider range of initiatives to attract wildlife into the grounds. Addressing this will also help the school with their Eco-schools award.
- A range of organisations provide a wealth of on-line resources supporting school gardening including the RHS Campaign for School Gardening, the Woodland Trust Nature Detectives and Garden Organic Schools. The involvement of someone professionally involved with horticulture or a knowledgeable amateur could help the standard of 'gardening' and understanding of the pupils.

Haworth Primary School Gardening Club Gold Award

Overall impression;

This school demonstrates all that can possibly be done to benefit the children's education, the community and the environment. The gardening is led by Steve Thorpe who is truly inspirational and is fully supported by the head Teacher Helen Thompson.

It is so good to see how Libby and Phoebe the gardening club leaders have taken on their role with such responsibility. They are knowledgeable, enthusiastic and proud of what has been achieved. All 309 children in this school are involved in the gardening and it is a key part of their learning experience.

The standard of gardening can be envied by everyone. 90% of the plants are grown and looked after by the children. They supply and help other schools in addition to their work in the community. The produce is well used by the school and sold by children in their shop to generate funds.

The all aspects of environment are of prime importance to the school.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The proposed Erasmus Project working with 5 other schools throughout Europe sounds exciting and we will look forward to hearing about its progress.
- The application to become a Gardening School of Excellence is also very worthwhile and should benefit many other community groups.
- There is so much going on to a very high standard, in all aspects of the "in Bloom "Competition that it is difficult to find areas for improvement. I am sure this school will continue to go from strength to strength and we wish them all every success in the future.

Hutton Cranswick Childminders Allotment Silver Award

Overall Impression

Hutton Cranswick Childminders allotment is situated on the local sports centre grounds alongside the tennis courts. The area is only a few years old and set into three areas. The children's allotment area (established), Wildflower Garden (establishing) Sensory garden, which is to be developed. The allotment area is all designed from recycled materials, tractor tyres, reclaimed timber even a recycled summer house lovingly painted and restored.

The young children learn from their parents how to grow a variety of vegetables and fruit all grown in compost produced on site. The wildflower garden is beginning to develop and the group have further plans to improve it. They also want to develop a sensory garden for local elderly residents and their young children both who can then mix with each other. A project in its early years but one that has potential for both young and old. Keep up the good work

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to develop the wildflower area and introduce more bird boxes for smaller birds as well as wildlife habitats.

- Consider developing a more organised composting area. Section the area off and screen.
- The Sensory garden idea is a must if finances are available. Really good to bring elderly residents and young people together and share their ideas.
- May need to expand growing area.

Hutton Cranswick Playgroup Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

Set in the grounds of the local Methodist Church this playgroup is certainly active, despite having to share a small area for activities with other groups. The children needed no prompting from their excellent tutors in telling us all about how they grew plants in a variety of containers from boots, buckets and tyres. They showed us how recycling and composting worked, and how they grew plants to be displayed in planters outside the church on the busy main road as part of the village entry. Good to see records kept on a yearly basis and this should be encouraged. Sorry the butterflies hatched before we got there but maybe next time.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Try broken egg shells around greens to keep pesky slugs and snails away.
- May link up with the allotment site by the sport field and share ideas.
- Due to size of area, restraints with other site users and age of these youngsters you can ask for no more. Great.

Hutton Cranswick School Gardening Club Gold Award

Overall Impression

The children at Hutton Cranswick gardening club were a absolute delight. Very enthusiastic and keen to show the judge what they had achieved through their gardening activities despite having already had a sports day and having to prepare for a wedding ceremony in the afternoon. Each class is involved with maintaining planters around the school from reception through to year 3. Very good presentation to start by the school followed by a visit around the schools gardening area then newly developed wildlife area.

The children make their own compost which is used on the raised beds as well as large planters. Growing a wide range of Vegetables and Flowers. Everything is recycled from containers to planters. The children despite their young age also had a good knowledge of plants and when to harvest. The newly developed wildlife area will also make an excellent teaching facility where children can learn about wildflowers, trees, bird's, insects and their habitats. The children were a credit to the school and once again thank you for letting me see your school. Thanks also to the teachers and helpers for an excellent visit.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration;

- The children's knowledge and understanding of how plants grow, when to harvest and what each plant is called.
- Plants grown to a good standard, both in the ground and large recycled planters.
- Use of recycled compost made on site throughout the year.
- The way all the school are involved in the growing programme.
- New wildlife area will be a great teaching facility for the future.
- The Overall Impression of fruit trees on the perimeter of the garden will also help show the children what can be achieved.
- Good support from teachers and helpers supporting the children's learning of plants.

Moorside Infant School Gold Award

Overall Impression

A great pictorial welcome for the judges, the school was excellent and a joy to visit, the children led the tour and were focussed and enthusiastic. There is good liaison with RHS and NEHS and a wide variety of projects are on-going with many plans for the future.

Recycling is good with paper, stamps, mobile phones, glasses, coins and printer cartridges all being recycled and a complete lack of any litter is a strong ethos within the school. This is an Eco-school and has just been awarded a Green Flag for the second time.

There is tree planting in association with the Woodland Trust and in the forest area there are bird boxes, bug hotels and a hedgehog house and there is a link with the local hedgehog rescue centre. There is a weather centre for taking daily readings. Plants are grown from seed and when fully grown some of these are dissected to enable the children to recognise the various parts of a plant.

Forest school is a great success and gives practical education making a shelter, starting and maintaining a camp fire and as the judges found out, toasting marshmallows.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Judges look forward to seeing future plans with the juniors.
- An award given for renewing/modifying the outdoor classroom will enable further interesting developments.
- Revamping the weather station will create further interest for the children

Nafferton Primary School in Bloom Gold Award

Overall Impression

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

Flowers, vegetable and fruit are grown and used in the kitchen and funding has been acquired for a greenhouse, henhouse and a child friendly kitchen to prepare and cook the produce. There are also plans for a forest school and many lessons already take place outdoors either on the circle of tree-trunks which in winter surround a fire pit or in the innovative Yurt and wigwams in the school grounds.

A very impressive winner of the National Water Explorers competition and many new projects are planned for next year and the pupils are encouraged to contribute to their planning and do so enthusiastically.

Parents and grandparents are involved and donate their time for projects and plants from their gardens

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

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Some of the planting was haphazard, probably due to the plants being donated and dug in without an overall plan. The excellent designs on the mood boards you have created could take colour and height of plants into account.

Newington Academy after school gardening club, Hull Gold Award

Overall Impression

Newington Academy is a primary school in the west of Hull. Although housed in an old building, it is surrounded by comparatively extensive grounds. The judge was shown round by a group of enthusiastic and knowledgeable gardening club pupils, accompanied by teacher Mr Morris and volunteer Steve Carter. To the rear of the school an enclosed garden encompasses a lawned area, vegetable plots and fruit trees, perennial and annual plantings. This wonderful space is well-used by the school as an 'outdoor classroom' for everything from story-telling to delivering science lessons.

Throughout the ground a number of raised beds and hanging baskets provide additional colour and a photographic portfolio provided evidence of Spring colour in the form of masses of tulips and daffodils. They have been supporting another local school as they start to develop their grounds by providing them with plants and at weekends parents are encouraged to come and take part in gardening in the grounds.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- The gardening club with the support of tireless volunteer Steve Carter do a wonderful job to enhance the school grounds and it was good to hear of the wider involvement of other pupils and parents. The following suggestions are for consideration to enhance and expand this great work.
- The gardening club might like to give some consideration to further ways in which they can address the three 'R's, that is, reducing, reusing and recycling to improve their environmental credentials
- Their school boundary with trees and longer grass has the potential to provide opportunities for encouraging a variety of wildlife into the grounds, providing not only valuable habitats but a wonderful outdoor teaching resource.
- Whilst beds of annuals and hanging baskets provide splashes of colour around the school, they are heavy on maintenance and the school might like to give some consideration to the balance between annuals and perennial plantings.
- Also related to practicality matters, some raised beds directly behind the goal posts and the sports lawn, apparently (and not surprisingly), suffer from occasional damage. It might be more pragmatic to either remove some of these beds or fill them with more robust plantings, perhaps ornamental grasses?

Old Earth School Gold Award and Category Winner

Overall Impression

What a happy, hive of gardening activity met us at Old Earth School
Along with Michael Anderson and pupils Freddy, Jake, Maiya and Imogen who showed us around this wonderful school whose ethos is to provide children of all ages with a very happy, caring education.

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

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

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

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Maybe consider a new project next year as a follow on from the incredible achievement of all 482 pupils planting a vegetable trough – perhaps a large floral / herb / vegetable planter for each year group with a theme of their choice, based on Art / Literature / the environment / Wildlife etc.
- Otherwise keep up the wonderful work – very well done.

Oxspring Primary School, Barnsley Gold Award

Overall Impression;

Emily has to be congratulated on the positive work she has been undertaking with the children from the school. I was impressed with how knowledgeable the young people were and how keen to show me their work in the garden, taking time to explain how they have planted and taken care of the many varieties of vegetables. I was also impressed that the young people understood about companion planting. It was clear how much pride all the young people took in the garden. They compost and make their own fertiliser. They also have a wormery which the young people took great pleasure in showing me and describing how it works.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration;

- The plans for the sensory garden, and hopefully the outdoor kitchen are impressive and I hope they come to fruition very soon.
- Consider introducing an information board outside as well as in the shed, for plant identification.

- My overriding comment would be to carry on - this is an impressive school whose garden is inclusive to all the school and not just a school gardening group.

Priory Primary School, Hull Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

We were warmly welcomed by Mrs Roe and very enthusiastic and knowledgeable children from years 1, 3, 4 and Foundation and taken to the lovely school garden planted by the whole school. Each class gardens on a weekly basis doing digging, raking and fertilising, different year groups have planted and maintain raised beds of vegetables and herbs and flower beds all-round the border of the garden using compost from the compost heaps. This lovely neat lawned area boasts a willow arch with seating, a bird watching hut and bird feeders, a magical wooden play hut built by the caretaker and a parent and a new venture keeping hens.

Tree stumps in a circle with a fire pit in the centre act as an outdoor classroom for Forest School activities - with hot chocolate and marshmallows on winter days! The school is currently having a major extension built but still manages another side garden by the playground with raised beds of soft fruit and wild flowers, recycled tyres planted with flowers, a border planted by the Foundation year, a grassed area with a fruit tree planted by each year group and a delightful all year round playground. There are colourful posters on the entrance walls - the result of a Wildlife challenge for every class and there are plans to develop a wildlife area and pond when building work is complete.

Funding of £6,000 has come from Hull City of Culture, Garfield Western Foundation, Recketts Blue and East Riding and Humber Charitable Trust.

Wonderful community involvement, the school ethos of gardening for all, a mentoring and nurturing scheme and "chat and chill" for needy children make Priory a wonderful school for all the pupils. Very well done.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue with the development of the new wildflower area and pond and gardening the new area.
- Perhaps publicise its entry into Yorkshire in Bloom – maybe a poster competition for the entry.

Stoneferry Primary School Silver Award

Overall Impression

Stoneferry Primary School, situated close to the centre of Hull has around 210 pupils. The Gardening Club is a new venture started at the beginning of the 2016/17 academic year and the judge was shown round by an enthusiastic group of pupils accompanied by headteacher Joanne Harris and volunteer Steve Carter who jointly run the club.

The club have made an excellent start in their bid to brighten up their school grounds and to revitalise a former vegetable and fruit plot and these improvements will help the school in their bid to obtain an Eco-schools Green Flag.

The pupils have been very much involved in a hands-on capacity in this process and their ideas are incorporated into plans going forward. The group has been comparatively small to date and largely consisting of Year 4/5 pupils, but now that the results of their efforts are visible more pupils including some from the younger year groups are keen to join.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Firstly, I would like to emphasise that this is an excellent start to what will be a gardening journey over the next few years. All those involved should be very proud of what they have achieved so far.
- This year, understandably, much use has been made of annual plantings to provide instant impact and colour. However, maintaining, watering and replanting these on a yearly basis can be quite onerous in a busy school setting, therefore I would advise the gradual replacement of annuals with more easily maintained perennials.
- In the process of introducing perennials the club might like to look at using some plants for attracting pollinators. A google search will provide various sources of information on this subject. Related to this, the school might like to consider appropriate methods of encouraging wildlife into their grounds.
- Larger pots/containers require less watering than smaller containers and hanging baskets and I would advise a pragmatic approach to the use of the latter.
- Funding for the various projects will become more important as they develop and the group might like to look at ways in which they can bring in funds or make use of gifts in kind.
- The development of the year 4 garden is an exciting project with the mural providing a wonderful backdrop to this outside area. Once again I would suggest the use of substantially low maintenance planting
- Make use of the many resources available on the web to support school gardening, including the RHS Campaign for School Gardening, the Woodland Trust Nature Detectives and Garden Organic Schools resources.

- The gardening club might also enjoy a visit to another school locally which has a more developed garden. This is an excellent way to pick up practical hint and tips.

Streetwize Community Association (Children's), Hull Silver Award

Overall Impression

Streetwize Community Association is substantially based in the community garden they have developed in a previously derelict area adjacent to Western Library in Hull. Children are involved alongside their families and work in an area of the garden which mainly has raised beds. Some of these beds are used for vegetable and fruit growing, though some have succumbed to self-seeded plants from other parts of the garden. Joint events held with the adjacent library and larger community events also involve families. Wellington boots which had been planted up by the children added unusual interest in this area.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- It is good to see Streetwize's involvement with families. However, to engage children it is important to think about gardening in a different way from 'adult' gardening. A level of success is important, and this includes working with certain types of easily managed plants. It is also important to maintain and look after the plants the children have planted/sown from seed so that their efforts are seen to be valuable.
- Easy productive crops for children include potatoes, runner beans, broad beans, courgettes, herbs, lettuce, radishes, and fruit such as strawberries and raspberries (nb some of these were noted on the judging visit). Easy and fun ornamental plants include nasturtiums, pot marigolds and sunflowers.
- Although mainly aimed at schools, there are a number of organisations who support gardening with children and have produced a wealth of useful resources available on-line. These include the RHS Campaign for School Gardening, the Woodland Trust's nature detectives and Gardening Organic's education programme.
- After going to all the trouble of collecting bottles and making a bottle greenhouse, it was a shame to see it being used solely for storage. With a bit of planning it could be used both for storage and growing plants. Indoor crops such as tomatoes and cucumbers could be grown here and seeds sown by the children could be given a head start undercover.

Tubs of Culture, Molescroft Primary School, Beverley Gold Award

Overall Impression

Molescroft Primary School led by the Head teacher Mr Loncaster was a pleasure and inspirational visit which warranted more time to appreciate the efforts the children had produced.

Dedicated outdoor learning encompasses horticulture/bio-diversity and recycling into the school curriculum.

The Tubs of Culture was an excellent way to express the culture of Hull, each tub was well researched presenting a variety of plants and associated decoration in which the children again showed good knowledge of what each plant represented within their tubs.

Special mention also goes to the efforts of all the classes and teachers from Y6 down to Y1 for the excellent way they presented their Tubs of Culture.

The conservation area was again an excellent way of engaging all the school in the conservation of wildlife interspersed with art work and the vegetable garden made this an excellent project.

There are so many good initiatives and examples of good practice within the school that the judges left with no doubt that is an exceptional entry!

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue with plans to renovate the outdoor learning/decking area possibly considering some shading.
- Consider creating a wildflower meadow within the school grounds, trial leaving specific areas of the grounds un-mown to increase bio-diversity and collect data on plant species.

Wisewood School and pre-school, Sheffield Silver Gilt Award

Overall Impression

A substantial part of the area used for gardening is hard surface, so much of the planting has to be done in containers. The plant containers are used to create separate areas within the outdoor space which is done to advantage.

The children are knowledgeable and enthusiastic about their gardening activities but it does seem that there may be a funding problem for the project in the future.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consideration could be given to seeking sponsorship for the gardening project within the school from outside sources.
- Is there a possibility of the children's parents becoming more involved in the gardening project within school time or afterwards.

Woodlesford Primary School Silver Gilt Award

Overall impression

This is the first time for the school as an independent entry. The school garden was created in 2007 by volunteers, including parents, children, staff and Woodlesford in Bloom members.

The judges were given a warm welcome by dedicated staff and the children who enthusiastically displayed their efforts and knowledge and were exceptionally polite and well-mannered. They were a credit to the school and their parents.

The expansive site was well maintained, comprised a lawned area with raised beds, wild sections and an enclosed play park. This very tidy site is well used by pupils in their after school gardening club where they sow and grow vegetables, herbs, flowers and fruit in raised beds which incorporate companion planting to attract/deter insects. Some produce is used by the school kitchen and Funzone and is grown organically. An outdoor "classroom" area has been created which further aids the garden as a positive learning space.

The wilder areas have bird boxes, insect hotel, hedgehog house and nectar plants to encourage biodiversity and preserve wildlife. There are composting facilities and an exposed metal fence was put to good use for a sunflower competition.

All of these environmentally-friendly activities clearly captivated the children and it was very encouraging to witness their enthusiasm.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Consider increasing the number of feeding and drinking/bathing stations for wildlife on the site. Water is essential, particularly in summer and winter.
- The metal fence is an opportunity to develop espaliered or fan-trained fruit trees and raspberry/tayberry canes along with flowers or climbers such as evening primrose and honeysuckle to attract nocturnal creatures like moths.
- The creation of a small wildflower meadow project would demonstrate to the pupils the potential diversity of colour and form in a simple garden area.
- Consideration needs to be given to the development of a phased improvement plan embracing the whole of the expansive grounds of the school as part of the entry. The potential for increasing habitat creation, greater diversity of plants, particularly different tree species is enormous, and would widen the learning experience for pupils.

Category 12: Universities, Colleges and Further Education Establishments

University of Bradford Gold Award Joint Category Winner

Overall Impression

Even a rainy summer day could not hide the impressive nature of the University's grounds or the warmth of the welcome. Bradford University is obviously an impressive and inspiring place which is bound to provide a wonderful experience for its students.

The efforts the University are making to care for the environment and the provision made for wildlife is impressive. Encouraging students to grow herbs and edible plants is a good idea.

Involving local schools in planting hedges etc. and forming links with the local community is very worthwhile. The planting within the Sunspace is a very creative idea. Everywhere the maintenance of grassed areas and hard landscaping is of a high standard. The art installation outside the Atrium is a lovely feature. Composting all food waste in the Rocket Composter is a wonderful idea. Fruit and vegetable areas where staff and students can pick and use fresh produce is very beneficial.

The management plan for the grounds is detailed and impressive, following it will really benefit the University.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Extend the use of plant labels to make people aware just what they are seeing.
- Consider extending and developing the sensory garden, featuring each of the senses.
- Encourage and extend the use of the raised beds.
- Consider introducing more art installations around the site.
- Consider adding more woodland edge planting to the woodland area.
- Adding more buddleia to wildlife areas would really attract butterflies to the grounds.
- Consider introducing more areas of architectural planting to contrast with the lovely soft greens elsewhere.
- In the Peace Garden consider introducing ornamental grasses for gentle movement and soothing sound.
- Consider ways of developing the planting on the roof of the Bright Building roof garden.

University of Hull Gold Award Joint Category Winner

Overall Impression

Many types of garden were in evidence throughout the tour with colour and foliage enhancing the experience. This University would be a choice for many students due to the high standard of the many areas of cultivation and the varied use of the plants both annual, perennial and shrubs used.

It was not just a show garden but an area which the students could use during their studies and leisure time. The gardeners and maintenance workers are commended for a good clean and tidy environment for the students and visitors to use and enjoy during their time at the University.

Many plans were shared during the tour and it will be good to see them come to fruition at some future visit.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- A portfolio of what we were to see would help in our preparation for our visit to this outstanding area.
- If the students help in the grounds it would have been good to meet a few of them to share the work they had done.
- When the playing field area and the new flats are completed could a vegetable area be provided to show how food is grown either as an allotment type garden or just vegetable beds with signage to encourage the students in their later life in education or with children they come into contact with.
- As we are in the centenary of the Great War could a wildflower area be constructed when changing bedding to commemorate those who gave their lives in that conflict.
- A great time spent with you and a very enjoyable experience Thank you for letting me share your lovely grounds.

University of Leeds Gold Award

Overall Impression

A great deal of thought had gone in to the University judging route to show all aspects of the criteria. The management and maintenance of the floral features and green space was underpinned by the Universities Environmental Policies and biodiversity plan.

The University is undergoing a major building plan and the staff are constantly having to adapt the maintenance regimes around the building construction. The University planting around the various buildings were well maintained and all of good quality and

styles with the wide use of perennial planting and wildflower areas to encourage wildlife.

The landscape proposals and sensory garden proposals for the Charles Morris Hall deserves special mention as the care that has been taken to develop a landscape solution that will be accessible and inclusive for all students staff and visitors . It was good to see the three formal seasonal bedding displays which were popular for graduation photographs during our visit. The maintenance of the campus was to a high standard and is a credit to the small team of dedicated Gardeners, a very good entry.

Judges feedback on areas for consideration

- Continue to develop the Sensory garden at the Charles Morris Hall with the planting of the third bed. There may be a need to consider the careful planting of a couple of specialist feature trees to provide some shade and more interest in the design. Consider adding spring and summer flower builds to the sensory beds to add to the colour range. Consider careful positioning of some plant containers within the area which could be planted with bamboo or interesting grasses to add to the height and provide additional tactile experiences to the design these will also aid wildlife to the area. Consider a range of different seating types with back rests and arm rests to aid mobility.
- Consider interventions to some of the wildflower area by careful removal of some of the invasive weeds to reduce dominance and encourage additional species. Consider a program to cut and collect the grass and herbage from these area cultivate and over sow. A three year program across the campus would allow you to develop these areas and they could form the basis for a future research project.
- The roof gardens which we viewed during our tour requires some careful maintenance work and replanting in certain areas to establish specific plant species and help them to become more sustainable. Careful removal of some invasive weeds would also help to aid establishment.
- The Sustainable Garden project was a unique and popular project with the students utilising a roof space above one of the most important building on site. It is important that there are some management interventions in place to ensure that the structure of the building is not compromised or suffers water egress. Careful autumn maintenance of some of the soft fruit and removal of perennial weeds from the area would help in the long term.
- The arts trail leaflet was a very good and consideration should be given for a plants trail around the University linking in to its rich history with the weaving industry and industrial revolution period.
- We noted a couple of areas in the paving and at the backs of seating and cycle areas which require attention to weeds and litter during our tour which may have been missed by the staff. Overall the campus was well maintained and litter free in the busy communal areas.
- The views of students and staff to the work you undertake throughout the campus would enhance your entry

York St John University Gold Award

Overall Impression

As you enter the Lord Mayors Walk campus, visitors are in for a surprise at the mix of features and varied gardens around the grounds that awaits them. With traditional building and formal beds of the Vice Chancellors building and Quad, to the wonderful new Armillary garden creating a new heart to the SU area, are examples of the well planted and all year round interests. With close working relationships, the grounds staff ensure all development projects are complemented with beds and planting sympathetic to the surrounds. With repetition of planting material, creating a uniform feel to the site, tying in all areas of contemporary and traditional, under one unified well maintained atmosphere.

Judges feedback on area for consideration

- With such a splendid range and spectrum of features, an information and interpretation guide would enhance visitor and learner experience.
- The Urban Buzz interpretation board is an amazing point of invaluable information and education. Consider similar in other feature gardens to portray the valuable information present, so the viewer can have a clearer understanding and appreciation of your endeavours.
- Consider additional (or re-siting) extra habitat features to the area behind Cordukes, to complement the bee hotel and wild flower bed etc.
- Continue to encourage student and learner participation and ownership of campus, working with Sarah on the biodiversity projects both at York and Haxby Road sites.