



YORKSHIRE IN BLOOM CELEBRATES
50 YEARS
RHS BRITAIN IN BLOOM



2014 Judges Comments

Category 6: Public and Private Charitable Establishments

Abbeydale Residential Home, Ilkley

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The high quality of the garden maintenance, and fine floral displays are a credit to all those involved. Some residents are involved in some gardening and the setting ensures that the gardens are an asset to the care home.

Areas of Achievement

The garden is well used by residents and thus provides a valuable resource to improve the quality of life for the residents.

The quality of the floral displays, baskets and pots is excellent with a high standard of maintenance.

The use of solar power for water heating and L.E.D lighting will have a positive impact on the operations carbon foot print.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

As discussed the possible introduction of perennial planting under the tree area should be explored. This will be difficult and as it is an entrance to the property it will possibly be best to try a limited number of plants in a small area to see what may work.

This is really a case of continue with the excellent work.

Airedale General Hospital

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

These extensive grounds of mainly grass and laurel shrubberies with difficult working slopes are maintained by a decreased number of gardeners headed by Steve Marshall, the total dedication and enthusiasm of all three is to be commended

Areas of Achievement

The entrances all have colourful beds to make a more visual impact, especially good at Western Entrance

Would be good to see wildlife and new tree planting

Litter free, even smoking areas were reasonable however, weeds along road edges are a problem

Friends of the hospital give good support and, with the Soroptomists and Rotary, the formation of the Dementia garden should be able to go ahead. Steve is to be complimented on the time and thought put into planning of this area

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

With a staff reduction during the year, the amount of work needed is beyond the capacity of man hours allowed which shows up in weedy and uncut areas.. Maybe an offshoot of Friends could be formed to help with general sweeping and flower bed maintenance, possibly concentrating on sedums, geranium, and bergenias that are more resistant to slugs than hostas! Fund raising could possibly be held to provide more labour saving equipment such as a Chipper. Leaving swathes of grass 'natural' may save time in some areas.

All Saints Church, Barwick

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Situated in the centre of Barwick, All Saints church is an impressive site. Judges were impressed by floral planters at the entrance to the church before being shown round the well maintained grounds by its band of volunteers. Areas have been cleared to be developed for wildflowers, and borders some not easily accessible, maintained and kept up to by the volunteers. Well worth seeing this entry again and seeing the improvements made.

Areas of Achievement

Floral beds at the entrance to the church.

Sustainable planting around the church itself, in keeping with the area.

Clearance of overgrown areas to be developed into wildflower gardens.

High standard of maintenance all done by willing volunteers.

The overall cleanliness and standard of maintenance for such a large area

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Develop wildflower area but get advice first on the type of wild flowers which would grow in a dry shaded area.

Don't extend too far, the Church yard is an excellent entry as it is, don't make more work than volunteers can handle.

Introduction

Hollins Hall is a retirement village located to the north west of the outskirts of Harrogate. The 14 acre site provides a tranquil setting with some stunning views into the nearby Yorkshire Dales. The grounds are very well presented and maintained to a high standard. Although established for only 14 years the trees and shrubs planted around the site have allowed the retained mature trees to blend into a whole and pleasing landscape.

Areas of Achievement

The balancing pond uses the surface water run-off from the site. It is visually very pleasing and provides a range of habitat for the wide variety of wildlife at site. The pleached Limes located outside the main building are a bold feature and compliment the rose, shrub and perennial plantings within the formal garden design. The very high standard of turf maintenance, the absence of litter on site, and relative weed free borders, achieved with limited chemical use, is a testament to the hard work of the small dedicated on site team who deserve to be congratulated. The collection of leaf litter for reuse at site coupled with the composting of plant waste, the provision of both bird and bat boxes, the variety of shrubs giving colour from leaves and flowers, but also providing berries as a winter food for birds, all recognising environmental concerns about recycling and the benefits of wildlife around the site.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Much more could be achieved with the provision of a larger glasshouse which could then produce the seasonal bedding and also be used to propagate more plants as replacements for the maturing planted areas on site. Development of a strategic budgeted plan for the replacement of the “hedge blocks” around the site with more appropriate shrubs providing more leaf and flower colour and help reduce maintenance requirements. Greater use of mulches in the planted areas to support moisture retention and reduce maintenance operations.

Barnsley Hospice**Gold Rose Award****Introduction**

A warm welcome to an exceptionally peaceful area interdispersed with features throughout the area of cultivation. Bright colours help the soothing effect of the gardens.

Areas of Achievement

A good and valued team of volunteers work together to produce a high standard entry.

A full mix of perennial, annual, shrubs, with baskets and containers make the gardens a pleasure to view.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

A large lawn left after building the extension holds the possibility for future landscape works. We suggest some colourful climbing plants to the screen boundary wall, and the potential for a wildflower garden or sensory garden with herbaceous borders to complete. Seating could be

provided with availability for wheelchair access by the use of wider pathways and space for the chairs by the solid seats so visitors can sit with the residents.

Barwick Methodist Chapel

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The Methodist Chapel is only a small entry but it packs a colourful punch. On a sunny day the judges were met by enthusiastic volunteers and shown a amazing show of yellow Ostiospernam. As well as colourful shrubs at the side of the chapel. All well maintained, Could not ask any more of this entry. Well done

Areas of Achievement

Community involvement of entry and pride shown by people looking after the site.

Innovative use of yellow Ostiospernam in display. Worked well.

Good mixture of shrubs for both coloured foliage and flower

Good clean entry

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Could not ask for more.

Could add grave yard at back of Chapel if group thought it worthwhile and had capacity to do extra work.

A real gem in Barwick

Calderdale Royal Hospital, Halifax

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The hospital provides services for the local community and the team are committed to making it a positive experience for the many visitors and staff by supporting the planting, maintaining and enhancing the hospital grounds.

Areas of Achievement

The grounds, including the car park, were very clean, tidy and litter free. There was very good mulching on all the beds throughout the site.

Very impressed with the selection of well-maintained trees such as the silver birches outside the Hawthorn suite, also there is a programme of replanting the diseased chestnut trees.

The team have challenges in providing a pleasant environment with practical issues such as security i.e. not having hidden areas within the shrubs for persons to hide in, parking spaces and

bollards to prevent parking on the planting areas and theft of plants which the judges thought had been balanced well.

Effort and thought had been put into making all the hospital entrances welcoming, the 4 three tier planters at the main entrance, the large planters to the MacMillan centre, the baskets and barrier planters all had impressive colourful displays.

The Children's and Rehab Courtyards were well maintained and a good open space supporting the wellbeing of the patients/visitors using these areas.

The two memorial areas with the bench in each, the rose bed having the most recent bench made from recycled plastic were placed well for quiet reflection.

The joint partnership working was evident with Halifax in Bloom and the hospital team.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The team are keen to support the existing diversity of wildlife and habitats and could consider attracting more by providing bird boxes and bug dwellings.

Consider more seating in the memorial areas.

Have a weed spraying programme for the courtyard areas and the lower level 'fire escape' route.

Consider planting more of the same species of plants in some of the beds to create a better impact rather than single planting of different plants.

Consider encouraging and fostering relationships with 'friends of the hospital' & other groups to champion further fundraising for the important aspect of continuing to support, promote and improve the valued grounds for visitors to the hospital.

Grimston Court Residential Home, York

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Grimston Court residential home is a very grand house surrounded by large grounds maintained by one gardener, the front of the house has large borders and some wonderful specimen trees. Then the lawns break up into smaller gardens surrounded by hedges but give peace and tranquillity.

At the rear of the house you have further lawns and woodlands as well as a good array of fruit trees which are well established.

Changes have had to be made to the exterior of the house but they do not detract from the splendour of the house and gardens.

Areas of Achievement

Well maintained lawns and woodland areas.

Well maintained baskets and planters close to the house along with climbers.

Good seating areas and garden rooms close to the house as well as a garden pond for residents to enjoy.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Remove dead conifer from front of the house, do not replace as it would give a better view of house as you drive up the long drive.

Remove some dead trees.

Screen composting and wood burning areas.

Add further compost to floral beds at entrance to house to lift the bedding.

High Green Methodist Church

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

On approaching the church it is clear that this an outstanding entry in its category in the in Bloom competition with good planting and excellent maintenance.

Areas of Achievement

The enthusiasm of the people involved with the entry is outstanding and the good mix of planting with a high standard of maintenance, this an excellent entry!

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Some of the grass areas had high levels of weed contained within them, which should be dealt with.

Holy Trinity Church, Skipton

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Though the church grounds were heavily used by spectators and the media when the Tour De France passed through Skipton there was little sign of any damage or heavy wear. Well done for reclaiming it and bringing it back to this attractive haven in the middle of a busy town.

Areas of Achievement

The sustainable plantings along the south wall of the church and the new lavender edging. The grass areas were well maintained by the Local Authority. The paths and boundary walls are in good condition. There was no litter even though the area is often used by visitors and office workers for their lunch breaks.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The new lavender edging had to be staked as the long flowering stems of this variety could interfere with mowing of the narrow grass strip. Suggest that the grass strip could be removed and the lavender moved nearer to the path, then the public could experience the scent of the lavender as

they brushed passed. The border along the south wall could be further improved with some more structure planting to provide all year round interest.

HORTICAP Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Horticap is a much-loved charity organisation and well worth a visit. They have lots to offer including nature trails with good interpretation boards, pond area with a bird hide and local artist sculptures. The plant nursery offers reasonably priced plants grown by the students. They have recently introduced a tea room which incorporates a lovely, relaxing patio area. Creative crafts, handmade by the students can also be purchased in the gift shop.

Areas of Achievement

The scale of recycling is astounding, from collecting rain water for plant watering, to saving pallets to make fences. Known affectionately as 'The Wombles' the staff and students at Horticap can literally recycle anything into something creative and useful. The main areas of interest included the pond area, the fairy garden, sculptures, seated patio area with seasonal containers. A photographic timeline is a fantastic idea and can be viewed in the gift shop. The commitment of the staff and students is highly commendable.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Some areas of the nature trail looked tired and needed replanting, for example the green roof on top of the bird hide.

More signs are needed at the roadside entrance to show what the organisation has to offer e.g. new café.

Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God, Thornton

Bronze Rose Award

Introduction

The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God is a charity based organisation and a brand new entry into Yorkshire in Bloom.

The residents have a combination of either learning or physical disabilities. The majority are wheelchair bound.

The entry has great potential to go further in the competition given time and additional resources. There are some nice touches in place already and exciting plans to further improve the grounds horticulturally.

Areas of Achievement

The newly created circular bed and borders at the front were tidy and have good future potential.

There is a nicely planted, good-sized raised bed, with plenty of colour built by a staff member.

Good to see some resident's involvement in spite of the obvious difficulties involved.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

There is scope for additional bedding to be grown from seed at the front of the building to provide additional colour next year.

A pictorial record of gardening milestones as part of a gardening portfolio would be useful for next years judges to see, and general visitors too.

A small wildflower hedge down the side of the building would work, if some of the hawthorn were removed or cut back, thus adding colour to a difficult area.

There is the potential to add several bird boxes and even a water butt around the back of the building.

The future plans to purchase a greenhouse and shed and create a newly secured area are to be commended and would further enhance the scope of the entry.

Keighley Healthy Living Centre

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A functional enclosed area used for various groups of the community with flowers, fruit, vegetables and wildlife. Seeds are collected and plants and produce are sold to users of the centre.

Areas of Achievement

A well labelled and an easy-to work -plot which is worked by and benefits diverse groups. Plant sales provide funds for compost.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The Centre has lost the provision of part-time gardening help and, although there is a maintenance rota, it would be beneficial if this were to be increased.

Knaresborough House

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The splendid Georgian building of Knaresborough House occupies this imposing site on the High street and is enhanced by the floral displays and well maintained lawns and pathways.

A great public space is available to the rear and is well used daily and for occasions such as music events.

Areas of Achievement

The renewed perennial bed at the garden entrance to the rear of the car park has overcome the difficulty of the site with very pleasing results.

The seasonal floral display beds were colourful with good variety and the badge bed gives further interest and involvement of local groups. This year enhanced with "Tour" banners. The use of perennials and sustainable planting is in keeping.

Lawned areas were cleanly edged and shrub beds were clearly well maintained and pruned.

Re-laid pathways with the removal of steps aid access. 12 year maintenance contract for benches ensures care.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Sadly grass had been allowed to grow too long leaving heavy clippings.

Consider water collection from roof for plant watering.

By partnering with local schools or organisations to make bat/bird boxes or insect houses which could be placed in the woodland area it would add to community involvement.

Nightingale Hall Residential Home, Richmond

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Formerly the Officers' Mess for the Green Howards Regiment, Nightingale Hall is an imposing Residential Care Home. Nightingale Home also serves as a North Yorkshire Library, open to both residents and local public.

Congratulations should go to the gardener for achieving such a high standard of cleanliness throughout. Hedges, walls and paths were all free of weeds.

The well positioned mangers clearly benefitted from the sprinkler system.

Both the rear of the Hall and the courtyard were clean and are an asset for residents and staff.

Areas of Achievement

The cleanliness and general care of the hall itself and the gardens were clearly evident.

A good entry

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Thought could be given to the addition of well-placed floral features, particularly at the imposing front entrance. The gardens would benefit from some further bedding planting.

Northcliffe Environmental Enterprises Team (NEET), Shipley

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

It was a pleasure to judge the Northcliffe Environmental Enterprises Team (NEET) project on a lovely summer's day.

The scheme is clearly very successful and offers a wonderful opportunity for service users to develop life skills.

The sheer range of activities taking place on the site is impressive, as is the co-ordination and organisational skills shown by the management team.

The provision of a small cafe for the public is a nice touch and a great way to raise additional funds. This scheme is a worthy entry into Yorkshire in Bloom.

Areas of Achievement

The project is clearly very well run on a relatively limited budget. The plants on display were generally of a good standard.

The 1914 garden was a pleasure to see. Displaying the heritage tools was a nice touch.

The emphasis on recycling throughout the site is impressive as are the innovative schemes that are currently ongoing.

The scheme has very strong networking links with local businesses and benefits from many donations of materials and volunteer time.

Ian the manager clearly understands the individual requirements of the service users.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consider devising a five year development plan to take the project even further forward.

Is there any funding available from the Council for equipment for the service users, although we realise funds are tight in the current financial climate.

It will be exciting to see the wood burner and pizza oven when they are completed and they will add further interest to this already diverse scheme.

Overgate Hospice, Halifax

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The tour by Caroline, gave a deep insight into why so many volunteers offer their help to make Overgate Hospice a success. The hospice building donated by Mrs Sylvia Graucob MBE, offers commanding views over Calderdale, with peaceful and tranquil seating areas to admire such views. This is one of many exceptionally special places for people to visit and spend time with relatives.

Areas of Achievement

The back garden with the serenity and comfort for all to share is a pleasure to encounter. Sympathetically planted borders and lawned areas, water feature and sculpture all combine to create this feel. With the recent addition of the POD (in the garden grounds with a sedum roof), we are sure this will be an extremely appreciative and accepted place as a very special and therapeutic outlet to offer additional support. The design and quality of the Memory Tree is a feature of art.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The front garden with its new excellent seating and garden features are let down with the less attention to detail that is evident in the side and rear grounds. Possibly a garden volunteer to keep the front as good as the rest of the grounds.

Riverhead Hall Residential Home, Driffield

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Riverhead Hall is situated in a very pleasant setting on the edge of the town overlooking farm land. The grounds are attractive and well-kept and despite the extensive emergency building work going on due to an old established tree falling on and demolishing one end of the building, offer residents and staff the opportunity to sit and enjoy the gardens. Planting is a mix of sustainable perennials supplemented by annual planting of floral hanging baskets and containers. It is evident that the garden is important to the residents and well used. Well done and our thanks go to James and Linda for their welcome and for showing us around at a very busy and difficult time.

Areas of Achievement

Residents play an important role and are involved in the ongoing development of the garden, undertaking activities such as planting hanging baskets, deciding colour schemes, and other garden related activities. Wildlife is encouraged through the use of planting to attract them and bird feeders. Residents have very good relative support and local school children come in too all supporting the ethos that the gardens and grounds enhance the residents lifestyle. Composting is done on site, recycling is undertaken and water butts collect rainwater for watering. There is also a self-watering system. Plants are grown from seeds at the home's other sites and brought over for planting. There are many mature trees, albeit that some have been identified to either be felled or topped.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The judges will be interested to see how the garden will be developed given the need to remove/top some trees. This will be an opportunity to assess appropriate replacement and other garden development opportunities. Some attention to the condition of the hard surrounds, walls, paths, grass and hedges would enhance the entry further once the essential building work has been completed.

Rosevale Residential Home, Wiggington

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Rosevale is a small nursing home situated in the centre of Wiggington. Very little garden at the front of this home but the entrance was welcoming with nice planters either side and window boxes on two levels making it welcoming.

The rear garden was a delight a proper sun trap again with walls adorned with baskets and planters, surrounding a well laid out lawn with a good mixture of perennials and roses around it. Steve the gardener should be proud of his achievement and the residents have a lovely garden to enjoy.

Areas of Achievement

Wall baskets, hanging baskets and containers. Good colour combinations and well watered with self-watering system.

Well laid out garden at rear of home, with good use of space available.

Both buildings and surrounds well maintained.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Remove some roses which have gone back to briars.

Plenty of space to add more perennials to borders.

Use of mulch would help retain water to the beds and keep weeds down.

Saint John of God Hospitaller Services, Thornton

Introduction

Saint John of God Hospitaller Services is a charity based organisation and is a first time entry in Yorkshire in bloom.

The residents are generally physically unable to be involved in gardening, but many enjoy being close to plants and the outdoors. It was nice to meet "Sidney" who is one such resident.

There are already some nice horticultural touches in place such as the lovely hanging baskets at the front of the building. There is potential for the entry to progress further over time.

Areas of Achievement

There is a nice enclosed seating area with a lovely view at the rear and this is a very pleasant area to spend time.

A well-kept sustainable frontage, with a nice mix of established perennials such as Hebe.

Good use of a bark chipping mulch to retain moisture in the beds at the front of the building.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

A small greenhouse would give the option of growing some plants from seed with a longer term cost saving.

The provision of bird boxes would add extra interest for residents.

A pictorial record as part of a gardening portfolio, showing a timeline of gardening milestones would be useful to show next year's judges and future visitors alike.

Introduction

With a warm welcome from Sandra and residents we were greeted by colourful displays in a peaceful setting. All credit to Sandra and the residents for growing, planting up and tending to the displays. It was obvious that the appearance of the residents' home is important for their well-being and forms part of their weekly activities. A good entry, and one with the capacity to develop further. Thank you to Sandra and Muriel for showing us around. Well done

Areas of Achievement

The 'Royal Visit' bed at the entrance demonstrates that gardening can be colourful and fun and makes good use of a previously unused area. Well stocked and planted baskets and containers throughout. The courtyard garden with the 50 years In Bloom celebration decorations was abundant with flowers, tomatoes and herbs with the majority of the plants grown from last year's seeds. As this is an area that suffers from slugs, despite Muriel's efforts, the planting has been and will continue to be adapted to grow plants unattractive to them. Good provisions to attract wildlife, planting and bird feeders. Good links with the local community, bringing the community into the home through coffee mornings and the garden party. Good funding raising is underway to develop the gardening activities and planting.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

You have achieved a lot so keep to your development plans they will bear fruit. Explore with the management of the home a more sympathetic approach to the grounds maintenance to the larger grounds and shrubs.

St Catherines Residential Home, Shipton by Benningborough**Silver Gilt Rose Award****Introduction**

St Catherine's, stands on the grounds of an old vicarage. The long tree lined drive takes you up the nursing home, hanging baskets and wall shrubs enhance the entrance. Well maintained lawns surround the building which is a mixture of old and new build. Climbers cover the walled garden and each turn takes you into another private corner. Good planting. The grounds are very extensive but well cared for by Steve the gardener along with his other grounds maintenance duties. Well done

Areas of Achievement

Baskets at the entrance

Well maintained drive way and walled areas.

Good use of garden furniture around grounds with ample seating areas for residents.

Good screening of composting and recycle areas

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Develop the borders further, to add more interest and reduce maintenance.

Some areas would benefit from ground cover plants.

Put blocks of bedding into borders rather than individual plants around.

Try some annual bedding or wild flowers.

Some construction work still going on site. Once complete will help this entry further.

St Gemma's Hospice, Leeds

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The Judges were greeted by Sheila and Dennis on a beautiful sunny day. Dennis having worked at St Gemma's for 25 years has transformed the garden into a tranquil haven for reflection for residents and visitor's alike providing enthusiasm and direction to continually improve the garden year on year.

Surprises lie in wait around every corner to provide interest and enjoyment for every age group, a truly magical garden!

Areas of Achievement

The 'Tree of Life' is a wonderful idea for remembering loved ones, Shelia obviously deserves credit for 'obtaining' the copper from Harvey Nicholls and starting the project off.

The 'My Pod' garden is a unique feature which provides an uplifting experience for those who choose to reflect. The design and construction is such that it complements the feel of the garden without being too obtrusive and provides an 'indoor space' outdoors for contemplation.

The small glasshouse encourages residents to carry out horticultural tasks such as taking cuttings/potting on so providing another aspect to improving the quality of life for the residents.

The introduction of wildflower species to the garden offers variety to the already large collection of plants.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Keep the interest in the garden going with innovative ideas to further improve the resident/visitor experience.

The constant need to refresh areas of the garden by cutting back as shrubs mature and opening up new vistas and replanting.

St John's Church, Deepcar

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

A lovely, historic church situated on the main road that runs through Deepcar and Stocksbridge. The mature trees and newer sustainable planting give tantalising glimpses of the church from the road and invite you to stop and take a closer look.

Areas of Achievement

Your very excellent practises of reclaiming, reusing and restoring as much as you possibly can in the development of the site. The work involved in making the planters and compost bays from reclaimed wood is considerable but well worth the effort.

The stumpery is lovely and creates an unusual and interesting area, the story of its origin as a 'tree of heaven' adds to its charm. The new fern bed is developing well and provides another interesting and sustainable feature.

It was lovely to see a commitment to sustainable planting alongside the annual colour and your mindfulness of nature with wildlife friendly plants, bird boxes etc.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The grass area to the rear is extensive and a challenge to manage, might you consider alternatives that would break up the expanse of grass, perhaps some wildflower planting or a seating area?

Linking the planting to a religious theme is a lovely idea, information boards near relevant plants explaining the links would help to explain the theme to other church users and enhance their experience of the gardens.

The herb and vegetable beds are making a good start and have potential for development.

It would be good to work with the crèche to create a child friendly area for the children who visit, perhaps raised beds that they can plant or a sensory bed?

St Saviour's Church, Brownhill

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Having been presented with pictures of a not so distant past it is apparent that a beautiful transformation has taken place. With the combined help of the Army recruitment centre soldiers, congregation, community, and the foresight of Carol Pearson, in creating a very impressive display. Incorporating many floral family memorials, together with a tasteful tarmac drive and parking area. Further complimented by the safe enclosed immaculate rear lawned and Planted areas.

Areas of Achievement

The total mix of shrub and herbaceous planting, and hard landscape are appropriate and in keeping with the setting. A mention must go to the imaginative Easter garden. With a feel of tidiness everywhere, this gives all visitors pleasure in what they are seeing, especially since it is widely used by so many groups in the attached Church Hall. All this is a great credit to a dedicated team who work very well together.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Keep up with the continuation of infilling the banking with appropriate planting to fill the area and reduce the amount of maintenance required. Areas of furniture maintenance and repair that were highlighted on the delightful tour, we know will be addressed and everything is perfectly in hand.

This place is truly amazing, proudly shown by the certificates and awards that it already has received.

St. John the Baptist Church, Wilberfoss

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

St John the Baptist Church clearly has a dedicated team of volunteers who do a remarkable job in looking after this very important centre piece within Wilberfoss. A sense of peace and tranquillity was very evident. The floral displays and overall horticultural maintenance are to be highly commended along with the wildlife area and interpretation.

Areas of Achievement

Very well maintained with quality floral displays.

Good interpretation board.

Strong community participation.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

To continue to progress sustainable planting in key areas.

Swan Court, Harrogate

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Swan Court consists of 17 residential apartments with balconies and a communal garden. The front rose garden was in full bloom at the time of judging, and looked absolutely stunning. The borders have an all year round interest with evergreen shrubs, perennials and seasonal bedding displays. The addition of hanging baskets and trailing planters really enhanced the site for residents and passers-by.

Areas of Achievement

The Rose garden was stunning and really well-maintained. The hanging baskets and trailing planters looked amazing and had an automatic watering system. Trailing Begonias provided a common thread in all the annual displays creating a good repetition and theme. There was a good plant selection in the mixed borders and all the plants were healthy and of a high quality.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

There were some areas in need of improvement regarding general maintenance. The main boundary hedge needed to be pruned as it creates the first impression. Although the residents had introduced bird tables and feeders this had led to problems with squirrels. Other forms of wildlife boxes would enhance the area and create a new habit. E.g. Butterfly boxes, ladybird houses.

Introduction

An oasis within this Social Services centre offers stimulation with gardening and creates a quiet calm area. Despite budget restrictions Shirley and her team have catered for the needs of her service users and involved many sectors of the community. The pleasure this centre gives to many is obvious - well done!

Areas of Achievement

Brownies, school groups and allotment groups are all involved in making this a hub of horticultural knowledge even with such elderly clients –all are over 70! Some have just completed a 2 year certificate in City and Guilds horticulture! A good understanding of the care for the environment was well shown with clear labelling of plants that encourage the bees and butterflies.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

With more funding maybe the paving slabs could be power washed but this is purely cosmetic

Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

Undercliffe Cemetery offers good vantage points and fine panoramic views across the city of Bradford and out over the Aire Valley. The Cemetery offers unrivalled opportunities to appreciate the finest examples of Victorian funerary art provided by the wealthy business men of the past, set within the original design of this 26 acre parkland. It is a charity in partnership with Bradford Metropolitan District Council whose work includes:

Heritage - conservation and research

Education - activities including themed tours with schools, colleges, and community groups

Restoration – access to neglected areas and grounds maintenance

Ecology – planting, horticultural work and environmental projects. Now being operated with hard working volunteers the site offers an interesting venue for schools and public.

Areas of Achievement

Main pathways are well maintained with additional mown pathways to enable access.

Encouragement of schools to utilise the site.

A very good website is available.

The ongoing task of safety and restoration of gravestones and memorials.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

A more welcoming main entrance and information boards at the car park would be helpful.

Displays of photos of the site through the seasons would add interest, consider a calendar based on this as a possible fund raiser.

The provision of additional seating even in the form of boulders would be helpful for those who may need a rest or to enjoy the peace of the site.

YHA Whitby Physic Garden

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The judges were met by a very enthusiastic group who have dedicated their spare time to recreating a period herb/ medicinal garden that would have been present on the site in the 15th century and before. Their work and knowledge in this subject is second to none and given the proximity to the coast their achievements are even more startling.

Areas of Achievement

The plant information board was updated regularly and very informative about the plants found on site.

The judges were impressed with the number of medicinal plants on site and the fact that they were all labelled.

The variety and many colours of the planting was a joy to see as were the different planting zones within and around the central lawned area.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to develop the knot garden which is now taking shape.

Look into the possibility of developing a wild flower meadow on the top of the slope giving special consideration to the many artefacts that may be buried on the site.

Further develop the fruit garden to improve the educational experience for the many school groups that visit the site.

Look into advertising the garden at Whitby Abbey or nearby to draw the thousands of visitors in to complete their 13th Century experience of this historical site.

York Gate Gardens, Leeds

Gold Rose Award

Category Winner

Introduction

The garden is the flagship of Perennial, a charity which cares for workers in the gardening industry in many ways, giving practical help as well as advice and support. What could be lovelier than spending a summer morning in this flowery place? I was lucky enough to do that and received a really warm welcome. The staff and volunteers are really lucky to work here and the garden is really lucky to have such knowledgeable staff and volunteers. The garden only covers one acre but packed within it are garden rooms, all different and all lovely.

Areas of Achievement

The talent and knowledge of the staff and volunteers is impressive. The whole garden was managed to the highest possible standard, with not a leaf out of place. The garden is being cared for as the Spencer family, who created the garden would have wished, in the manner of the Arts and Crafts Movement. Having said that, this garden is not a museum but growing and changing in the best possible way. The range of plants grown in such a small space is amazing. The hard landscaping is varied and imaginative and the use of ancient stone ornaments throughout the garden blends wonderfully with its style. There is impressive provision of games and quizzes to engage children. Information has been translated to help visitors from other countries. A bank of knowledge has been provided for volunteers to access on any matter needed. Plants sold in the garden are all grown on site. Knowledge is passed on in a range of educational programmes for all abilities. There are exciting plans in place to develop the site even further. Composting activities are impressive, water is collected and conserved and the use of chemicals is avoided. The garden works with other community groups to the benefit of all. Wildlife is abundant around and garden and its bordering fields.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consider introducing a range of postcards and greetings cards, featuring views of the garden for sale in the shop.

Consider putting a board in the shop where visitors can see details of interesting nature sightings in the garden and perhaps notes on plants in the garden which are really impressive at that time.

Perhaps a hand out with notes on what jobs are being done in the garden at that time might encourage visitors to get busy in their own gardens.

Continue developing the fields around the garden for the benefit of wildlife.

If it is possible contact local community groups and consider offering local people who create arts and crafts the possibility of putting their goods in the shop on a sale or return basis.

Category 7A: Public Houses and Restaurants

Busfield Arms. East Morton

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

This traditional pub makes a welcome focal point at the centre of the village.

The splendid display makes good use of all the pub's surfaces, with an excellent new watering system. The use of natural paving and a new water feature has brightened up a corner in the shade.

Areas of Achievement

A good scale of the display which fitted the size of the pub.

The new water feature, paving and seating area.

The quality and variety of the plant material and the evidence of dead heading!

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The judges could not see at poster about Yorkshire or Morton in Bloom, though there were other posters about.

We acknowledge that a collecting box is inside the pub, but a poster outside would have been appreciated.

Otherwise we couldn't think of any improvements!

Farmers Arms, Holmfirth

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

We had a very enjoyable judging of the Farmers Arms public House, just a few days before the arrival of the Tour De France.

Danielle and Sam are doing a fine job in looking after the pub garden both at the front and rear.

The baskets and containers were of a good standard and it was pleasing to note that some herbs and vegetables were being grown for use in the pub kitchen.

Areas of Achievement

The variety and planting of the baskets and containers, particularly at the front was good and very pleasing to the eye.

It is good to see some herbs and edible planting for use in the pub kitchen

The grape vine impressively dominates the undercover beer garden area, making a nice spectacle.

It was pleasing to see the use of solar lights.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consider the erection of a bird box or two, discreetly positioned on the car park wall.

The decking and seating although in a good general condition, would benefit from re-staining, as time allows.

The extended garden seating area offers scope for some additional planting areas alongside the wall.

Consider if a small compost bin can be sited in the car park and screened off from view.

Stansfield Arms, Apperley Bridge

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The Stansfield Arms stands on the main road set in the idyllic Apperley Bridge area, it dates back to 1543 and is a beautiful beamed historical pub with a well groomed frontage

Situated near the River Aire and open countryside it is popular with walkers, cyclists, dog owners all year round.

Areas of Achievement

The colour co-ordination between soft furnishings and plant choice gave a pleasing integrated design which was enhanced by well-tended grass verges on the road approach.

The many colourful troughs and baskets across the building gave impact along with the cart and churn at car park entrance. The site was generally weed and litter free and a further planter providing chef with fresh herbs had been added.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

If the cart could be angled or the soil level raised the floral display would be easier to see and create more impact. Accumulated deposit needs removing from ground beneath the cart and A boards.

There was no evidence of the involvement in Yorkshire in Bloom on display.

Wooden rail and some of planters looked tired and in need of fresh stain.

Is there possibility to introduce rain butts and/or encouraging other recycling.

Consider the possibility of providing wildlife habitats such as bird/bat boxes, insect hotels etc.

The Box Tree Restaurant Ltd, Ilkley

Gold Rose Award

Joint Category Winner

Introduction

The location ensures that the fine display of bedding plants has maximum impact. The area available for planting is not large but use has been made available of the whole frontage to very good effect. As the cycle race passed by use was made of yellow flowers to good effect.

Areas of Achievement

The use of planting to make a maximum impact and draws attention to what could be a dull corner.

The use of box planting to give some height to the design and reflect the name of the restaurant.

The construction of the herb garden adds a relevant feature to the site and is excellent in promoting home growing.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The scale of the garden means that it is really a matter of keeping up the excellent displays and the high standard that is being displayed.

The Dusty Miller, Brighthouse

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

The Dusty Miller is located on a busy main road but is difficult not to notice because of the delightful floral displays. The seating area at the front of the pub is very clean and welcoming, with a variety of hanging baskets and troughs with lovely colourful planting. The whole pub and car park areas are clean, tidy and well maintained.

Areas of Achievement

The hanging baskets in particular are really very good, with a lovely choice of plants. They are supplied by NEET, a local organisation working with adults with learning disabilities. It is great to see Rob, the landlord, supporting this organisation.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Whilst the pub does not have a large area to develop, the ideas to add more colour and interest are encouraging. Make sure future planting is appropriate, particularly with respect to the edging of the flat roof area, as this is quite exposed to the wind and weather. Under the trees that edge the car park is a tricky area, but spring bulbs, daffodil and crocus for example, would make a lovely cheerful display.

Three Horse Shoes, Oulton

Gold Rose Award

Joint Category Winner

Introduction

A stunning floral display seen long before you reach the Three Horseshoes. Upon closer inspection it is evident that a lot of forethought and attention has been given to the selection of plants that adorn the walls and planters around the building. On the day of judging the public house was very busy with customers who are no doubt attracted by the displays as well as the food & drink on offer truly a 'win-win' situation for the proprietors.

A superb entry 'Well done'!!

Areas of Achievement

The dedication and time spent growing and nurturing 100+ baskets, numerous hayracks, troughs and planters is to be commended by the entrant.

The addition of barrier troughs outside the public house softens the aesthetic look of the barriers and offers more planting scope.

The selection of plants for the hayracks was superb with Heliotrope's providing height and Bacopa providing a stunning symmetrical apron to the bottom of the hayracks.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The Cordyline's in the barrel planters are probably getting a little too large and could be replaced for 2015.

Maybe consider an alternative to Surfinia's along the edge of the flat roof as some wind damage was evident.

Keep encouraging the pyracantha to spread below the troughs to the rear of the car park to form a green thicket.

Maybe move to a bigger premises to showcase the displays ;)!

University Arms, Sheffield

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

A bustling pub close to the heart of the University campus and clearly very popular with customers. The staff were extremely busy and efficient but still managed to be both friendly and welcoming. The beer garden to the rear provides a lovely oasis of peace and shelter from the major roads nearby.

Areas of Achievement

The very good standard of local environmental quality, with the premises, including the frontage which is accessed from the street, being well maintained and litter free.

The themed garden is developing well with a good mix of sustainable planting, the successful management of the 'woodland bed' to let in more light and the effective use of climbing plants to screen the area from the side road.

It was encouraging to hear about how the pub supports events organised by the students and is involved in the City's Tramlines festival.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The grass is clearly difficult to manage with its very heavy footfall and I would endorse your plans to tackle this. Could you consider incorporating your Peak District theme into what you do?

The recently barked area looked attractive, could you further improve this by making a feature of the tree stumps, perhaps a stumpery.

Consider enhancing the internal entrance area, your bloom certificate could be used as the focus for an effective display.

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

Basin Howe Farm Cottages

Gold Rose Award

Category Winner

Introduction

Basin Howe Farm Cottages are hidden far from the madding crowd on the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors and within easy reach of the Scarborough coast but it is worth the effort to seek them out. Heather and Richard Mullin are creating a wonderful garden for their visitors with surprises round every corner. From the moment you arrive in the car park the peaceful ambience welcomes you in and invites you to explore. Plants woman Heather has created borders teeming with colour whilst Richard is clearly the builder and craftsman of the partnership. Formal gardens lead through to woodland areas, a fernery, orchard and rose garden. Basin Howe Farm Cottages are a little gem and are very deserving of a gold medal.

Areas of Achievement

The way in which the old and the new have been blended together seamlessly. Modern sculptures sit side by side on a traditional parterre and bespoke wooden gates and fencing give a feel of a fairy tale setting.

Some thought has been given to viewing platforms enabling the visitor to get up above the surrounding hedgerows to take in the magnificent views and to observe local wildlife. The platform on top of the water tower is particularly clever and a great place to watch the birds almost at tree top level.

Plants have been carefully chosen to give all year round interest and the developing stumpery/fernery offers a shady corner and respite on a hot day.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to develop the garden as you are doing in such a way that complements and enhances the surrounding area retaining a rural feel with modern touches.

Raithwaite Estate Gardens

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Raithwaite Hall is truly a hidden gem, nestling at the top of a private valley, the understated entrance at the moment does it no favours. Once you exit your mode of transport you are chaperoned into 5 star splendour which could only be surpassed in one of Europe's largest cities. The hotel has green credentials, recycling nearly all waste produced on the site. The gardens to the rear are outstanding and offers the hotel visitor varied themed zones to relax during their stay.

Areas of Achievement

The hotel has some very good eco-friendly management systems such as;

Green roof to the lounge area.

Bio mass boilers for heating and hot water production

Sewage treatment plant that processes sewage/ grey water and then pumps the treated product into the thriving wildlife pond at the top of the site.

Low wattage LED lighting around the grounds.

They grow wood on site for their bio-mass boiler to further cut down there carbon footprint.

The sustainable planting on the site and planning is well thought out and of an outstanding quality.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue with the development of the entrance to the site and plans to change the layout of the parking near the entrance.

Develop the kitchen garden and orchard area to provide fresh produce for the hotel residents and the kitchen.

Develop the walkway around the wildlife lake to continue the visitor experience into the upper valley area.

Advertise the green credentials of the estate home to a National and International audience to further increase tourists into Whitby.

Category 7C: Large Hotels

Middlethorpe Hall & Spa, York

Gold Rose Award

Category Winner

Introduction

Middlethorpe Hall is one of the gems of Yorkshire's horticultural heritage, and although it currently operates as a hotel, you can feel and see the richness of its structural heritage. A beautiful house set in a rich and romantic setting, Middlethorpe Hall is best enjoyed by embarking on a gentle stroll around the intricate and varied gardens. Rich in rare plants yet set in an easily recognised style the gardens present ideas to take away to be introduced to sites of a much more modest scale.

Areas of Achievement

An imposing and elegant property is equalled by the floral displays that adorn its entrance, this richness expands as you explore the different garden compartments each with an element of horticultural quality and skill. From wall trained flowering shrubs to 'Fat Bottomed' pear's a favourite of the head Chef.

Floral displays in the foyer are created by volunteers who are allowed and encouraged to use material from the garden. Horticultural standards are high and the Head Gardener leads walks and workshops to exchange skills and ideas.

The site is a rich space for local wildlife and success with bird boxes has been extended to encourage the local population of owls. There is no evidence of litter anywhere, even the car park appears manicured, with carefully raked gravel.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The recent introduction of a plant file in the foyer adds to the interpretation leaflet guiding visitors to which plants are in season.

The garden is an integral part of the whole site and it may be worth considering the development of a conservation management plan that guides development of the garden in line with clear objectives that relate to the historical and horticultural significance of the site. Most National Trust properties have a detailed guide (booklet) that presents the historical and developmental significance of the site, perhaps this is something the trust would fund?

Nidd Hall Hotel, Harrogate

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Nidd Hall Hotel was built in the 1820's and stands in 60 acres of parkland. It provides a whole experience for its guests including many activities and creative landscape features. The extensive grounds include a formal parterre and conifer garden, sculptures, lake area, wildflower meadow, water garden and wildlife areas. The warm welcome from staff was exceptional and their creativity and enthusiasm was highly commendable.

Areas of Achievement

The Water Garden offers quiet time and reflection for guests. The lake area has a creative boat seat, bird hide and informative signs. The bespoke insect houses and bug hotels create additional interest and new habitats around the grounds. The resident owl (Amber) is very popular with the guests and the staff have created a special habitat for her. The hotel embraces its history and heritage by incorporating locally made sculptures such as the 'Warpath Horse' sculpture in the old stables block area. The commitment of the staff towards the guests was phenomenal, they really do go the extra mile. Their passion and creativity is apparent as you walk around the grounds of the hotel, I would like to return to see what plans they have for the future.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The wildflower meadow lacked identity with a mixture of annual and perennial varieties and mainly native with the exception of *Verbena bonariensis*. A suggestion would be to choose either annual or perennial as the maintenance regime is different and to keep to native varieties. The pathways around the garden, even with the recent heavy rainfall, were in need of attention as some of the slopes are quite steep for guests. The new floral display near reception needed weeding as it is a high impact area.

Rudding Park Hotel, Harrogate

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Rudding Park Hotel is located south of Harrogate and nestles amongst over 300 acres of Reptonian landscape. The Grade 1 Regency House has magnificent vistas across its two Golf Courses, has recently been given the accolade of No 1 Hotel in the UK Trip Advisors Travellers Choice Awards, and recently hosted a number of the teams participating in the Tour de France stages in Yorkshire. The impressive grounds are meticulously maintained with many mature trees, banks of Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Lace-cap Hydrangeas and many more unusual plants giving all year round colour and interest. The recently added Follifoot Wing although of contemporary design has been seamlessly integrated into the historic landscape with a modern planting scheme designed by Matthew Wilson giving yet more colour and interest for the hotels guests to enjoy.

Areas of Achievement

Immaculately maintained gardens, particularly the grassed areas and Terrace Garden. This despite the Hotel recently experiencing full capacity during the Grand Depart and Yorkshire Show periods. A real achievement from an experienced and dedicated on-site team. The newly developed and superbly constructed and designed Kitchen Garden, with its many raised beds, trained fruit trees and vast variety of vegetable crops and herbs for use in the hotels kitchen. By retaining and managing the historic features in the landscape, using striking modern planting in the recently added garden features and avoiding reliance on seasonal floral bedding displays, the hotel guests are amply rewarded with a sustained all year round interest of form and colour in an inviting landscape.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Explore the opportunity to have additional independent open garden days at different times of the year to the current NGS scheme open day.

Introduction

The grounds to the Manor are well established with good strategic planting which provide a peaceful environment in a noisy location

Areas of Achievement

The work on environmental issues was impressive with cardboard compacts, water harvesting and the proposed installation of the biomass-heating boiler for the health suite.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Improvements around the entrance and reception areas both inside and out could be enhanced and improve the visitor experience to the Manor.

Category 8A: Visitor Attractions

Keighley & Worth Valley Railway

Gold Rose Award

Category Winner

Introduction

The Keighley & Worth Valley Railway stands out as one of the finest heritage railways in the country, staffed by around 400 volunteers from far and wide who work together with local organisations for the enjoyment and education of all their visitors. Each station is uniquely different from Keighley which is adjacent to the national railway network to Damens, the smallest station in the country. K&WVR have been used many times for locations to television dramas and major films such as The Railway Children. On arrival visitors are transported back in time to the 1950's and earlier bygone days due to the platform displays and atmospheric stations

Areas of Achievement

The standard of horticulture and bio diversity increased exceptionally during the past few years with every area the judge visited was maintained to the highest standard by all concerned including alpine and herb beds, Hanging baskets and planters herbaceous, shrub planting and grassed areas sometimes in difficult conditions. Groups involved include local schools, Beavers and cubs, guides and Brownies and the railways own young people's team many of whom have progressed to responsible positions within the organisation. Some planters are sponsored by local businesses.

Good marketing to promote special trains and events include the Mince Pie and Fish and Chip Specials.

The provision of undercover educational facilities such as classrooms in railway carriages and access to the engine workshops is another essential part of the visit.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue marketing to bring in tourists and income to the area. Complete the new pick and pass herb beds at Oakworth Station. Try to expand the herb and edible flower bed at Oxenhope and try to expand the alpine border. The horticultural standard is increasing from good to excellent due to the dedicated work of all concerned. Well done and keep up the good work

Knaresborough Castle

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Knaresborough Castle stands towering over the River Nidd, always impressive it was a stronghold of medieval kings and to this day is part of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The site is always popular with wonderful views further enhanced by high quality floral displays and grass maintenance. On this occasion the festive atmosphere for the Tour de France was evident with T-shirts and bunting festooning the site.

Areas of Achievement

The floral display and maintenance of the memorial area and display beds.

The resurfacing of the pathways adds to the overall impression of a well-cared for site with clear interpretation boards, appropriate floral displays and well maintained grass areas including putting green all achieved despite the heavy usage.

Involvement of children by way of competition for designing flower bed, litter picks and display of decorated T shirts hanging from trees.

Community involvement in design of the mosaic and tree survey.

Newly installed eco lighting, composting and three year cycle of grass cutting on outer walls to encourage wildlife.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Possible addition of a bandstand could be considered.

Careful consideration of tree survey results to plan for future.

Possible addition of further interpretation board to explain three year cycle and wildlife to watch for.

Maintain cleanliness underneath seating areas and repainting/staining of seating.

Manor Heath and Jungle Experience, Halifax

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The park occupies the site of an old manor house which was demolished and is now an interesting visitor attraction giving a great opportunity to get close to nature. The Jungle experience is a taste of the exotic and a gem in the heart of a very English park.

Areas of Achievement

The excellent playground area, outside gym and the exciting new water & sand feature is a big hit with both children young and old with plenty of activities available. The judges liked the lavender border planted around the enclosed play area to encourage learning about wildlife with play.

The increased perennial planting both at the entrance and in the long borders running alongside the sunken garden with sensory grasses was a good combination with the annual planting.

The park has many mature trees which are well maintained and have an on-going replacement programme and also get donations of memorial trees which are incorporated into the park.

The impressive walled garden displaying several themed sections was excellent having both traditional and modern designs of planting and provides the opportunity to trial new planting e.g. the wildflower border. The effort put into maintaining such a high horticultural achievement is a credit to all involved in this entry, especially the head gardener.

Pleased to see plenty of picnic tables and seating in all areas of the park, all maintained to a high standard and plans to add further tables due to the popularity of the park.

The wildlife pond with an interpretation board is another good example for learning about wildlife.

The Jungle tropical greenhouses, with the quail, butterflies, fish, terrapins and the wonderful variety of exotic plants are all very well maintained and is a superb resource for the many visitors, as is the noticeboard on public display showing the many awards that have been achieved. Well done for supporting the local community Hope Street Vocational team with the sale of rustic furniture on display.

The molten metal spill piece of heritage machinery with a wonderful display of annual planting is an added attraction.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consider further wildlife/nature interpretation boards within the park, perhaps with involvement with the children.

Could consider further promoting & marketing surplus plant sales to support increased income.

Continue trialling new planting associations, perhaps consider some structural planting (dot plants) to give height creating a bit more interest in the sunken garden.

Consider introduction of public recycling in the park.

Think about working with a local beekeepers group and creating a bee hive in the walled garden so the public can see the honey bees working. The bee hives would also support pollination and there was evidence of plenty of bees throughout the garden.

Consider some further interpretation in the Walled Garden for such displays as the dahlias and stunning wildflower meadow. The Friends of the Park could apply for grant funding for this through Awards for All. <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/funding/awards-for-all>

It will be great to see the raised beds finished and being used which will provide further education in the garden.

Ripon Racecourse

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Congratulations to the Head Gardener and his small staff for their preparation of the Racecourse site after the very recent departure of the Tour de France. The staff had amazingly restored the 198 acres of grass after the inundation of tents, bikes, runners and the public. The many floral features and formal beds throughout, were exceptionally well edged. The planting around the elegant bandstand was eye-catching, further enhanced by the many well painted and positioned seats. Some 60 well painted litter bins much contributed to Cleanliness and to a total lack of litter. The racecourse has a multi-purpose usage, with more than 50 events being annually held - car rallies, caravan weekends and Olympic triathlons being only a few.

Areas of Achievement

Much use of under planting.

Catchment of rainwater helps in good maintenance of bedding plants.

Yorkshire's Garden Racecourse is the only racecourse in the UK to have a children's adventure park,

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Maybe thought could be given to strategically positioned recognition of Ripon Racecourse's entrance in to Yorkshire in Bloom.

More evidence of Sustainable planting could be considered.

Ryedale Folk Museum, York

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The judges were warmly welcomed by Kevin and the staff on this our first visit to the Museum in the beautiful village of Hutton Le Hole. It was like entering an Aladdin's cave with so many interesting features and exhibits. A memorable visit

Areas of Achievement

The facilities for the 35 to 40k visitors are for all age groups from small children to the enthusiast. A wide range of activities depicting rural issues and events throughout the year stimulate the need to return on other occasions. The many exhibits dating back several centuries in some cases, provide a interesting looking back into how life used to be lived - Crofters Cottage - White Cottage and wash-house - Blacksmiths workshop - Tinsmiths - Village shop and post office and of course fun for the kids in the Witches Hovel! The model village had been superbly restored by volunteers after it was relocated from RHS Harlow Carr. The Harrison Collection of 10000 objects are being displayed in the converted building along with their library. The Roundhouse construction is used as an educational resource. The cornfield flower project with the yellow corn marigold was in full flower and their maintenance regime is a fine example of how it can be done sustainably. The Allotment with heritage varieties was excellent. The Fold Yard with its canopy provides shelter if the weather is inclement and houses an extensive collection of agricultural machinery. The paths and grounds were well maintained.

The Fat Betty's cafe and three mobility scooters cater for all needs.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The trees in the orchard are in need of some formative pruning. Perhaps a demonstration of hedge laying would be interesting. Some further ornamental planting in the style of some of the past times for the 'in bloom 'judges!!!

Treasurer's House, York

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The gardens of Treasures House were a delight. Situated at the rear of York Minster and set in a walled garden. Good use of well labelled perennials with a blue and white theme in keeping with the original garden theme. Hidden away but also open to the public the gardens offer a tranquil setting and on a hot summers day we were treated to the best room in the house. The garden is

well kept and good to see traditional methods of gardening without mechanisation being used. Well done

Areas of Achievement

Labelling of all plants around garden.

Good use of space and planting in keeping with original owners wishes.

Good environmental consideration. Keeping use of power tools to a minimum and reducing carbon foot print.

A real find of a garden with a lot of historical interest.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Move forward with interpretation boards., they would help visitors to see the garden and identify plants as well as history in such a small area.

Be aware of size of trees in the garden particularly close to such a historic building.

Incorporation of ferns into sheltered areas of the garden were difficult for some plants to grow.

York Racecourse

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

York Racecourse is described as a world class venue for horse racing in the north attracting national and international race meets with leading owners, jockey's and of course horses. But that is not the half of it, the site boasts an incredible array of high quality hospitality provision enhanced by what can only be described as expertly managed and designed floral and horticultural displays. There is no doubt that the visitor is embraced in an environment full of colour and splendour.

Areas of Achievement

There is no doubt that the team responsible for presenting the horticultural features, displays and the maintenance of the grass areas have great skill and a passion for their respective disciplines. I know some may see grass as a fairly basic element of gardens but believe me there is a whole science going on at York Race Course, with meticulous attention to providing the highest quality and most appropriate grass sward for each area of the site, this is equally matched by the exceptionally high quality floral container displays. The gardens and grounds team are considered an integral part of development involved in steering the horticultural elements of buildings and infrastructure. The litter bin planters are brilliant and an ingenious way of encouraging their use.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Work to screen the development site of the former Terry's factory is developing well and offers an opportunity to introduce a 2m habitat strip to buffer the tree line and provide a haven for local wildlife. Achieving the standards of grass and floral features requires great skill and there is value in considering an information leaflet that shows how it is done. Maybe a series of fascinating facts about the grounds and its horticultural complexity would add interest to show day programmes, what to look out for or gardening tips.

Introduction

Thank you Nigel and your team for taking the time to explain the journey of the development of your farm. The many features in this dramatic landscape and to see the collection of lavenders.

Areas of Achievement

The design of a wide range of interesting features within this most dramatic landscape overlooking the Vale of York - The cricket field titled 'The Spirit of Yorkshire' on top of the hill with the metal sculptures of all the players with a batsman being bowled out!!!-The amphitheatre and steps carved into the hillside - the attractive displays of a wide range of lavenders were at their best, plus the plantings of herbaceous perennials. The 'wobbly way' for the youngsters to explore, and the deer enclosure with their young fawn.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The signage for the plants and features would be more attractive if it had a cooperate style.

The heart of the site is the essential plant sales and propagation area and some thought might be given to screening the poly-tunnels which had been partly achieved on the north side.

It will be fascinating to return in the future to see the next phase of Nigel's secret plans!

Introduction

The Portfolio for the Yorkshire Waterways Museum was very comprehensive, but a major part of it did not relate to the category in which it was entered -8A Visitor Attractions. The Judges therefore have made their comments and marked it on the basis of what we were shown on the Waterways Museum site and included the valuable work of the development and training for disadvantaged people on that site. The elements of training on the Sobriety Allotment site are included in the Goole Town entry.

Areas of Achievement

The installation of a biomass boiler with the help of an interest free loan over 8 years, making a significant difference to those working in the various units. The whole area is kept clean and litter free and there are attractive floral planters at the entrance and on the canal side, including a 'compass bed'. Raised beds have been created to grow vegetables and flowers with a greenhouse. The range of boat exhibits on the canal. The picnic areas and the area created from spoil from the new boiler area which is to be planted with fruit trees. The floating classroom is unique and offers youngsters an alternative place to study.

The education facilities for the disadvantaged members of the community, including the handling of boats.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Information boards on the various boats and their use would be very useful for visitors and students.

The site would benefit from additional directional signage as well as the small brown signs leading from the town to the Museum.

Limit your tour and information to the Museum site as a visitor Attraction.

Expand the amount of information about the exhibits and the history of the Waterways of the area.

Category 8Ba: Business Premises Small, under 5 employees

James White Butchers, Hutton Cranswick

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

This year the fine displays of floral planters has been supplemented with a new canopy and sign which adds to the overall impression that this is a business that takes pride not only in its produce, but also in the appearance of the premises. The shop is opposite the village green and complements the appearance of the village and the work of Hutton Cranswick in Bloom. James is a supporter of the In Bloom and has on display one of the In Bloom posters designed by local school children. Visitors to the shop appreciate the floral displays both inside and outside the shop.

Areas of Achievement

The quality of planting, in particular begonias and pansies was very good. This creates a very positive impact and the premises inside and out is very clean and tidy. James and his father plant up the containers themselves, including the trough made by James's father. Cyclamens are displayed in the window in the winter for year round colour.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consideration could be given to any environmental activities the business undertakes to support the ethos of In Bloom and demonstrate this to further enhance your entry. We were pleased to see the promotion of In Bloom by you.

Paul Harrison Cars, Cranswick

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Last year the judges said that this was 'A good entry, and one, with the capacity to develop further' and we found that it had. Andy believes that he is bringing the rural into the industrial and his efforts are paying off. He continues to take great pride in the appearance of the property. It is very clean, neat and tidy and the displays very colourful. All the planting up and tending to the plants is done in house using plants from two local nurseries and watered with rain water collected in a water butt.

Areas of Achievement

The new window boxes, locally made, either side of reception complement the hanging baskets and floral containers under the canopy. All are thriving, a reflection of plant quality and quality of care. Last year's 'new' border has grown well with attractive mainly sustainable planting. It helps to soften the appearance of concrete forecourt. A new flower bed is underway at the other side of the border of the premises. All the grounds maintenance is done by Andy including the grass cutting. The grassed areas are well kept and the whole site has become greener. Inside the premises In Bloom is promoted by displaying a poster designed by local school children. Andy's collection of plants inside reception is expanding too. All old engine oil is recycled by burning in a purpose built heater which heats the workshop area in the winter.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

We were pleased to see that planting within the border area now has more plants attractive to bees and wildlife which enhances the entry. Consideration could be given to more sustainable planting in some of the containers for year round colour, this could include herbs for example.

Category 8Bb: Business Premises Large, over 5 employees

Countrystyle Foods, Leeds

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

What a surprise when you visit Countrystyle Foods. A well organised and friendly family run bakery with nine other sites across the country.

Very little space to grow plants but they use every corner of the entrance and reception area to make this working site colourful and welcoming.

Plants grown from plugs and grown on in the owners own greenhouse at home.

Every time you looked you saw something different flowering in the gardens and planters.

Management and staff were so polite, helpful and proud of their colourful displays and rightly so.

Book me in to judge next year. Doughnuts were delicious and to die for. Thank you

Areas of Achievement

Good quality planting in beds, recycled planters and hanging baskets.

Planted both in summer and autumn.

Materials all composted on site, good clean composting area.

Self-watering system all around site but neat and well hidden.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Planters on exterior fence facing factory could be improved for future years. Look at alternative plants, trailers.

Keep up the good work, Excellent for such a small area

Manor Farm Shop, Driffield

Silver Rose Award

Introduction

A family business for 25 years that is very well used by the residents of Hutton Cranswick and surrounding communities. With a focus on providing local produce and supporting local trade Manor Farm invites you to stop and sample its delights. During our visit it was evident that it is very well used and people take the opportunity, after purchasing their provisions, to use the small picnic area as well.

Areas of Achievement

A very neat and tidy entrance and car park with large containers planted with good flowering begonias. All are co-ordinated. Further planters including old 'dolly' tubs and a bike, again planted with begonias, front the shop. Main emphasis is on reducing food miles and all plastics are recycled.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Manor Farm is about to expand with building of the new shop and cafe about to start. Plans include solar panels, heat exchange for cookers/water, and rainfall collection for toilets. We look forward to seeing these impressive environment plans put into practice. The opportunity to provide an inviting floral kerbside could enhance these plans and attract more passing trade.

Mount Pleasant Kennels, Keighley

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The grounds of the kennels open up after a twisty country lane up a steep hill and are amazing with immaculate well-manicured lawns. A real credit to gardener Stan with a mixture of annuals and perennials mainly grown by him and who is also responsible for little quirky features throughout the borders

Areas of Achievement

Unusual features of arbour and little bridge break up the large slope in front of property with lots of innovative hanging baskets and pots. All annuals have been grown from seed and some lovely hostas. Love the use of astilbes and alchemilla in gravel beds.

Water recycling with pond and rill makes a tranquil area at rear.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Some of the decorative grasses in water garden may need to be thinned as can become very invasive and maybe do more to screen the water tank. Some of paintwork on various doors could be improved but the standards overall are very high

Park Fisheries, Beeston

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Park Fisheries entry is a marvellous example of creating an area of calm and relaxation just a few feet from the busy Beeston Road with prolific planting of baskets, planters, shrubs all to a cooling colour scheme and including a small running water feature. The customers must come from far and wide to enjoy fish and chips in such a setting more akin to a Mediterranean than an urban area in Leeds

Areas of Achievement

All the plants are thriving as a result of the dedicated care and attention they receive to give a stunning effect on the approach around the corner of the shop.

The purple and white theme of the petunias has been extended to include yellow ones in recognition of the Tour De France. Gail purchased 2 delivery bikes, refurbished them and planted the baskets with yellow million bells to promote both the tour de France and Beeston in Bloom. Simon has built

some wooden planters to extend the effect further along towards the front of the shop and is proud that he has grown dahlias for the first time and has now been included in the planning and planting for next year.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

For next year's entry, plan to take the same colour scheme round to the front of the shop and with Beeston in Bloom's approval into the pavement planters. To encourage other businesses in Beeston, it might be an idea to host an event to promote Park Fisheries, Beeston in Bloom and Yorkshire in Bloom and the benefits such entries have provided.

**Sheffield Forgemasters International Ltd
Winners**

Gold Rose Award

Category

Introduction

Set in the heart of industrial Sheffield this site was a total surprise both management and staff are to be commended in creating what is an oasis and green lung in an industrial landscape.

Areas of Achievement

From arriving at reception to touring both sites there were surprises round every corner. Colourful and exceptionally well maintained formal displays around the main reception areas enhanced with interesting sculptures created by the company's apprentices.

Crossing the site via the overhead gantry to find a tranquil landscaped garden with natural pond area, mature trees and a riot of colourful planting with year round interest, providing habitat for wildlife. The site is maintained by two full time gardeners and is a credit to them.

There are some wonderful original features being used that add to the historic heritage of the site and compliment the landscaping.

The river side walk has incredible potential for increasing biodiversity within the site, and again provides a tranquil space that the employees can enjoy

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to work closely with the environment agency with regards to the flood defences and hopefully create a happy compromise over access and sustaining habitat along the river bank.

Consideration be given to acknowledging/enhancing the companies war memorial at the main entrance.

Category 8C: Shopping Centres and Retail Parks

Airedale Shopping Centre, Keighley

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The impact of over 100 hanging baskets and barriers soften and enhance this otherwise drab building. The lovely mix of yellow for Le Tour de France and patriotic red white and blue was very appealing

Areas of Achievement

The interior walkways were very clean and the recycling in the whole of the complex was impressive. Very good publicity for Keighley in Bloom and Yorkshire in Bloom throughout the shopping centre with also two dedicated window displays and a large show area for local groups and charities. The watering system and feed routine has paid off with very full and healthy plants. The change to LED energy efficient lighting has already saved money

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

To further increase the number of barrier baskets on the car park ramp as funds become available and to consider spring/winter planting

Unfortunately the council care of the perimeter streets with cleansing and poor quality street furniture detracted from the excellence of the centre.

Crystal Peaks Shopping Mall & Retail Park, Sheffield Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

Crystal Peaks is more than a shopping centre, it is also a hub for the community with many amenities on the same site. From its grassed areas, through its formal planting to the lovely wildflower and natural areas Crystal Peaks is beautifully maintained throughout its 43 acres and an absolute credit to the staff involved

Areas of Achievement

The whole site is in itself an achievement, it was lovely to meet the team involved and to see how very dedicated and enthusiastic everyone is for the huge amount of work that they do both on the site and to benefit the local community.

Local environmental quality was excellent even in the hard to access areas that can often be missed.

Your commitment to bio-diversity and environmental protection is impressive both in what you have already achieved and in your plans for the future.

The many faceted works that you do with a wide range of partners and the local community, including your programme of volunteering for employees and educational visits, adds very visible value to the whole area.

The new green/ floral wall looked attractive as did the stumpery, both add yet more points of interest and new dimensions to the grounds.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

I would endorse the very many and extensive plans that you already have, the entrance project looks very exciting and should make a real statement both visually and in terms of your bio-diversity objectives.

Your initial interpretation board is attractive and informative; more of them in strategic areas would be beneficial, adding value for both customers and to your educational visits.

It would be lovely to incorporate a visit to your greenhouses into the tour and to see your Yorkshire in Bloom Awards on display.

Woolshops Shopping Centre, Halifax

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The Woolshops Shopping Centre is an open air pedestrianized prime area in Halifax offering a fresh approach to a shopping experience amongst the well-designed planting schemes. A good illustrated brochure was sent to the judges beforehand. There is good collaboration with the tenants and service providers promoting sustainability within the centre.

Areas of Achievement

The main pedestrian parade was very clean and tidy as was the service yard and the area adjacent to the Piece hall, it was obvious that there is a sense of pride by the team & visitors to the centre. Environmental responsibility was evidenced with many examples given and the tenants also supporting with recycling, the centre uses locally manufactured compost from recycled garden waste and planted to promote biodiversity. The commitment to the environment is evidence through the ISO 14001 certificate.

The impressive colourful hanging baskets and planters were well maintained and now the new baskets are well established they continue to be successful in reducing water conservation, the compost also includes 5% water gel and slow release fertiliser which also assists in reducing the labour hours.

The planters with the standard roses & bushes, and well positioned seating were painted to a high standard.

The Halifax in Bloom banners prominently displayed around the centre was further evidence in promoting In Bloom and joint working that Woolshops has with one of its main partners.

The perennial planting including the bulbs around the periphery of the centre is an added attraction for the visitors to the centre.

The Woolshops management team have a planned site check for daily clearing and cleaning and are looking forward to delivery in August of two new public recycling bins to be sited in the main mall.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consider a repainting programme for the seating and planters in the adjacent shopping area with the appropriate council group to bring them up to the same high standard as Woolshops.

The Woolshops management team are keen to support a habitat for insect pollinators and could consider providing 'bug' dwellings within the perennial borders to attract and shelter insects. Maybe a promotion/awareness day could be organised at the centre with support from the Calderdale Rangers and/or Junior Rangers about the various species that are attracted to the centre, could be considered or some interpretation or signage describing the different species e.g. the big butterfly count 19th July – 10th August.

The perennial borders established in 2006 could be further enhanced with the further introduction of some suitable planting to extend the seasonal interest.

To include a planned programme to check and clear the weeds on the car park entrances and steps.

Category 8D: Caravan, Camping and Chalet Parks

Nursery Garden Holiday Home Park, Thirsk

Gold Rose Award

Category Winner

Introduction

This 8 acres site, within high walls, has not been judged since 1998, since when the site has been put to several uses. Some 62 large static holiday homes now grace the site. The wide entrance opens up to a well-managed and orderly location. Many of the homes have well-proportioned decking, from which individual floral features hang, and are further enhanced by the addition of well-planted and tended sustainable borders. The irregular, but well thought-out positioning of the holiday homes, very much add to the charm of the overall layout. That so much grass is well cut, is a credit to those who look after it. Signage is good, and the reception office is easy to find. Recycling is well managed, with discreetly hidden waste disposal points. Homemade compost is for the use of all. That 3 people can manage such a big site, in addition to a big productive greenhouse, is impressive. Not surprising, there is no litter and barely a weed.

This is a very good entry.

Areas of Achievement

The extreme tidiness of the site is infectious, and most of the holiday homes further add well-tended sustainable borders - all in all giving the impression of a well-run and managed Nursery Garden Holiday Home Park.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Perhaps, more reference both at the entrance and within the Park, of the participation in Yorkshire in Bloom, to further add to the overall enthusiasm

Weir Caravan Park, Stamford Bridge

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Colourful and abundant floral displays at this inland island caravan park welcome visitors and owners alike. Within strolling distance of the centre Stamford Bridge this site is a haven of tranquillity. It is evident that great pride is taken by the owners of the site, David and Christine, the warden Steve and those with caravans on the site. The excellent plantsmanship and work put in by Jeff is reflected throughout the site whether around the caravans, floral baskets and containers, borders and beds and along the river bank. Well Done.

Areas of Achievement

The planned colour planting scheme has achieved harmonious displays. The rose garden is beautiful and abundant and the 'rabbit proof' plants border is a success. Maintenance on the site is of a very high standard both in the formal areas and the more informal rural touring section. This is reflected in the efforts of individual owners who have caught the 'gardening' bug. Recycling and composting is undertaken and efforts to encourage wildlife has been well rewarded.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Keep up and continue development of the 'annual planting' plan - this obviously is the backbone of the floral planting. Consideration could be given to providing information throughout the site, particularly in the informal touring areas, about your wildlife and conservation efforts for the benefit of those using the site.

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

Burnby Hall Gardens & Museum, Pocklington Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

Burnby Hall and Gardens are a true reflection of our cultural heritage and reflect how important it is that we are all able to enjoy and engage in beautiful landscapes and astonishing displays. Home to what must be one of the most important collections of Water Lilies in the country, the lakes provide an ideal environment in which their splendour can be enjoyed. The Stumpery, Victorian Garden, Rock gardens and floral displays provide a range of horticultural delights enhanced by well-presented facilities and a charming cafe, in which interpretation panels enlighten you about the incredible adventures of Major Percy Marlborough Stewart and his Wife.

Areas of Achievement

Interpretation leaflets are excellent, with graphical and written information presented in a easy to read format. Detailed plan of the gardens aid the visitor's route around the key features. Bespoke leaflets for events such as the spring Tulip festival are beautifully presented and informative. The gardens continue to be maintained to a high standard by a dedicated and conscientious team. The Aviary beds and Victorian garden were particularly colourful and the school children's gardens were a delight, carefully tended and beautifully designed. New additions to the play facilities provide exciting challenges for children and an opportunity for parents and carers to rest a little.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Plans for an ambitious refurbishment project are moving forward and promise to deliver vital restoration to the lakes and rock garden. Both of which are of incredible historical and conservational value.

Fund raising for projects and ongoing maintenance are a continuous challenge but the introduction of donation boxes at the garden exit may help especially if they are labelled for specific garden projects.

As the pressure of maintenance and development continues to build it may be appropriate to try and recruit a group of garden volunteers to help during the development project.

Cannon Hall & Country Park, Barnsley

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The mature landscape and some magnificent trees would always impress a visitor and a visit to the walled garden is must for all the visitors.

Areas of Achievement

At over a 100 strong the friends group is an energetic organisation contributing greatly to the park, which has a permanent staff providing excellent day to day maintenance of the area.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The Parks Management have already recognised that improvements to the car-park area and restoration of the lakes would greatly enhance the parks appeal

East Park, Hull

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

It is easy to see why East Park Hull is a popular and much loved green space on the edge of the city. There is something for all ages here whether it is feeding the ducks, working out on the gym equipment or strolling under a canopy of wonderful specimen trees. The lake provides some great waterside walks and the animal education centre provides the young and young at heart with an opportunity to get close up and personal with a wide range of farm yard and exotic animals and birds.

Areas of Achievement

The judges were impressed with the wide range of facilities offered in East Park including the boating lake, bowling greens and sports pitches.

The floral areas near to the cafe were colourful and nicely maintained.

The archive of information about the park put together by Stuart, Park Ranger, is a great resource and deserves a permanent home so a wider audience can view it easily.

Signage around the park is plentiful and informative.

The clock and the bandstand in the park have proved good investments and as always the animal park was a delight.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It would be churlish to criticise the overall structure of the park which has undergone refurbishment thanks to lottery funding. There is so much to enjoy whether relaxing by the water or using the outdoor gym, or simply just passing through from one side of the area to another. However, the problem of litter in all areas needs to be addressed. Could the Friends Group, or the wider public, be called upon to help Park Rangers with a big clean up? A few pairs of willing volunteer hands would make such a difference to the overall impression given to a first time visitor.

Elsecar Park and Local Nature Reserve, Barnsley

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The Park has a wide range of well-maintained facilities from the formal to Victorian bedding to the natural area all in a relatively small space, which is to the credit of all involved.

Areas of Achievement

The wide range of possible activities for the visitor to the park to participate in and the hard work of both the permanent staff and the volunteers.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

More controlled use of the nature reserve may be useful as could adding more information boards within the area

Lister Park, Bradford

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Lister Park is Bradford's premier park located approximately 1 mile from the City Centre. Occupying some 22.25 hectares, with the stunning Cartwright Hall, once the family residence of the Lister Family. The park was passed to the City of Bradford and opened as a public park in 1870. The park has continued to respond to the changing needs of its community and local population, providing attractive and well maintained facilities and areas for recreation and relaxation.

Areas of Achievement

Lister Park is a recreational oasis, brimming with variety and opportunity for those seeking relaxation and exercise. The park continues to respond to the changing needs of its community providing culturally influenced gardens. New this year is the Sensory Garden designed and delivered with help and input from local young people with additional needs. The garden contains plants that play in the senses from sound, movement, scent and texture, overall a very worthy and interesting garden. A wide range of sport, play and leisure facilities are included providing families an opportunity to spend a few minutes to a whole day soaking up the atmosphere of this well loved park.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Proposals to reinstate the floral clock, a symbol of a bygone era will reinforce the historical character of the floral features.

Although the Friends group has waned over the past few years plans are afoot to reinstate the group with a renewed focus and engagement with the park and its future use, although there are many groups, schools and clubs making use of the facilities at Lister Park. The former botanical gardens have been adjusted to ease maintenance and recent issues with the water supply to the main stream that runs through the garden have presented problems. Adjustment to the style and type of planting will improve this area.

Museum Gardens, York

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The Museum gardens are open 364 days per year closing only on Christmas day, a free of charge public garden in the centre of York the gardens are clearly enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. The

development and restoration of the gardens and plant collections continues at a pace and there is no doubt that the gardens curator and staff have incredible enthusiasm and commitment to maintaining and improving this delightful garden. There is a restful air around the garden with visitors engaged in everything from gentle exercise, to snoozing on the lawns. A really pleasant and well maintained garden

Areas of Achievement

Maintaining gardens that are not only open 364 days per year but host many organised events not to mention the weather, is an incredible challenge expertly executed by the gardening staff. As with all gardens the challenge is in restoring and developing the historical importance of the site, whilst introducing new and interesting plants and features, and at the Museum gardens this is delivered year on year with new and established projects. Spring bulb displays, Tree survey, plant introductions verified and justified through careful research and consultation. Many groups use and enjoy the gardens engaging directly with its horticultural and archaeological features or simply promoting their particular interest. A truly beautiful place.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

A well thought out conservation management plan works is evidenced by the physical development of the site but entrance and general signage would benefit from reinterpreting and replacing and plans to do this in the near future will greatly enhance the visitor experience. Facilities are always a challenge and the restoration of the public toilets will add greatly to the current provision. Plans to refresh the web site and the introduction of social media opportunities will provide a deeper understanding and awareness of the value and use of the site and its environs.

Oakwell Hall Country Park, Birstall

Gold Rose Award

Joint Category Winner

Introduction

Oakwell Hall is a remarkable mixture of a garden from 1690 to an amazing broad walk overlooking a series of ponds which provide habitats for a diverse range of species. Users of the site can do lots of activities from stone carving to a community choir and the volunteers who help come from locals to large corporations. This is a site which has something to offer for everyone and is well maintained and managed.

Areas of Achievement

The high level of maintenance and the wide range of volunteers who help with this including TVC to the rainbow, brownies and guides who help with the balsam bashing. The inclusion of the bee hive in the garden is interesting and the plant rich area at the house side which is projected as a stumpery is extremely attractive. The area set aside for woodcraft experiences shows good thought for the requirements of users.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It will be interesting to monitor how well the replacement of the blight stricken box hedge with yew hedge develops in the future and also how the spacing of benches improves accessibility.

Introduction

The judges were met by a very enthusiastic Friends of Pannett Park group. The Group had clearly played a very active role in the renovation process/ fund raising and now the day to day upkeep of the Park which was a credit to all involved. The park itself was very well maintained with some outstanding floral features and a fully inclusive play area aimed at an age range from 0-90 which will long remain in the judges minds as the most inclusive area presented to them in a public Park.

Areas of Achievement

The play area finished in 2009 at a cost of £300,000 was a credit to the group's determination to provide full inclusive facilities for the age range 0-90 was a credit to all involved.

The many themed garden areas around the park such as the floral clock/ rose garden and bed in memory to the late Harry Eatough and the memorial, were outstanding in their design and quality of planting.

The sheer amount of volunteer time spent in the park by the group and the diversity of tasks undertaken was refreshing to see and was well evidenced in the portfolio as well as the power point at the beginning of the tour.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to roll out the spring bulb planting program on the Bank and consider sowing the area down with local wild flowers to improve the biodiversity of the park for summer.

Look into an incredible edible for the allotment area to make the area more inclusive to park users by encouraging them to harvest the produce for picnics etc.

Carry on with plans to enhance the South Seas garden with new planting later this year

Introduction

The Red House museum offers a unique example of a 1830 Regency garden with serpentine pathways, ironwork flower baskets and plants from that period similar to those which would have been enjoyed by Charlotte Bronte and her friend Mary Taylor. The flower garden area leads onto an informal, wildlife area which offers visitors an area to relax and children to play. Maintenance throughout is very high due to work by dedicated volunteers and staff. This museum and garden is a hidden oasis.

Areas of Achievement

The maintenance plans for future are extremely well thought out to retain the character of the period garden, with careful thought to space and plant heights and is credit to the management staff. Equally the high maintenance of the cobble area is to be commended.

The partnership with Johnson's Paint at Birstall under PPG is very positive and allowed the museum to offer several benefits to visitors.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The development of the area behind the barn needs to be given careful consideration so that these compliment what is already in the garden, yet are beneficial to the stability of the site.

The Homestead Park, York

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Bob and Joanne welcomed us and introduced us to the dedicated Landscape team responsible for the maintenance and development of this 14 acre garden set in the grounds of a 'big house' in the middle of York. The garden was opened to the public in 1904 by the son of Joseph Rowntree and still has free access and comprises many features of interest to all age groups.

Areas of Achievement

The various leaflets and guides, Tree Trail, Birds Bugs Beasts, provide adequate information for an enjoyable visit. The newly re-opened 'Pond Area' with many interesting specimen trees and shrubs had been sensitively refurbished. The Tree Trail with 38 specimens is a botanical delight. The large swathes of wildflowers in the meadow and picnic area are being developed. One highlight was the Formal garden in which beds had been dedicated to Centenary of WW1 with a sand bagged gun emplacement with cartwheel and a ring of poppies, banners with poems and words of songs of the time, the beds depicting various countries and organizations involved in the conflict with a field of poppies nearly in flower.

The re-designed Lupin Bed to give all-year-round interest. The well designed information boards at appropriate locations and the 5 year Tree management plan. Involvement of schools and other groups. The provision of children's play facilities

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The 'Pond area' deserves a better title reflecting its past.

It will be interesting to revisit this garden and see the outcome for the idea for creating a Dementia Garden.

A pruning programme for the fruit tree collection.

Perhaps a mown footpath system through the wildflower and Quiet area would lead visitors to places on interest.

Category 9: Open Spaces

Carlton Marsh Nature Reserve, Barnsley GOLD

Areas of Commendation

The many different organisations working together to provide this valuable asset.

The work undertaken by Cliff and all the volunteers has turned the reserve into a valuable asset for all the community.

The impressive bird hide complete with informative posters,

The new sign at the entrance,

The excellent natural history report and all the different organisations working together make the reserve worthy of praise.

The plans for the dyke will also benefit the reserve and the animal life pond signs would benefit from a new coat of paint.

Areas for consideration-

The animal life ponds sign would benefit from a clean and coat of paint.

Continue with the plans for the dyke.

Continue to work alongside Cudworth environmental group

Churchfields Peace Garden, Barnsley GOLD

Areas of Commendation

1. A spotless example of a town centre heavily used park.
2. All the Furniture is in excellent condition throughout the area of the park.
3. The Engagement with children with activities within the park was shown and was excellent.
4. The encouragement of wildlife in bee boxes and bird feeders in the park were noted.
5. Plenty of Bins for rubbish and for dog waste at strategic points in the park

Areas for Consideration

- 1 More consideration to recycling bins at the entrance to the park

Friends of Monk Bretton Park, Barnsley SILVER GILT

Areas of Commendation

1. Comprehensive Parks Plan and history run by the enthusiastic friends group

2. Lettered Steel arch over the main entrance gate depicting the park name.
3. Carefully selected newly planted shrubs planted in the recently cleared area near the main gate and avenues of recently planted trees in the park.
4. Good interpretive signs near the wildlife pond explaining the many different types of visitors to the area.
5. Children's and young people's play area.

Areas for Consideration;

1. Keep up enthusiastic friends group and try to encourage some younger people to help with the extra works in the park.
2. The wild life pond is becoming overgrown with reeds which will need thinning in the not too distant future.
3. Continue Spring bulb planting to enhance the existing displays.
4. Regularly check the staked trees in the park to make sure the tree ties are not damaging the tree trunks.

Friends of Sandringham Park, Wetherby SILVER

Areas of Commendation

1. The area is well used and the play area is in good condition with no defects and offering a wide range of equipment suitable for a good age range.
2. The park was relatively clean and tidy with very little litter and good provision of bins, the group do regular clean ups.
3. The group have plans in place for future events to help with raising their profile and help to bring in additional funds.
4. The Friends group although fairly small are ambitious and are engaging effectively with the local community.
5. The overall maintenance of the site is acceptable and appropriate to the park users needs.

Areas for Consideration;

1. Consider seeking advice on any future planting, especially on site preparation and choice of suitable species.
2. On future judges visits it would be useful for the judges to meet a cross section of the friends group.
3. Continue to engage with local people to help enlarge the current group to a wider cross section of the community.
4. Seek advice on funding streams to try and get some directional signage to the park, it is quite secluded.
5. Perhaps look into some more tree and scrub planting around the perimeter to help develop nesting site for birds etc.

Areas of Commendation;

1. This is a really well organised group with everything in place that will make it sustainable for years to come. The care taken that their many sponsors as happy and well cared for is very impressive. The social side of the group with organised trips sounds lovely.
2. They work with other local groups and work with local school children in a variety of ways was good to hear about.
3. The group have really well managed compost heaps and are making tremendous efforts, including working with local firms, to harvest water. Bird boxes have been installed and bat boxes considered. Many recycled materials are used around the station. The group have built up a good relationship with the railway authorities
4. The group are making tremendous efforts to make the public aware of their work and to recruits volunteers.
5. The gardens and planters around the station are certainly colourful and bright.

Areas for consideration:-

1. Continue to press for the replacement of the mirror in the underpass.
2. Consider working on murals in the underpass with local schools to make it brighter and less intimidating.
3. Consider Scented planting in beds around the station, especially where people sit. Consider pots and planters of herbs on the platform and seating areas.
4. Continue work on interpretation boards for the platforms and consider further interpretation boards in the Bronte Garden.
5. Consider adding more compost to the Bronte Garden for the benefit of planting and to conserve moisture.

Areas of Commendation

1. Introduction of Almond Walk.
2. Well Run Events.
3. Improved Site Lines Throughout the park.
4. Use of Social Media to communicate with Volunteers.
5. Encouraging people to re-cycle cans.

Areas for Consideration;

1. Continue bulb planting in the Autumn

2. Continue to improve site lines in the park to improve vistas and help with wheelchair users to have greater appreciation of the park.

3. Investigate the leaking water causing boggy area of grass land near the drive.

Ginny Greenholes, Spofforth

PLATINUM

Areas of commendation:-

1. The imaginative play equipment is exciting, suitable for children of all ages and fits well into the rural environment.

2. The way the group have consulted with the community of all ages and taken their views into account is very impressive.

3. The management plan of the site with areas of vegetation separated by mown paths is exciting for children and supports a wide range of wildlife.

4. The use of fallen trees chainsaw carved is a good idea, plus the old trees themselves together with various habitat piles improves the area for wildlife.

The efforts the group are making to recycle and protect the environment are impressive.

Areas for consideration:-

The community orchard with a wide range of Yorkshire varieties is a real community asset. However at the moment it is hidden by vegetation for part of the year. I fully understand that this is to protect the trees from vandals but perhaps other ways to do this could be found.

Perhaps making the village children guardians of the trees might be an idea.

Invite them to help prune the trees, perhaps have a blossom queen in spring, have competitions for the children, best photographs showing the whole life of an apple, best drawing of a tree in bloom etc.

Have a harvest home celebration by the trees and wassail them in winter.

Perhaps the school would have ideas on how to help the children take 'ownership' of the trees. In addition to making the orchard a big part of the community, clearing vegetation and reducing competition can only benefit the orchard.

Holden Park, Oakworth

SILVER

Areas of commendation:-

1. This is a special place. The grotto which was created as part of the grounds of a mill owner's house should be valued and preserve. There are lovely woods at the top of the park.

2. The group is well organised and committed and has raised substantial funding to benefit the park.

3. The group have an ongoing programme of very successful and unusual events, like the Fairy Fest which really fits with the character of the park.

4. The Tuesday gardening group are making a valuable difference to the park, especially in growing and providing planting and extensive grass cutting.

5. There is pleasing support from local businesses and the local Young Farmers Group.

Areas for consideration-

1. Consideration should perhaps be given to preserving the structure of the grotto itself for future generations, especially as there are minor signs of deterioration. Perhaps it might be possible to work with the council to survey it and consider a management plan to conserve it. Consider investigating what the original planting of the grotto might have been and introduce similar plants which will also be hardy.
2. Consider using hardy, sustainable planting to replace the perennials along the stone edged border by the war memorial. A bank of cotoneaster horizontalis, for example, would hold back the stones, provide valuable ground cover to keep down weeds and have bright berries.
3. Consider introducing sustainable planting and ground cover to other areas by the war memorial to reduce the need for maintenance and keep down weeds. Consider asking Bradford Forestry Department to look at the condition of the large cedar by the war memorial and if safe, make it a feature of the park
4. Consider approaching companies such as the local Asda for help. Perhaps teams of colleagues might help with some of the bigger tasks.
5. Work on the suggested project to turn the derelict tennis courts into a multigames court.

Richmond Park, District Park Sheffield

GOLD

Areas of commendation:-

1. The Friends of Richmond Park are to be complemented on the sterling work that they have carried out to make the park entrance attractive and welcoming. The signage and flower bed looked lovely and the beautiful murals, created with the help of young people from the local school add an extra dimension that both complements and enhances the area.
2. The very good standard of maintenance that is achieved especially considering that so much is being undertaken by the Friends group and volunteers. As with many other services the local Authority is limited in what it can now do and the Friends have stepped into the gap admirably. Your plan to buy an additional large piece of equipment and share it with other local groups is
3. I was impressed by the plans for the development of new areas and for the new memorial bed that is now coming to fruition. The group have undertaken this project with a real sensitivity towards the feelings of the families involved and the views of local people. Splendid.
4. I was also impressed by high level of backing that you have achieved from such a wide range of supporters, this encompasses both financial and practical help. The grants and donations that you have secured have enabled real improvements to the park and the fund raising that you carry out is notable. Supporters range from individuals to large organisations and were numerous, however a special mention should be made of your 'dog walkers' who help to keep the park litter free so admirably.
5. The dedication and commitment of the Friends Group is to be applauded, the membership level is extremely healthy and it was good to hear about the different ways that people contribute. Barbara and Margaret were very welcoming and extremely knowledgeable and worthy representatives of this very active and thriving Group.

Areas for consideration:-

1. The plans for the development of the old rose garden sound exciting and I would encourage you to bring these to fruition.
2. I would encourage you to develop the incredible edible aspects of your plans, perhaps you could consider relocating the current orchard to an area where it will present fewer 'challenges'. It may also be beneficial to work with the local schools on projects where the children can both plant produce and herbs and gather them to use in the school kitchen.
3. Some excellent work has already taken place to improve the pavilion, including an brand new disabled toilet, don't forget to continue to include improvements to this facility in your plans, it is a valuable asset for both your work and that of your volunteers.
4. You have achieved a huge amount in a relatively short time and this should be recorded and celebrated. I realise that time is at a premium, but perhaps the school or some of the Friends who are less physically able could pull together all of your photographs, records and plans into a document/diary that charts the Friends of Richmond Parks story.
5. A large plan of the park to show the overall layout would be useful and helpful in charting both plans for development and where improvements have already been made.

Spofforth Millennium Garden

PLATINUM

Areas of commendation:-

1. The gently curving path between waving clumps of oat grass entices the visitor into the park and creates an immediate feeling of calm and tranquillity.
2. The way the group have involved the community in putting forward ideas for the development of the site, together with an ongoing management plan is very impressive.
3. The soft colour scheme and the use of oat grass combines with the use of hard landscaping very well and the whole fits well into its environment. The standard of grassed areas was high.
4. The standard of maintenance of the park is clearly very high and is a credit to all involved, especially the volunteers who work there.
5. Generally no chemicals are used making the site wildlife friendly.

Areas for consideration:-

1. Perhaps the introduction of a water feature would add to the feeling of tranquillity, if this was possible. Perhaps it might be possible to concrete in some kind of solar feature if mains electricity is not available.
2. Perhaps consideration could be given to introducing appropriate art installations.
3. Perhaps interpretation boards could be introduced, explaining the ethos of the site and perhaps containing quotations for visitors to meditate on.

Category 10: RHS It's Your Neighbourhood

Badger Hill, Knaresborough

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

Overall the site is well cared for with a sharing of knowledge and equipment. The work on the very steep banks is commended and enhances the area.

The continuous strip of wild flowers planted around the edge of the field has provided delightful strip of colour and insect activity.

There is a good community spirit within the site and there is evidence of water collection and recycling.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue working on the steep banks with awareness of the opportunity to incorporate wildlife habitats both at ground level and higher in form of bat/bird boxes. To add colour in shade use variegated foliage or consider annual begonias to add summer colour.

Consider the provision of a communal greenhouse and small allotments to give space for vegetable production.

Further containers near the house would provide colour but beware of smaller containers which require very regular watering, better to opt for larger troughs preferably with their own reservoir.

Barkisland in Bloom

Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

Barkisland is a remarkable example of how the embellishment of a village with planting can increase the pride and involvement of the community. Colourful, well manicured borders have been created in grass verges in prominent positions throughout the village and fund raising from car boot sales, plants sales and a very successful coffee morning have helped their efforts. Support for the Tour de France with yellow bicycles, plants and bunting helped create a remarkable atmosphere and the re-location of the road sign on the cross is positive.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

A lot of experience in plant choice for this difficult growing area has been gained and this should be used to select plants to replace some of the pelargoniums growing in containers and beds with more sustainable planting.

Areas of Achievement

Taking on an overgrown site and developing it for the surrounding communities. Getting different community groups and volunteers in the area together to develop the site. Getting started and clearing debris from site, growing fruit and vegetables on site in a very short period. Putting fencing and poly tunnels up. Recycling water and composting on site. The group has made a good start on the site, seeing their results growing in fruit and vegetables. Composting and water recycling.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The group would benefit from good horticultural advice to help it develop. The Community Centre has helped here but further help may be needed. Aim to get more community help, look at which groups intend to advertise to other groups in the area, and who may be interested. Look at more room for growing plants on site, develop a second poly tunnel and more raised beds.

Reduce strimming and grass areas. This site has potential but advice is required in order to move it further forward.

Areas of Achievement

Boothtown Partnership are doing an amazing job for the community. Vicky and Douglas Robertshaw have spearheaded the work in a most impressive way. Large amounts of funding have been raised to provide apprenticeships for local young people. In order to make the group self-sustaining an investment was made for a charity shop. This was so successful that a panel was established to give out grants to other local groups who were also caring for the community, such as the church boxing club and the local youth group. In addition funding has been found to create a multi-games court for youngsters. At the moment the group are launching a project to supply floodlights to the pitch. Hopefully these will be run by solar panels, ensuring that lighting will be affordable in years to come. In addition the group runs a children's day centre, 'the POD'.

In addition the group have provided a floral Boothtown sign in crocuses. They have installed three tower planters by the multi-games court and these are tended by children. They have installed bird boxes and organised litter picks in the area. They have worked with the local school to create posters highlighting problems of dog fouling. They have created vegetable beds next to the children's nursery and the children tend them.

The group organise 3 to 4 clean ups a year in All Souls cemetery and have created wildflower areas within the cemetery,

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Work hard at publicity to ensure that all the local people understand the group's work.

Continue to encourage volunteers to join the group so that its valuable work can continue far into the future.

Areas of Achievement

The group is now in its second year and taking on more projects and areas around the town. This year's main project is the large roundabout where an overgrown verge has been transformed into a topical and attractive area, not only for the residents of Boroughbridge, but also the many passers-by. The newly created flower beds depicting the Tour de France have been well planned, constructed and planted. Once the seasonal bedding ends in autumn, the plan is to re-plant this areas to commemorate the First World War with sustainable planting.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Although the groups is well supported at present, it is important to continue recruiting new volunteers to ensure the continuation of new projects and ongoing maintenance around the district. Continue developing links with other local organisations and consider some fundraising events in the town to help raise valuable funds and to raise awareness of the work done by the group.

Cemetery Lane Allotments, Halifax**Level Achieved: Developing****Areas of Achievement**

The group have made amazing strides since the site was opened in December last year. It was lovely to meet such talented and knowledgeable gardeners working there.

The fact that they are organised with a committee and aim to organise annual general meetings is good for the future of the site.

It was pleasing to hear that the group garden in a wildlife friendly ways, are considering installing a composting toilet and that a mini nature reserve is being established along the side of the site.

Having beehives on site will benefit everybody.

Coming together to purchase equipment which the group can share is a good idea as is establishing a library in the communal shed.

It was good to see that the group are doing a lot of recycling of timber etc.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to develop the mini nature reserve. Perhaps a local wildlife group would be able to come up with ideas to help.

Continue to encourage new members and to provide plots of different sizes.

Encourage as many young people as possible to become involved in gardening at the allotments.

Continue to encourage members of the group to garden organically.

Consider expanding the idea of bulk orders for materials everyone will need.

Perhaps bring the group together socially for a harvest home celebration.

Areas of Achievement

Churwell Environment Volunteers are providing a valuable resource for the local community and a wildlife exploration area for the schools. The volunteers provide excellent information boards and leaflets from their innovative adapted container (Field Centre), which also acts as a storeroom for tools. They have successfully managed the woodland by using techniques which are inviting to wildlife such as the deadwood barriers on the paths. Most of the plants are sourced from their own gardens or donation and are then propagated on site in a development area known as the nursery, and used if needed elsewhere.

They successfully create an element of fun and excitement on the woodland walk by providing such events as pond dipping, daffodil plating, a Christmas wish tree, Easter egg hunts and Halloween walks.

A mining geologist has been recruited to explore the mining history and industrial archaeology of the area. One of next year's projects is to restore the mining railway box cart.

The area is supplied by a clear spring and fresh water shrimps will be the basis of one next year's project.

And the greatest surprise of all was to find a model steam train running at the bottom of the del.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to develop the links with the local press, the website and Facebook page and promoting the site for geo-caching.

Continue to explore the possibility of an ancient path running from Nostell Priory to Kirkstall Abbey

Consider sponsorship for the calendar and printing events on appropriate dates on it

Areas of Achievement

This first time entry has lots of potential, they have some interesting areas such as the community garden (looked after by Caroline) owned by the Billboard company which is both good perennial planting and well maintained lawns, and a hard to maintain spot at the side that's Sue has transformed with wildflowers to encourage bees and butterflies.

For a busy shopping area, it was generally clean and litter free.

Some of the local businesses along the main street have colourful planters and boxes, Zara's restaurant, Noah's Ark pub, Gilbert room to note.

The fruit and vegetable garden at Transition Crookes/Walkley is an area to note and a credit to Ruth and the group, including young people; growing a board spectrum of fruit and veg and consideration being given to organic growing, grey water and composting.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Lots of ideas across the area, such as creating a community garden between the church building and social housing site, potential links with MIND and other organisations in the area. Consider speaking with Sheffield Community Payback Team to see what support they could give in creating the space.

Forge links with local businesses - for both potential sponsorship and in bloom support by improving their own premises like Zara/Noah's ark, all adds to improving the general feel across the community.

Encourage St Thomas's to make plans to improve space around their new building, planting will help to soften the hard landscaping and again enhance the space for its current congregation and the wider community.

For future entry to the RHS Its your neighbourhood judging, work to a set route and consider the time allotted. Also if Transition Crookes are to stay in its current location, consider entering in their own right and maybe look to encourage the Day Centre Clients to get involved in the garden

Crow Nest Park, Dewsbury

Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of achievement:

The Wildflower Garden in Crow Nest Park is maintained by a dedicated group of gardeners who are supported both physically and financially by the 'Friends of Crow Nest Park' and other volunteers. The group is also working with the Parks department both on completing funding applications and advice on the restoration of the ornamental lake.

The walled garden exudes an air of tranquillity with tall structured plants in the centre beds and paths leading to the various sections, all with an array of colourful plants appealing to toddlers, school children, naturalists and flower arrangers alike. A new facility is the hedgehog and bug house and the log path leading up to it. The birds and butterflies are well catered for with natural seed heads and innovative boxes made of recycled plastic bottles and drinks cartons which blend in beautifully with the tree where they are suspended, and even a Tudor two storey bird box. Local heritage is on display with the soil steriliser, eagle and the wheels from a barrow creating an attractive feature. Horticultural solutions to problems and sought with effect as in planting gooseberry bush to deter intruders

Recycled wall toppings have been used to great effect to give structure to line a path.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue, with the assistance from the Friends, to upgrade the shelter area bearing in mind the tranquil and healing atmosphere in the garden.

Consider planting cotoneaster or similar near one of the walls to attract bees in Spring and feed the birds in Autumn.

Continue with innovative ideas to attract children into the garden and develop their interest in both wild flowers and wildlife.

Areas of Achievement

Involving all areas of the community in projects such as Love Cudworth Park and tea in the park. The seasonal bedding display in the park and the new sign at the park entrance

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consider providing more litter bins in the park. Encourage more local businesses and shops to get involved in the group. Consider getting local shops to sponsor planters, baskets etc. to provide floral interest in the summer.

Cutting Hedge, Halifax**Level Achieved: Thriving****Areas of Achievement**

Cutting Hedge is a gardening service for people over 60, often those who for various reasons cannot manage gardening any longer. The service is run by social workers and based around Manor Heath Park. The workers are all volunteers who have learning difficulties but are interested in learning more about Horticulture. They receive training on all aspects of garden work and machinery use. The team work all over Calderdale. The service benefits all involved to a high degree, trainees learn skills which can be transferred to regular employment as well as companionship and development of social skills. Clients not only get their gardens kept well-tended but can actually continue to choose plants and develop their gardens with the group's help. In addition clients have regular company to look forward to. All the work done by the group is really impressive. The social workers are dedicated and committed and the trainees work hard all year round. In addition the care the group show to vulnerable clients is impressive, sorting out problems and summoning aid when needed is very impressive as obviously it falls outside their normal remit and is down purely to the caring nature of the group.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Since the service is so valuable to the community and since there is a waiting list, consider expanding the service if financially possible.

Consider introducing wildlife gardening into the training.

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

This hard working group have created and continue to maintain and develop this delightful oasis with the help of volunteers from the small community. The garden is well planned on the disused Bowling Green which has created its own problems of land which is too well drained!! However the choice of mainly perennial plants for these dry conditions has produced an excellent display of colour for all seasons. The site has no shade so the group has provided 2 pergolas for visitors. The

group organize many events throughout the year, plant sales, quizzes and raffles, wine nights and celebrations for Royal and other occasions. The special display of three decorated bikes for the Tour de France was a delight.

The garden and adjacent village hall is used by disabled groups on a regular basis.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The plans for a display board with educational information on wildlife will be of great benefit to all users of the garden.

The lack of shade for visitors and certain plants is a concern and the site would benefit from some suitable tree planting in appropriate locations.

East Morton Community Orchard

Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

Initial choice of the area adds to the recreation ground and doesn't impinge on the other users.

Wild flowers around the trees added to the visual impact.

Research into other orchards in the area.

Apple juicing using village apples.

Labelling of the trees and future plans for outdoor teaching.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

A display board would help to enhance understanding. We feel this would be of more use than a leaflet dispenser.

We are glad that the group have thought about the height and pruning of the trees. We are rather concerned that some of the trees are already rather tall, making picking the fruit difficult.

Foxwood Residents Association, York

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

Nicely planted containers were observed at Stirrup Close and also at Foxwood Lane shops. A good start has been made in improvements to Foxwood Park, removing undergrowth and thinning out trees, by students from Bootham School. This is a long-term project and plans are in place to obtain additional help.

Well done for your efforts in securing funding for seating in various places but in particular the proposed picnic areas on Chesney fields.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue with your efforts to eradicate dog fouling.

You may consider permanent, sustainable planting both in planters and new borders.

Promote the 'In Bloom' team by placing placards with your logo at each area of your responsibility.

Perhaps more bulbs could be planted in autumn, particularly beneath street signage.

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

Areas of Achievement

The Friends of Crow Wood Park are a dedicated group who are committed to improving the large park in the centre of their community and making sure it is a well-used, well looked after green space for the whole town to enjoy.

The group have already made a real difference by putting picnic tables near the play equipment, starting a sponsorship scheme for the benches elsewhere in the park as well as organising litter picks with the brownies. They have made good use of the Lloyds Bank community days and the Church groups 'Make A Difference' days to improve paths, and the Community Payback scheme to help plant new trees. The NHS Healthy Living sponsored Trim Trail is another welcome addition to the park.

The group are working well with the Calderdale council, and are developing plans for further improvements, including looking for funding to refurbish the Pétanque area and increasing the number of bird boxes within the park.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consider ways to increase the publicity the group receives. Coverage of the group's activities have been reported in the local press, which hopefully will continue, but also look at other ways of communicating, such as posters and leaflets, as well as online media. Is there a Sowerby Bridge website or blog to which you can contribute?

Friends of Holly Hagg, Sheffield

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

Although the project is only just entering its third year the very evident love and passion that Claire and the many friends and volunteers have for Holly Hagg is fast transforming it from a neglected field into an environmental gem. Your achievements are many and impressive, just a few of them are:

- The innovative use of reservoir holes to collect water that is piped across the field to storage points for watering
- Your commitment to the land and determination to use natural and ecologically sound practises in its development
- The use of good interpretation and information signs at all strategic points
- The enthusiasm of the volunteers that I met and their willingness to share their skills and knowledge

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Your current plans are sound and should be pursued especially the development of the areas like the pond that would enhance the area as learning opportunity for young people.

I understand that you wouldn't want plans to be restrictive but feel that there would be some advantage to develop a very fluid action plan. This could possibly be done with your friends and volunteers to extend the feeling of ownership amongst them.

The addition of a wider variety of herbs or perhaps a herb bed would complement your produce and use of produce.

Holly Hagg clearly has a long and interesting history, it would be worth carrying out further research and recording the information that you have. Perhaps you could also use this information on additional information boards across the site.

Friends of Holme Lane Community Garden, Sheffield

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

For such a small group this area is a credit to Rob and Sue's effects in creating a community space within a difficult and busy shopping centre main street.

There are areas of seasonal and perennial planting, well maintained and colourful, and consideration has been given to edible planting with soft fruits such as red and black currents, gooseberries and fruit trees, which locals are encouraged to pick. 6 planters with interesting mix perennial and seasonal plants are placed at the cross roads in the centre of town, and add interest in what would be a very hard urban landscape.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Expansion of the project would be difficult unless more volunteers could be found.

Maybe look to seek sponsorship or volunteer help from local businesses.

Friends of Lister Lane Cemetery, Halifax

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

This is a well organised and committed group who are doing an impressive job of caring for this important area. The amount of local support is impressive and will ensure the good work continues for a long time to come. The group are carrying out valuable research into the history of the cemetery. Passing on their knowledge by visits and PowerPoint presentations is a good idea. The efforts they have made to obtain funding really benefit their work. Attending local Funding Fairs to obtain information shows real commitment. Building a relationship with the Halifax Building Society is a good idea. The cemetery is a real wildlife oasis in this area and is managed without chemicals. The group are to be commended for managing the cemetery in a way which benefits wildlife and producing leaf and log piles. Planting insect friendly flowers and especially fruit trees and insect friendly shrubs will be good for both wildlife and visitors to the cemetery. It was good to see that recycling is taking place.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Perhaps a notice board could be provided giving news of recent wildlife sightings.

Consider a new wildlife survey of the site.

Continue developing wildlife planting.

Continue to look into the possibility of restoring the chapel.

Make contact with other local Friends groups, perhaps consider enjoying social events together. Perhaps organise a series of linked events so that visitors can go from one to another and bring public attention to everybody.

Consider producing leaflets with a map of the cemetery, highlighting important monuments and producing a little trail around it.

Invite local schools to a story telling event at the bottom part of the cemetery.

Friends of Pickering Park, Hull

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

This is a large and historical park that the friends group has raised funds for to develop and maintain the play and landscaped area. In terms of maintenance the group is looking after a designated area introducing new planting and developing what had become a rundown area.

The group has raised funding, hold events and acts as a mentor for the park. The group now hopes to raise funds to renovate the splendid but very large entrance gates.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It may be that some thought into plant selection in the maintained area could reduce the work load. In general this may only be a matter of looking at the plant types that do well and, if suitable, increase their numbers to give a bigger but not too dominate status. Not only should the group continue but also to find even more ways of explaining their aims and achievements.

From Field to Table Allotment Champions, Beverley

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

A disabled access has been created, and a structure has been built for shelter, there is also a poly-tunnel. The clients enjoy social interaction, and are well supported by the leader and the FIND network of helpers.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

As the autumn comes along perhaps it might be possible to introduce some more permanent planting. Would it be possible to work with some allotmenters from the other allotment site to create fuller beds of veg and flowers for next year?

Garforth Town Street

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The passion of the group to bring colour and pride into Garforth town centre.

Community spirit very much in evidence.

Good links with local authority, Local College and businesses.

Planters down high street, sustainable planting around car parking area. Millennium garden and mixed borders all very colourful and in keeping with area.

Encouraging pubs to put up excellent displays and have local competition.

Good support from community. An excellent entry all round.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Keep doing what you're doing.

Develop links further with groups especially the college,

Encourage other areas along high street to join in and expand.

Really good entry and worthy of award

Halton in Bloom, Leeds

Level Achieved: Developing

Areas of Achievement

Halton in Bloom have made real progress over the last few years, working with both the local primary and secondary schools to plant bulbs along the verges near the post office and create planters and floral displays along the main Selby Road which is commendable.

There are a number of local business's contributing to the improvements, the colourful display at Dodson's Funeral Services, and the corner bed on Temple Newsam Road sponsored by Hazelgrove Roofing lift the busy main street.

Other areas of note were the Church planters, mixed planting at the Dial house, the beds on Selby Road, and looked after by Barbara and the perennial bed sponsored by Stoneacre, outside the Lidl supermarket which was well maintained by Peter.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Halton is situated on a very busy main road and shopping centre, this comes with its issues of litter and heavy footfall, but the group are making good ground in enhancing their community.

Continue to forge links with the schools, and increase sponsorship with local businesses. Try to encourage the supermarket to get involved, this will benefit both In Bloom and their own premises and help to create a continuous flow of floral displays and cleanliness along the main high street.

Concentrate on maintaining the areas already created, to a high standard and encourage more volunteers to take on certain spots, before moving on to other projects.

Areas of Achievement

This is a new entry for 2014 and thus plans are in their infancy. There are three main projects and it is heartening that although in their early stages an impressive start has been made. There is a superbly situated wildlife pond at Pontecasa where the development of an access route is underway with much work to be done. Plans to develop a wildlife/wildflower walk on Back Lane will involve assistance from village children to clear tree branches and long grass during the long summer holidays. The final project is the area to the rear of the Village Hall where it is likely a haven for wildlife will be created.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

These are very ambitious, labour-intensive projects and although currently self-funded you may wish to consider applying for grants from various institutions.

By sharing information with the local community, an awareness campaign regarding the projects, you may secure vital additional assistance and extra pairs of hands.

Good Luck!

Hellaby Gardening Group**Level Achieved: Developing****Areas of Achievement**

The gardening group is small but they are achieving good results in the areas they are working in. The new brick planter built with a recent grant from the RHS, outside the village hall is filled with sustainable and seasonal plants and makes a bright entrance feature. A local resident currently helps with cutting the lawned areas. The group hold coffee mornings and Pie Suppers to help swell funds.

New timber planters (RotherFed grant) have been provided at the entrance gates and again will create a cheerful entrance to the hall.

The group also look after four perennial beds in the local park which is commendable, and provide a colourful feature within the children's play area.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

At the moment they are sustaining planting areas within the capabilities of the group, and doing these well.

Plans for further improvements are being made, such as the new car park and relocating trees in the winter.

Further grants are being sort to improve the railings and brickwork which again will enhance the area

Areas of Achievement

The group's enthusiasm for the projects in hand and the wide ranging involvement of so many different groups. Of particular note was the commitments of the younger people from the area for their local environment.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consideration could be given to a long-term plan for the development of the group and what its longer term plans and objectives over say the next five or maybe ten years could be.

Holmewood Executive "Grow Your Own", Bradford Level Achieved: Outstanding**Areas of Achievement**

The inclusion of so many variant parts and age groups of the community, coming together in this project, demonstrates the multiple benefits to all involved and makes a difference in so many lives

The energy and enthusiasm of the children for everything from clearing stones from beds to enable better ground for root vegetables, to planting flowers and eating the strawberries is a delight to onlookers. Knowledge and skills are being passed from one generation to others.

New polytunnel is being well used, raised beds are used to raise a wide variety of plants.

Recycling and composting are being used.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consider planting orchard trees and investigate possibility of rain water collection.

Introduce a bird feeding station and possibly a "hide" for observation.

Try building a hedgehog bed.

Incredible Edible Eastfield, Scarborough Level Achieved: Thriving**Areas of Achievement**

The events over the last three years to publicise the group adds profile to the campaign.

The use of community payback for painting litter bins and street furniture within the main shopping area has changed the look of the entry and given it a real boost.

Future plans to include Braeburn School on the judging route will further enhance the sense of belonging to the pupils.

The new shrub bed on the route from Braeburn School was well planned and planted despite the setbacks that have been suffered.

The wildflower planting on the roundabout is flourishing and is a credit to the group.

The judges were again swept away by the enthusiasm of all involved to improve Eastfield for the community.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The plans for Incredible Edible Eastfield to engage the community in a small way to start off with in regards to growing veg in their gardens is the next step to making the scheme sustainable.

It was good to see the plans for a quiet garden at the rear of the library progressing well with a dry run of the fencing due this month. It would be good to see this area completed as I'm sure it will further enhance the library's status as the community hub.

The idea to try something different at the top of the shopping area is looking very good and I'm sure will be a riot of colour once the annuals start to flower.

Kirkstall Community Garden

Level Achieved: Developing

Areas of Achievement

Overcoming a difficult site in only a short period of time.

Getting community participation as well as businesses to support and help develop the allotment site.

Securing a permanent site which will benefit the community and encourage people to grow their own fruit and veg

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Develop allotment areas further, only in initial stages of development but ideas are right and need to be encouraged.

Involve young people, schools etc.

Photograph and chart progress of group and its achievements.

Develop composting area.

Poly tunnel and Shed will benefit the site. Next on desire list.

Low Moor Community Kids' Allotment, York

Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

This is an excellent self-funded allotment project for 7-12 year old children. The children are very knowledgeable and adept at weeding.

The range of fruit and vegetables grown is exceptional including unusual vegetables such as rainbow carrots. There is a good selection of fruit trees and a well-stocked herb bed. The inclusion of flowers such as cosmos, cornflowers and sweet peas allows each child to pick a bunch to take home. During the judging visit the children harvested tayberries, gooseberries, red and white

currants, strawberries, lettuce and radishes. They all tasted the fruits which they deemed "not bad" and all left with a box of produce that they had grown.

Well done for producing your own fertiliser and slug traps from comfrey juice.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue with your methods of slug control which are reasonably effective.

Consider the use of redundant CD's together with strips of brightly coloured carrier bags and foil strips to deter birds.

Mare's Tail is a very invasive weed and often shallow weeding is not effective and can make the problem worse. The only method of eradication is to use weed killer but obviously not when children are present.

Meadowfields Court, Whitby

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

Meadowfields Court is hidden away in a quiet corner of Whitby with unrivalled views of the Abbey and Pannett Park. The work being done by the volunteer gardening residents is a credit to their hard work and enthusiasm. The memory border is a lovely entrance into the properties and the many pots and containers add colour for residents and visitors alike.

Part of the garden at Meadowfields Court is on a steep slope which makes for difficult cultivation but by choosing the right plants to cope with the conditions improvements can clearly be seen.

At the top of the garden colourful borders are thriving and there is not a weed in sight. The green house is in full production and there is a propagating area for residents to hone their green fingered skills. It was nice to see that virtually every window in the complex contained a vase of flowers.

The volunteers have lots of plans for future projects including themed borders. With continued hard work this entry into Yorkshire in Bloom is definitely one to watch for the future.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue your dialogue with Anchor Housing to ensure that they know what a good job you are doing.

The project to replace the gravel around the front of the properties will not only enhance the entrance and car park. It should reduce your maintenance if the right plants are chosen.

Begin to keep a record of the volunteer hours you work and a photographic record of the developing garden.

Begin to look for local grant funding opportunities to enable you to keep up the wonderful work you are doing at Meadowfields Court.

Areas of Achievement

The 'coming together' of the local community is to be commended.

Some excellent examples of residential gardens.

Really good community spirit is starting to develop.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

To harness the community spirit into the wider In Bloom criteria.

Continue to integrate the neighbourhood concept into the wider community.

Mytholmroyd Station Partnership & Neighbourhood Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

The Mytholmroyd Station Partnership have, over the 8 years they have been in existence, have made a great difference to their community. The railway station itself is enhanced with lovely planters (colour coded depending on the direction the train is heading!), great colourful posters and plenty of local information on the community notice board. The photographic display of the groups work and the Ironman murals, celebrating the local connections with Ted Hughes, add to the strong sense of community. The group's work continues along the side of the paths leading to the station, where the tricky slopes have been planted with a lovely selection of perennial plants and annuals grown from seed by the local school children.

The area under the viaduct has been thoughtfully planted too, and is supported by the contributions from the residents of Streamside Fold. It is encouraging to see the composting and water collection in this area.

The group has developed good working partnerships with many organisations, from Network Rail, Northern Rail, local councils to the local churches and local schools. The group is well supported through sponsorship from local businesses. The woven willow fence along Route 66, the cycle way that uses the station approach, is lovely, and a credit to the CTF team.

The group is well organised and, whilst being realistic about what they can achieve, has some exciting plans for the future.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Watering can be an issue, so anything that can be done to harvest rainwater will be helpful. Putting reservoirs in the existing planters, or when they are replaced, purchasing new planters with built in reservoirs will help reduce this task.

The Station Building project is very exciting and has great potential, and needs careful planning and thought. I'm sure the group is more than capable of getting this project off the ground. Good luck!

Areas of Achievement

The Northcliffe Allotment Society is doing a good job in tackling vacant plots efficiently in conjunction with support from the Council.

Irene, the society secretary, is an infectious and inspirational character, with an amazing energy and willingness to help improve the site for all.

The allotment site is clearly heading in the right direction and the process of splitting plots where it is practical to do so is effective in breathing new life into the site.

The Society works well with organisations such as NEET and has support from local police community support officers.

The site has use of an excellent refurbished building for meetings and talks.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Could a wildflower meadow be included in part of the allotment site or along its boundary edges.

It would be nice to see a greater emphasis on attracting birds through the siting of bird boxes.

It would have been good to have met more members of the society and to know that the considerable workload that Irene undertakes can be managed collectively.

It is important for the Society to keep working with the Council to facilitate further improvements such as the boundary fencing.

Outback, Halifax

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The development of this verdant place from the site of the old Halifax Workhouse in only 5 years is very impressive, especially as rubble and thin soil has made development difficult. It was good to meet the dedicated and knowledgeable staff. It is also impressive that the Outback is not only providing opportunities for children to learn to play outdoors but for families to share in the plentiful harvest of the fruit and vegetables grown on site. The gardening club for families is a good idea. This is a wonderful opportunity for families and running cookery courses in the classroom will make things even better. Plants are grown as organically as possible and the garden is an oasis for wildlife, with bird and bat boxes. The classroom building, based on straw bales is innovative and the green roof is proving surprisingly sustainable. Local children can only benefit from having access to th3 Outback, with its varied habitats and safely managed challenges.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consider perhaps working with local wildlife groups to carry out a wildlife survey.

Consider having a board giving details of wildlife siting's in the garden.

If there are local groups working with handicapped people, consider inviting them to make use of some of the raised beds.

Continue to work as organically as possible.

Continue to develop events in the garden.

Consider developing a Friends group for the site.

Continue to encourage young people to get involved managing the beds.

The Rainbow Allotment, Leeds

Level Achieved: Developing

Areas of Achievement

We were met by a very enthusiastic group of organisers and volunteers who work with residents from three Rainbow houses which supports adults with learning and physical disabilities.

The project has real future potential to provide a therapeutic outdoor activity which will give the group the experience of growing vegetables and fruit which they can then use in the three Rainbow homes.

The allotment plot has been designed and laid out to allow good disabled access with raised beds for vegetable growing, a fruit area, a small greenhouse, compost toilet and seating areas. The allotment plot is situated in the centre of the site and over looks spectacular views of the city.

The plot has developed well and with further work will provide real benefits for the users.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The main difficulty of developing the project and maximising the benefits is to increase the occasions when someone could water the plants and produce. This would improve the quality of the plants and the crops produced and give greater satisfaction to the growers. It would also increase the available produce for the three homes.

Is there a possible link with one of the existing allotment holders nearby who could do some watering when the group is not visiting the site?

Look at drawing up a planting plan which will include key sowing dates so that there is a continuation of vegetables growing throughout the year. This will add further interest for the Client users. The incorporation of more fruit and container grown flowers will further add to the experience.

Consider a program to improve the soil in the raised beds as this will also improve the quality of the produce.

Look at developing a work area with a strong table where people could stand or sit to sow seeds or pot plants and prepare containers.

Rainbow Community Gardens, Hull

Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

The creation of the garden from a lost and overgrown area of land, along with the new extension into a new area provides an excellent example of community gardening. The intention to ensure that the whole community can access the garden is achieved and well supported by local people of all ages. A wide range of events ensure that most people will find something of interest in the garden.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The issue is often the need to continue to find funding and this will of course need to continue.

Continue to develop the new area which will increase the scope of the garden by adding a different range of planting and being a quite area.

The project is very successful, so we hope that you will be able to secure support to ensure that you continue this excellent project.

Residents and Friends of Trafalgar Square, Scarborough Level Achieved: Outstanding

Areas of Achievement

The square is very well maintained with a good mixture of sustainable and annual planting with some interesting local features.

It was good to see the group installing signage on the litter bins advertising the group's efforts within Trafalgar square.

The planting that the group has done over the last couple of years is now reaching maturity and aiding a wealth of wildlife to flourish within the square.

The improved central environment and pleasant outlook has had a knock on effect and spread to the residential front gardens, with some very pleasing displays being evident.

It was good to see a local resident is now taking control of the grass cutting and achieving a really good standard which has to be commended.

The wild flower area helps the biodiversity of the square and brings in much needed pollinators to the area.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue to encourage local residents to not only use the square but help with the maintenance of this valuable green space for the future.

Ask the local council if there is any scope to have any extra work done on the square given that the group are now maintaining the site in its entirety.

Carry on with plans for future events and activities on the square for the next year and beyond.

Ripon Workhouse Garden Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The site has been restored to its former use as a food production unit for the 1850's historic workhouse with the help of a Heritage Lottery Grant. Access paths have been created on this difficult north facing sloping site and a four beds rotation system to grow many heritage varieties of the 1890s. All the crops were very well labelled with hand scripted lettering (excellent). Composting areas were well planned and utilized.

The plantings at the main entrance to the Museum were very colourful.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue developing the site and encourage volunteers to maintain the garden. The wildflower areas will need their own maintenance regime, and the young trees in the orchard will require formative pruning.

Robert Street Allotments, Barnsley

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

The community garden is a great resource for all to use the hard work that was needed to develop the site is commendable.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consider growing more seasonal bedding that can be used in planters and baskets around Cudworth. Continue to engage with the community to promote the allotments through open days, plant sales and training courses.

Ruswarp Garden Society, Whitby

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

This neighbourhood group are really making a difference to their local community. Transforming the green space on the junction of two roads into a green oasis.

The Brother William bed was of particular interest as was the fisherman sat on top of the hedge with his catch.

The school are also involved and Elle has helped brighten up the front of the school with flower displays.

The group's income is only £3-400 per year and thanks to their resourcefulness asking for donations of materials from local business they have managed to create some good features.

The group have floral displays in barrels around the entrances to the village and connect into a local caravan park which they also help to plant.

There are several water butts around the village centre as well as a bee/bug hotel for frequent visitors on the village green.

The village was devoid of any litter/graffiti/weeds/dog fouling at the time of judging and this has to be commended.

It was good to see Community Payback had been engaged to repaint the toilets, but I'm still a little unsure about the outside facilities on top of the toilet block.

The Tour de France feature bed was well thought out and in keeping with the village heritage

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Carry on engaging the school and try to get them into the village more using the gardening club.

Look into different forms of funding (such as the railway) to fund more and or provide floral features around the village to increase the groups sustainability.

Consider showing more of the village to the judges to better showcase the biodiversity of this pocket oasis and its potential for Tourism.

Sandringham Park- Wetherby

Level Achieved: Improving

Areas of Achievement

The group are working hard to involve all the community, through litter picks, planting activities and events.

The play area was maintained to a reasonable standard and was busy on the day of judging.

The area was relatively free from litter and detritus and it was good to note dog owners acting responsibly.

The various plans to improve the site are ambitious and appropriate.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Although it was explained about group members being unable to attend the judging, it would have been useful to meet one or two more to assess their involvement.

Consider working with the local council Officers to develop some of the ideas around planting, they may be able to help with grant funding.

It would be appropriate to lobby for some more appropriate directional signage to encourage more use of the park.

Sowerby Town

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

Sowerby have made a very promising start in their first year. The group is really enthusiastic and keen to make a difference to their community. Particular credit should go to PCSO George Serban, whose original idea it was to 'brighten up' the village, one of the areas in his ward. So many of the local organisations have joined in, and the difference can already be seen. Good relationships are developing with the schools, shops, Pennine Housing, Beechwood TARA and all the community groups, with support from Calderdale Council. The group has also benefited from donations by local businesses and other organisations, including top soil, the garden stone, tools, skips and trees and plants.

So far, bulbs have been planted, new planters installed and planted by the shops, new beds created at Sowerby Garden, fruit trees planted and several litter picking days organised. The village was very clean and tidy.

The group has well thought out and achievable plans for the immediate future. Keep up the good work and best of luck!

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Look at ways to develop some more environmental activities. This could include habitat creation, such as bird boxes, bat boxes, bug habitats which could be done in conjunction with the schools, brownies and the church; composting and rainwater collection.

Is there a village website or blog that can be used to publicise the group's activities and encourage more people to get involved? If not, could one be started? Certainly, good publicity will help as the group grows and develops.

Start thinking of ways to fundraise for projects. Perhaps you could organise a plant sale alongside the garden competition planned for next summer.

Spindlewood Neighbourhood Watch, Elloughton cum Brough Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

Floral displays down both sides of the entrance Road to the Spindlewood estate making a striking feature.

The group have overcome the challenges of planting under tree canopies and dry conditions to produce a good quality summer display.

The choice of floral plant material used which was inter planted with herbaceous plants and shrubs giving range of height colour and textures to the display.

The repositioning of the seating area moving it across the road in to a sun trap was very successful.

We were impressed by the high standard of cultivation achieved by Bob Craft the volunteer responsible for the entry.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

There may be a need to carry out some selective tree pruning to reduce over hanging canopies in future years an ongoing programme will aid the development of the planted areas.

Grass encroachment from the woodland seems to be an ongoing problem and the planted areas may need a back board securing to the fence line and rabbit netting to stop the numerous wild rabbits eating the plants. This may be more of a problem as you increase the amount of herbaceous plants in the display.

The council winter salt box could cause contamination issues in the winter especially when it is re filled by the council. Is it possible to look at re siting or set it on a gravel base?

St George's Community Garden Project, Halifax Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

What this group have achieved in just over a year is really impressive. They have worked hard to obtain funding. The churchyard was a tangled, overgrown mass of vegetation. Now it is neat, tidy and colourful, a real credit to all those involved. The improvement to the church grounds has really brightened the neighbourhood to the benefit of all the people living around the church. Having a group of around 30 volunteers involved is impressive and should ensure the good work carries on well into the future. It was good to see that those with good

Gardening knowledge were spreading this among the group. Some of the plants are grown by group members. The spring flowering bulbs will be a striking addition to the grounds. The group have a good relationship with Manor Heath Park, which is sure to be of benefit. The group are avoiding the use of chemicals where possible and using environmentally friendly slug pellets. New benches were of responsibly sourced teak which is good. It was pleasing that wildlife is being encouraged with hedgehog houses, insect hotels and bird and bat boxes. Group members have adopted groups of graves and have even donated plants to improve them. The group are making their own compost and investigating water harvesting, mulching is used to suppress weeds and conserve water. It was interesting to hear of the varied community events held in the churchyard,

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consider phasing out some of the bedding in favour of more sustainable planting.

Continue to introduce wildlife friendly planting.

Consider the introduction of fruit trees.

Cut a sharp edge down the long borders to make a clearer distinction between the bed and grassed areas.

Work hard to keep borders weed free.

Consider introducing lavender in dry sunny areas to bring in colour, scent and reduce the need for watering.

Continue to research plants which will tolerate dry shade.

Starbeck Methodist Church

Level Achieved: Developing

Areas of Achievement

This is a really good first entry from small group of volunteers who have changed an unloved site using innovative planting ideas with plants appropriate to the position into colourful borders of plants and shrubs. Some of the planting is new this year and as funding is limited most of the plants have been sourced from their own gardens. Good use is made of trailing plants (clematis and sweet peas), to hide the gaps in the concrete border and climbing plants to obscure the wire fencing. The newly erected fence, a health and safety initiative, has been painted green to ensure that it blends beautifully into its site and is enhanced by annuals including crystal plant lobelia.

The colourful shrubs at the front of the church provide a warm welcome and the plants around the seating a pleasant waiting area for the bus stop. The sedums provide a nice contrast at the base of the tree.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The large church roof would provide lots of water if harvested in a water butt in the corner round the left hand side of the door where it could be hidden by shrubs.

Consider converting part of the lawned area into a quiet/prayer garden with an alpine planted rockery or similar as focal point with appropriate seating.

Try to involve other groups using the church by requesting designs for the alpine garden and involve them in the construction of the garden or fund-raising for the seats.

Consider finding a hidden spot for composting and bird and bee boxes and a bug hotel to provide interest to the youngsters.

The Shay Garden Project, Halifax

Level Achieved: Thriving

Areas of Achievement

This is a project which certainly has improved a large part of a main approach to Halifax town centre. Credit must go to the Rotary Club for bringing this improvement into being, together with Halifax in Bloom. There is a good relationship with the Council who have been very supportive. It was exciting to have the chance to meet a local resident and hear her views of the project. It was clear that the lady loved sitting in the newly provided seating area and looking out on the new planting. She felt it had changed her life. The number and variety of community volunteers involved is impressive. It was good to hear of young people becoming involved in the project. The temporary artwork, linked to the Tour de France celebrations was imaginative and striking. The involvement of Calderdale College's 'Motivate' team in ongoing artwork is exciting. The amount of recycling done on site is impressive and, as in the case of concrete fence posts, imaginative. Using mulch to reduce the need for watering is a good idea especially as all the shredded material for the mulch was prepared on site. This is a difficult, sloping site in some areas and this has been managed well.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consider making another seating area at the opposite end of the site once the old toilets are gone. If it were possible perhaps scented planting might be included.

The public are taking a great interest in the site so perhaps when the old toilets are demolished there might be room for a community notice board.

Willerby Village, East Riding of Yorkshire

Level Achieved: Improving

Areas of Achievement

The judges were shown some impressive permanently planted borders at the rear of Willerby Methodist church by garden designer Kathleen Hepworth. Some excellent floral displays in evidence at a private residential development, John Gray Court. At the corner of Well Lane the 'In Bloom' team had use summer bedding plants to display the 'In Bloom' Viking logo. The Atkinson café had created attractive floral displays on the pavement area to their frontage.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

This is a newly formed 'In Bloom' team thus this is their first Yorkshire in Bloom entry. They have numerous ideas - the judges have suggested that they should formulate at least one project to gain some local involvement. Next, try to secure funding for the project including some group fund-raising. Maintain contact with the local media to provide much needed publicity. Try to raise litter awareness including disposal of cigarette ends. Involve local community groups and work together to improve your environment.

Areas of Achievement

The mixed planting of the perimeter bed for all year round interest. The developing wild garden with its path network. The turf wall which doubles as a casual seating area. The successful planting, establishing and now cropping of the soft fruit bushes, with the promise of further interest crops from the espaliered fruit trees. Active recycling and composting of onsite and donated materials. Managing the "dog" issue and giving opportunity for local residents to experience practical ground based skills and knowledge.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Early programming and development of the water capture feature planned. Painting the new storage facility in a different colour to help it blend into the area more. Greater level of signage/labelling to help the casual visitor to learn and understand the features developing on "Millie's Green".

Areas of Achievement

What an exciting new project which has already taken great strides with plans to include local groups from Sure Start, the primary school, RNIB, Fairfax community centre and Foresight.

Some raised beds are already producing and clear plans are in place with some fund raising and "in kind" donations already accessed.

There are regular gardening days in place with a great deal of recycling already in process, with a sharing of knowledge and skills.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Before getting carried away with lots of ideas concentrate on getting the main structures in place enabling ease of access whilst leaving room for long term planning.

Increase the number of raised beds and consider a form of "allotments" to the various groups.

Consider placement of trees and varieties to provide wildlife diversity.

Always look to further recycling opportunities and encourage diversity of assistance, some may use computer skills for publicity or fund raising.

Develop a bird feeding area.

Keep a sense of fun and fellowship.

Areas of Achievement

It was delightful to visit Douglas and Vicky Robertshaw at Woodside Flats. The lovely border at the front of the flats was filled with a colourful mixture of extremely healthy plants. Perennials were mixed with some bedding and well clipped shrubs. Each side of the flats produced beautiful flowery surprises. No chemicals are used as wildlife is encouraged. Composting activities take place, local residents bring suitable kitchen waste and neighbours also contribute. The amount of recycling which takes place is impressive. Timber from roofs has been used for trellising together with bricks and stones. Plants are exchanged with neighbours in the streets around and also advice and gardening skills. The residents in the flats are supportive with help with heavy tasks and in donating money for plants. There is a good relationship with Pennine Housing. The houses around the flats have small yards not gardens. Overlooking the lovely gardens of the flats benefits many local people. Some neighbours have been encouraged to take up gardening themselves as a result of seeing the gardens at the flats.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continue trying to involve as many residents at the flats as possible to ensure this wonderful effort goes on far into the future. Carry on too spreading enthusiasm for gardening into the surrounding area. The container grown apple trees are doing well, perhaps it might be an idea to grow further crops in pots. This might encourage local people to do the same, which they could do with even small yards. Carry on doing as much as possible for local wildlife in this very built up area.

Category 11: Harrogate Flower Show Young Peoples Award

Carr Green School, Brighouse

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Carr Green J, I and N school is set within extensive grounds. Each section of the school has its own garden/growing area with the most substantial area given over to the Junior (KS2) School. Garden areas within the grounds include productive beds, ornamental beds, a wildlife/outdoor learning area and herb beds to the front of the school where parents/carers are encouraged to help themselves. Hanging baskets are used to enhance the school environment.

Areas of Achievement

The opportunity to be involved in growing and gardening is available to all pupils from nursery age upwards. Planning across the school allows each class to have a productive bed for which it is responsible and a parent helper takes out small groups on a twice weekly basis. Other parents/grandparents help support gardening activities. The active gardening club run by a teacher works across all garden areas.

All areas, and in particular the wildlife area are used to support teaching. A variety of methods are used to ensure environmental issues are tackled e.g. composting, use of water butts, seed saving and providing varied habitats to encourage wildlife.

The school is to be congratulated on an approach which ensures gardening is integral to ethos of school so pupils benefit from enhanced environment as well as the opportunity for outdoor learning in its broadest sense.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Although there were various environmental practices in place, others could perhaps be developed around raising awareness of sustainability including reusing and recycling, food miles etc. Simple interpretation produced by pupils could be used to promote understanding.

Dringhouses Primary School

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

Unfortunately the judging visit coincided with School Sports Day thus the co-ordinator could only spare a few minutes and the pupils were all attending the events. However, it was plain to see that much effort had been made in providing good floral displays and a productive fruit and vegetable plot. The overall appearance was very encouraging and the bicycle willow sculpture made by the children added to the interest.

Areas of Achievement

Without doubt the group have done extremely well in growing a diverse range of fruit and vegetables in a challenging 'allotment' area beneath trees. The fruit and vegetable area was relatively weed free and well maintained.

Elsewhere, an abundance of fruit tree planting has been very successful.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

You may consider recycling the used shells from hen's eggs. Once dried and crushed they would provide an effective slug barrier around tender plants.

Clear labelling with dates and names would be useful and informative. The inclusion of an information board (even a temporary chalkboard) would assist with identification. Perhaps a weekly record book could be completed by the children detailing weather conditions, crops harvested and so on.

Perhaps future judging visits could include meeting the pupils.

Field Lane School, Rastrick

Bronze Rose Award

Introduction

This primary school has access to reasonably extensive grounds, some belonging to the school itself, the remainder to an adjacent unused community centre, to which they have access.

The head teacher runs a gardening club for all pupils in KS2, taking groups into the garden on a rotational basis. Each class also grow plants from seed in the classroom for planting outdoors at the appropriate time of year. The breakfast club also undertake gardening.

Areas of Achievement

The head teacher is passionate about children learning about the outdoors and gardening and is to be commended for her vision. With comparatively few resources and little support from the wider school community, she has every single child in the school involved in growing. She has very clear plans with regard to development of the various growing areas and hopefully will be successful in obtaining funding and support to achieve these.

The school is also aiming towards the Food for Life Bronze award which will create a link between the produce grown in the garden and food cooked in school.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Many of the areas for improvement are covered in the development plans for the school garden areas. At some stage in the process it would be good to see the introduction of practices around sustainability, thus raising the awareness of environmental issues with pupils and their families.

The inclusion of pupils in the tour would be of benefit to the judging visit.

Flanderwell Gardening Club, Rotherham

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The judges were met with a colourful and well maintained school entrance, which set the scene for our visit. The children were full of enthusiasm to tell the judges what they had been involved in, and

it was evident that they get full support from staff and parents who are committed to making environmental improvements around the school.

Areas of Achievement

The colourful seasonal planters around the school, and ingenious scheme to sell the children's planters to parents at the end of summer term to raise funds.

The quad area was exceptional, creating an area full of colour and creative features, which is well used by the children at break times and as an outdoor classroom.

The support given by the parents group and the commitment of the school to continue supporting the outdoor activities.

The allotment area where they are growing both fruit, herbs and vegetables.

The planters at the new autism unit, containing seasonal and perennial plants enhance the entrance.

The success with grants from Woodland Trust, and ward councillors community grant.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The continued development of the allotment area after recent building works, and plans for the main entrance lawn, will only enhance this entry.

Potential to forge links with the school gardening club and the new autism unit to provide opportunities for gardening for all children.

The completion of the landscaping at the entrance to the new centre, will give a real welcome to the building.

Fountain Primary School Gardens, Morley

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Fountain Primary School has a capacity for 420 pupils plus nursery and benefits from a large outdoor playground mostly grass playing field with some hard surface areas nearer the school building. Pupils begin their journey into the awareness, exploration and care of their environment at the Nursery class and continue through each year at the school both outside and in the classrooms with wonderful initiatives, such as the creation of a model French village. The entrance is enhanced by colourful perennial planting in easy to tend raised beds. Millie, Cole Niamh and Andrew, chosen as guides for the judging tour for their willingness in volunteering, were proud to show off their many skills and achievements, Mr Fowler is to be congratulated for transferring his enthusiasm to the children as demonstrated when one of the nursery pupils addressed him as 'Mr Flowers'.

Areas of Achievement

The learning experience in the class is well developed and linked with horticultural projects in close proximity to the individual classrooms, e.g. the creatively planted bed illustrating the nursery rhyme. Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary, the model French Village to commemorate this year's Tour de France, the wildflower tubs and herb gardens illustrating the importance of bees and the awareness of

predators and the transformation of recycled articles, wellies, a traffic cone, treacle tins, cup and saucer into plant holders. The children were keen to share news of their recent visit by a bee keeper and had created a large honeycomb with their photos in and bee puppets with which they were enjoying pollinating the plants. The allotment, with its secret hidden pond, raised beds, and areas allocate to individual children to grow exactly what they want, is a real asset to the After School Gardening Club which benefits from assistance by parents, Janet and her colleagues, and two participants in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Recycled bottles and tops are used to effect as cane tops illustrating the safety aspect of gardening. Looking to the future, five students from Leeds Metropolitan University have planned a Hub project which will be both innovative and another asset to both pupils and staff at the School.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Press ahead with the Hub project as funding allows.

By running the After School Gardening Club on a further day each week, more pupils might be encouraged to join in the activities. The hedge around the playground is gradually being planted with beech and it may be more interesting to plant some lengths of hawthorn and blackthorn to attract more wildlife and under-plant with hedgerow plants.

Encourage the children to produce an illustrated diary of activities, season by season, the results of the year six species survey which methodically explores grids in the grassy areas and a portfolio of what has inspired them in readiness for next year's judging.

Foxhill Primary School, Bradford

Improvement Rose Award

Introduction

It was good to visit Foxhill School and see all the enthusiasm there. The children are clearly enjoying helping with all the new projects. Obviously the school are very lucky to be getting so much support from Bradford University. It was interesting to hear of the involvement of the after school club in Bloom activities.

Areas of Achievement

The new pots and planters at the front of the school provide a colourful welcome and it was good to hear that the pots had been donated by a parent.

It was good to hear that a local parent with a love of gardening had been working with the children.

Using the vegetables grown by the children in cookery club is a good idea.

There is lots of potential in the developing nature area.

The new willow weaving feature will be a lovely place for children's activities.

Collecting vouchers from Morrison's supermarket to collect gardening equipment is a useful idea.

The children involved in recycling activities are doing a good job and it is good that the school are becoming involved in water harvesting and compost making.

All the bird, bat and hedgehog houses being placed on the site are a good addition.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

There are lots of projects underway, concentrate on developing these at the moment and avoid starting further new ones.

Develop the raised bed area where children are growing vegetables further. Perhaps it would be good to concentrate for the moment on salad crops which will mature quickly.

Perhaps there is room to construct a few more raised beds in that area so that more children can become involved in activities there.

Perhaps the children could find out more about the needs of plants and how to care for them.

Perhaps too it might be possible to develop a rota so that as many children as possible have a chance to care for them.

Think about hardy plants which would encourage birds and insects to the wildlife area. Perhaps the children could find out about insects and birds they might see there and especially about bees, how they pollinate plants, are essential to us and about the problems they face.

Since the site is so very exposed it might be a good idea to investigate plants recommended for seaside gardens where some conditions are very similar.

Haworth Primary School Gardening Club

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

This school garden group has always been a leader in how to involve children - ably led by Steve Thorpe with wonderful support from the Head and staff and it shows.

Many school groups can learn from this group even though it has been established for so long

Areas of Achievement

With large raised beds, two greenhouses and every nook and cranny filled with tubs of pots of potatoes and vegetables, every child in the school seems to be involved. There is even a chicken run but apparently they are senior chickens now and may need to be replaced! A wide range of plants are grown because of heated greenhouses and these are shared with other schools. Steve is a superb leader and the parents are very supportive with work days to help with large projects, not to mention Mr Plant the caretaker who waters in holidays and feed the chickens - a treasure! The children's knowledge is excellent and use many cross curricular aids

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The raised beds will have to be replaced soon once money has been sourced and that will further increase the productivity.

The pond dipping platform will increase the usage in the wild area.

Hunmanby Primary School

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The Judges were introduced to a very enthusiastic gardening club which were ably lead by Lisa. The route around the school was full of very good age zoned gardens. Most of which were not only

full of colour but vegetables, that the various classes had grown to eat for lunch on the last day of school. The efforts to improve biodiversity of the grounds was a pleasure to see with the allotment and pond area a particular highlight of the tour.

Areas of Achievement

The allotment garden and orchard was amazingly productive, producing some excellent produce for the children to harvest. Which in a school of this size was a credit to everyone involved.

The new border on the approach to the school which had just been planted by the Gardening club and parents were developing well, which is further complemented by a feature fishing boat bed. All the age zoned gardens featured planting and structures to boost biodiversity as well as some award winning edible features.

All the children that took the judges around the school were very informed and infused about the school grounds and the gardening club.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Encourage the year groups to enter the fruit box competition at the Driffield show instead of travelling to Harrogate and hopefully getting a higher award for their efforts.

Continue to work with the Cornflower Trust to harvest seed from the school grounds.

Carry on with the plans for the introduction of hens to the school grounds to further enhance the ground educational quality.

Establish a water feature in the roman themed garden involving the pupils and their ideas for a fountain.

Malin Bridge Gardening Club, Sheffield

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The Judge were met by an enthusiastic group of children eager to share the achievements and knowledge. The children in the Gardening Club and Eco School, are supported by staff, parents and invaluable voluntary help and advice from Mr Beatson.

Areas of Achievement

The Pizza in a box theme was an interesting idea which brought together herbs and vegetables. The raised planters in the playground, not only for growing a succession of vegetables helped to break up the tarmac space.

The judges were particularly impressed with the "Bathroom" herb garden, which utilised not your bog standard house hold items to grow fruit and veg in!!

Consideration given throughout for wildlife both choice of plants and homes for various creatures. The school hens, teaching the children animal husbandry was commendable. Composting and grey water was all being thought of throughout the school.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Consideration be given to providing a colourful/welcoming display at the main entrance to the school.

The development ideas for the area near the chicken coop and small orchard will help to enhance this entry.

Moorside Infant School, Ripon

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

This is an eco-school "par excellence".

The school children gave the judges a welcome on their arrival' and a team of 6 "eco-team members" escorted the judges throughout the tour.

Evidence of the stimulation and enthusiasm was everywhere, with the school's entrance hall clearly emphasizing green participation.

The school achieves a day without the use of any electricity, with electricity monitors encouraging zero use of electricity.

A most comprehensive tour of the extensive play area was impressive, with children explaining and pointing out the various projects being undertaken.

Support for the eco - involvement came from local businesses, Harrogate District Council, and the children's parents.

Before departing, the judges listened to a short eco-song and were each given a well thought-out brochure, devoted entirely to children's' projects and accompanying photographs.

Areas of Achievement

The seasonal boards were positioned for maximum effect.

The children at Moorside Infants' School are fortunate to have such support and encouragement from all the staff. A true eco-school.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It is not easy to find any room for further development, but perhaps more posters advertising YiB Judging Day would be beneficial.

Newington Academy after school gardening club, Hull

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

This first time entry into Yorkshire in Bloom was a delight to visit. We were met by enthusiastic children, teaching and support staff. The school garden was immaculately maintained and was clearly enjoyed by everyone.

Areas of Achievement

Well done to the gardening gang of Gary, Rhea, Leon, Evan, Alex and Jo who showed us around the garden and are excellent ambassadors for Newington. All the children were enthusiastic, knowledgeable and keen to show us everything they had been growing. Strawberries were a particular favourite! The garden borders were a colourful mix of perennials and annuals growing alongside fruit and veg. Teacher Gillian Walker deserves a special mention for nurturing the youngster's love of gardening and the outdoors.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Newington Academy after School Garden Club is a great example of how young people can have fun in the outdoor environment and learn at the same time. It would be lovely to be able to see how the garden looked before work began on site. Would a volunteer be able to put together an archive of before and after photos to show how much progress has been made. Maybe one of the children could be assigned to record progress both in photo form and in a note book for future reference. Also, it would be nice to hear about how other members of staff are using the garden to deliver their own lessons. However, these are minor points. Congratulations to everyone at Newington for a really good entry which has potential to progress and achieve great things in Yorkshire in Bloom.

Old Earth School, Elland

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The outstanding efforts shown from Headmaster Mr Reynolds, and all staff especially Mr Anderson and his gardening club pupils right through to children in all the year classes, being encouraged to enjoy horticulture and the environment at every level, was a real pleasure to admire and share. Having deservedly achieved the ECO schools Green Flag Award the whole schools involvement to green energy is a superb example to what can be achieved. Pupil's subject knowledge in biodiversity, sustainability, the environment and the ongoing projects is an achievement and testimony to the enthusiasm and commitment shown by all within school.

Areas of Achievement

As one pupil stated 'we are proud of our allotments. In a prominent position in the front of school they give visitors an immediate idea of what our school is all about'. This outstanding school can be extremely proud of not just its allotments, wildflower areas, 'Bee Beds', and much, much more, but importantly its knowledge and pleasure that every single pupil can share and enjoy in these horticultural and ecological practises and principles. Throughout their time spent at Old Earth, all year groups are involved in this environmental philosophy which they take with them into life. The very early pleasurable insight you are passing on, will remain a lifetime memory to all the children passing through the school.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Having seen the work in progress projects and the plans for the further developments that are to occur this autumn, these improvements will only enhance the school and the grounds.

Introduction

On arrival at Oxspring Primary School the judge was introduced by the head teacher to the group of children involved in working in the school garden and nature area along with a local lady Julia Thompson who helped to start up the gardening group. Individual pupils took it in turn to explain how they had moved huge quantities of gravel and bark to make paths for better access to the site. They explained about the 3 year cycle with the compost heaps and leaf mould, the bug hotel and how they were encouraging hedgehogs, birds and other insects to the area.

Part of the nature area mainly used for vegetable growing contained a greenhouse, shed and raised beds was fenced off and solid paths laid. A wide variety of vegetable plants was growing in the beds much of which had been harvested and sold to visitors to the school.

Areas of Achievement

All the children connected with the project were very knowledgeable and very enthusiastic. It was encouraging to see so many children getting hands on experience. Enthusiastic fund raising was taking place and community events and concerts were being held to raise money for new equipment.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It was a good thing to encourage wild life to the garden but in doing so the birds seemed to be attacking the fruit and vegetable plants when no one was looking. Try to fix protection netting over the raised beds to avoid un wanted attack.

The purchase and construction of a new greenhouse with some of the funds raised would be a great help to the site. an automatic watering system could be considered to keep the plants fresh when during times when there is no one there to water.

Parkside Primary School, Goole**Silver Gilt Rose Award****Introduction**

It was a joy to meet such enthusiastic children. The judges had a brief informal question/answer session with the children in their outdoor classroom at the beginning of the tour. It appeared that they all loved gardening whether weeding or planting or sowing but by far the best activity for them all was in eating the produce!

Areas of Achievement

The children had taken on responsibility for planting containers with flowers which they maintain and water (every day at 2.15pm during break time). The fruit and vegetable raised beds are productive and relatively weed free. In the sheltered 'Quad' area are healthy tomato plants and herbs. The wildflower meadow and pond, despite their close proximity to the M62 motorway, are a wonderful asset to the school. The Head teacher, Nicholas Stafford, explained future plans for the development of this valuable resource.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

There are labels made by the children beside each item of fruit/vegetable. To assist the children with identification of their produce, some sort of visual information is key to their knowledge.

You may consider an information board at the start of the wildflower meadow detailing the flowers and grasses, again to assist the children with identification of the range of flora and fauna. Mown paths through this meadow would provide more amenable access for the children.

Consider contacting the Royal Horticultural Society Schools Programme which offers advice, training and accreditation.

Some colourful bedding had only just been planted and the youngsters will not see the full effect before holidays, suggest earlier planting.

Pocklington Infant Bloomers

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

We were welcomed by a very dedicated team of young enthusiasts. This school has recently achieved Eco status and is a credit to all concerned. The head teacher and staff are to be commended for their efforts.

Areas of Achievement

Some good horticultural projects have been undertaken. The forward planning is to be commended. The knowledge of pupils undertaking such projects was to a high standard. Sustainability and biodiversity is evident and inclusive for future plans. The encouragement of recycling food waste and providing a diversity of habitats for wildlife is encouraging. Fund raising shows creativity.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Just continue to involve children at all ages and embrace parents and family members in this important aspect of school life.

Encourage neighbouring schools to become involved or learn from your experiences.

Pollination Street, Molescroft Primary School, Beverley

Gold Rose Award Category Winner

Introduction

As soon as you enter the car park you know how good the school is likely to be for it has most welcoming displays of flowers. We had a great welcome from children and staff, going first of all into a full assembly where we were all shown a most effective power point show, which demonstrated clearly just how much all the children are involved. Throughout the grounds it is clear that the staff are very innovative in the ways they bring the gardens into the curriculum, and vice versa.

Areas of Achievement

Each class has its own half barrel, and were allocated £15 to spend on plants for it. One young lad told the story of his barrel without a note. Each was exceptional, and the children knew the facts. In the vegetable garden the crops were labelled and they knew about crop rotation. They had a bug hotel, a wet area, compost bins, there were solar panels on the school roof, and they were experimenting with hydroponics. The children also were interacting with residents at Beverley Grange - excellent. They were growing poppies for the links with the 1914 war.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Perhaps consider working with the elderly in planting bulbs in the autumn.

Pudsey Lowtown Primary School

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Pudsey Lowtown School is delightful! The lovely prairie style beds at the entrance welcome visitors to the school, and immediately give the impression of a school that cares about their surroundings and the environment. There are cut flowers in the entrance hall, a well maintained vegetable garden and orchard and a lovely woodland area with a pond and many 'bug hotels' and habitats. The playground had been turned yellow to celebrate the Tour de France. There is a real sense of pride, and ownership, by the pupils and the staff. What lucky children!

Areas of Achievement

All pupils have the opportunity to be involved with the gardens, though not only the thriving gardening club and also that gardening is integrated into all areas of the curriculum. Wellies are provided for the youngest pupils, so no matter what the weather, the gardens are accessible.

The pupils are genuinely interested, knowledgeable and enthusiastic. Credit to the staff, particularly to Julie Kirk-Dooley, and volunteers for enabling the pupils to get so much pleasure (and education!) out of their gardens.

Produce from the vegetable garden and the orchard is harvested and cooked in the school, and all pupils get a chance to taste what they have grown.

The school has also developed links with other community groups, including the Tots and Tykes Nursery who also use the gardens, and Pudsey In Bloom. Produce from the gardens are used in the harvest festival and any excess is donated to a local hostel.

Good use is made of schemes such as the Lloyds Bank working days and Morrison's vouchers.

Additional funding was raised by Year 5, who organised a plant sale that raised £90!

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It is encouraging to hear that there are still lots of ideas for development of the gardens. The willow walk in the woodland will be a lovely addition. Keep it up!

Introduction

Queen's Road Primary School is a modern school with extensive grounds with hard surfaces and grassed areas. Most of the areas used for gardening are very difficult to cultivate due to the extremely shallow top soil which makes digging almost impossible. An ingenious way of having raised beds at a budget price is by using a number of old tyres donated by a local company. The tyres are filled with compost and different assortments of plants ranging from varieties with edible flowers and herbs to ornamental flowering plants. Some of the tyres are stacked on top of one another to give a variation of height and depth. The children were very enthusiastic and eager to learn about various bugs, wild life, plants and re cycling.

Areas of Achievement

People and pupils have worked hard to start off the gardening project encouraging re-cycling throughout the school. There are several activities for the children including mini beast hunts looking after the plants and some work on the nearby allotment during the after school club.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The gardening area is just beginning to take shape and with some thought and a good funding source could be a really interesting place to learn, more children could then take part in growing plants.

Try having larger raised beds on more level ground in which a larger range of fruit and vegetables can be grown and actively seek funding from different sources to invest in this worthwhile project.

A very good beginning for staff and pupils

Ravenscliffe High School Community Gardens, Halifax**Gold Rose Award****Introduction**

Ravenscliffe High School is a secondary school catering for pupils age 11 – 19 with a range of special needs. The School has grounds to the sides and rear of the school with a variety of areas including wildlife areas, a productive area, composting area, ornamental garden areas, polytunnel and the recent addition of two substantial timber framed greenhouses, providing excellent facilities for the pupils.

Gardening is integral to the curriculum for all pupils and is linked to other initiatives in which the school participates: Eco-schools (for which it holds Green Flag status), Food for Life (Gold Level) and RHS Campaign for School Gardening (Level 5)

Areas of Achievement

The school ensures that within the limits of their abilities all pupils have the opportunity to garden and/or enjoy the outdoor spaces. Some pupils also take part in external horticultural activities such as the Harrogate Spring Flower Show, and the Halifax Show and placements at local Garden Centres are facilitated for interested individuals.

The school acts as a beacon for other schools in the area and several local primaries visit to undertake gardening activities at the school. These visits also allow staff to share their expertise.

Sustainable practices are integral to the gardening programme.

The Estates Manager is to be commended for his commitment which has resulted in the school becoming a shining example of what can be achieved in this environment.

Well done to all those involved, both staff and pupils.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

One garden area has already been identified for improvement (the Tarn pond), but other than this, just keep up the good work!

Scholes (Elmet) Primary School

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

We were met by the school caretaker who has put a great deal of time and effort in to the development of the school garden and who runs a Friday gardening club for the children. The judges were met by a small number of enthusiastic Children who show us around the school Garden and we were surprised at their knowledge of the vegetables, herbs and wildlife.

Areas of Achievement

The layout of the school garden linked around the classrooms giving a great teaching resource. The Greenhouse and vegetable beds linking through to a raised platform around a herb garden and linking to a Wildflower meadow and pond area.

The separate nursery garden again well used by the younger age group who had grown a full range of vegetables and plants.

It was good to hear that the produce is used by the school kitchen when available demonstrating to the children where their food comes from.

We visited just as the potatoes were being harvested. The children were not afraid of getting their hands dirty.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Further work required on the wildflower meadow

Willow arches need tying in to develop the structure

It would be good to encourage the gardening club to develop a number of spring and summer flowering containers for outside the school entrance doors to add colour and link in to the Scholes in Bloom Groups work in the village.

The proposed housing development may affect the natural drainage of the school land resulting in the pond area drying up and losing a valuable teaching resource. This needs flagging up to planners so that they can consider this with the developer's environmental statement submission.

Introduction

This Catholic Primary school has comparatively limited grounds around the main building. Most of the gardening is carried out by school staff with KS2 pupils. A garden area for KS1 pupils is being developed.

Areas of Achievement

The large bed at the rear of the school was not only looking particularly good but had been used to good effect with a 'Tour de France' theme, labelling on the plants and is also used as a source of lavender for fund raising.

The school is to be commended for making great efforts to ensure that all KS2 pupils had an opportunity to spend time in the garden and were using it to support teaching of the curriculum.

They have developed links with some local businesses who have been able to support the school through donations or discounts. 'Make a difference' days have involved parents in carrying out tasks such as varnishing which could not be carried out by pupils.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

The productive garden seemed to be struggling a bit and perhaps some advice should be sought on easy crops to grow in outdoor beds, and timings of crops to fit with the school year. Such advice could be sought from other local schools or by accessing websites on school gardening. (It is noted, however, that the school had lost their polytunnel and were growing outdoors from seed plants which might have otherwise benefited from an indoor start).

Use of environmental practices was limited and as above, staff might like to seek advice on those that are suitable for the school environment.

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Halifax - Gardening Club**Silver Gilt Rose Award****Introduction**

St Mary's Catholic School is set within reasonable sized grounds which have allowed the development of a number of garden areas around the school including a wildlife garden, library garden, quiet garden and productive area with raised beds.

The Gardening Club, run by a highly committed volunteer, is held every Tuesday after school (moving to lunchtime in the darker winter months). It is well supported by a core group of around 15 pupils some of whom started in Reception and are now in Year 6.

Areas of Achievement

The Gardening club work hard to improve the surroundings of the school for the benefit of all and produce a good array of crops which pupils are able to take home. The school entrance was particularly colourful and welcoming.

The pupils who joined the tour were very enthusiastic and knowledgeable and it is to be hoped that those moving on to secondary education have the opportunity to continue developing their interest and knowledge.

The club was successfully raising funds via the PTA, through collection of Morrison's vouchers and by developing links with local businesses.

The head teacher made particular mention of his appreciation for the commitment of the volunteer Gardening Club leader.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

It would be nice to see more pupils from across the school having the opportunity to garden – this may require the recruitment of other volunteers and/or staff which would also ensure the longer term sustainability of gardening within the school.

The introduction of a wider range of environmentally friendly practices - recycling, re-using etc would be beneficial in raising the pupils' awareness of the associated issues.

Stamford Bridge Primary School

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

The enthusiasm and knowledge of the pupils at the school for all things green and growing is a credit to all those involved. You demonstrated that your efforts are recognised by the local community and that the school is part of that community. It was a delight to be shown round the school by the pupils both small and large. My thanks to all the pupils involved and for the very warm welcome received. Well done.

Areas of Achievement

There is no doubt that the early years children and KS1 are totally involved in all aspects of their gardens and demonstrated that learning through gardening activities is fun. It is good to see that these activities are fully integrated into school life. I could see that the children enjoy eating the fruits of their labour too whether it be garlic (bread), potatoes, the magic beans harvest or strawberries, carrots etc. The development of the sensory garden by the parents and staff has created a good space for the children to use and the raised beds for each KS1 class provides more opportunities. Well done to the gardening club, Mrs Bowes and Mrs King, and all those involved. Your links with Stamford Bridge in Bloom has paid dividends including the work the Young Conservers have done.

It was good to see how the KS2 children have been inspired by the younger school, and have got off to a flying start. Your fund raising is impressive. The gardening club and cooking club are excellent and I could see that you have great plans for future years. Your hanging baskets and borders are expertly planted and colourful. Your recycled tyres herb garden is very good and your planted wellies are also very colourful. Well done on making the wheelbarrow planter. Recycling the broken garden umbrella for supporting your plants as they grow is a novel idea but very effective. Well done to all the pupils involved and the well done to those supporting them, Mrs Woodhouse, Mrs Plenty, Gill Cain from In Bloom and of course Mrs Fitzhenry. No doubt you will go from strength to strength. Enjoy the fruits of your labour.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Keep going with your growing and development plans. Your work in the KS2 in just 2 years is impressive and demonstrates how much you have achieved. Your new playing field beds and wildlife areas will provide more opportunities to go even further. In terms of the importance of wildlife to gardening and growing consideration could be given to producing information posters around the site demonstrating this but linked specifically to the wildlife found at school.

The Whartons Primary School, Otley

Silver Gilt Rose Award

Introduction

The Whartons School is on the edge of Otley, opening onto open countryside. It was good to see the number of children who come to school by cycle or scooter, and they have dedicated parking areas. It is a very welcoming school, and we enjoyed our visit, and seeing the wide range of related activities that re taking place.

Areas of Achievement

There are hens in the caretaker's garden, which the children are involved with the care of, there is a wet area in the school grounds. There is also an area which has been cleared for a wild flower meadow, willow arches, and numerous trees exist and others are ready for planting. Children also involved in growing vegetables in raised beds.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Investigate whether it might be useful to buy in some plugs of wild flowers to enhance the success of the new area. Look at how the grounds might be used in a wider curriculum. Help the children to see a little more on crop production and rotation.

Travis Gardening Club, Hatfield

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Travis Gardening Club is part of Travis St Lawrence Church of England School, where it plays a big part in the ethos of this delightful, welcoming Church school.

The staff and pupils all show great enthusiasm for and interest in growing flowers, fruit, herbs and vegetables which are all either used in the school kitchen, sold to parents or used for the following years planting.

The grounds include a beautiful peace garden, stunning greenhouse and raised vegetable beds, a wildlife conservation and compost area, a secret garden and a newly formed air raid shelter incorporating wartime planting.

Areas of Achievement

Wonderful photographic records of the whole schools involvement over the school year in the gardening club and projects undertaken. Use of the different types of gardening as part of other subjects studied including Home economics, maths, history and physics.

The new air raid shelter and wartime vegetable garden and the year 6 herbaceous border and seating area.

The Gardening Club seems to spread its magic throughout the entire school-- very well done.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Continuing checking water and electricity consumption which our guides explained was to be another project.

Apart from this -- just keep up the excellent work.

Wisewood Primary School Gardening Club, Sheffield

Gold Rose Award

Introduction

Wisewood extended a very warm welcome to their lovely school, an oasis of green and tranquillity in this busy residential area. The dedication of Julie, Andrew and Fran is to be commended and the enthusiasm and knowledge of the pupils from the gardening club (Millie, Maisie and Jasmine) impressive. Their enthusiasm is infectious and a very positive driving force in attaining continuous improvements to the school environment that has a positive impact for all of the pupils.

Areas of Achievement

The use of old cycle helmets as hanging baskets to celebrate the Tour de France was innovative, creative and visually interesting.

I was most impressed by the knowledge of Millie, Maisie and Jasmine from the gardening club, they clearly loved being involved in the projects and had an excellent understanding of gardening skills and of the plants that they were helping to grow.

Julie, Andrew and Fran's hard work in adapting to the challenges of the site and their willingness to experiment and to incorporate what they learn into plans for future developments.

Your very active and resourceful re-use of materials from many sources (Meadowhall planters, sleepers etc.) to improve and enhance the school grounds.

The central garden with its flourishing fruit trees and shrubs, herbs and floral features is a lovely green haven of tranquillity.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

I would encourage you to go ahead with your plans to construct a self-watering system, this should make a very positive impact on your work and ease the burden of summer watering.

The pupils seem very keen on sampling the edible plants that you grow, could you build on this further? Perhaps a nature table or labels near the plants identifying herbs and fruits and their uses. If pupils are able to, cooking with the produce is always popular and it is valuable for them to be involved in the whole produce to table cycle.

I know that you already sell plants at the school fayre but wonder if you could extend this and include an activity around gardening or a small gardening workshop to encourage more parents to get involved.

Category 12: Universities, Colleges and Further Education Establishments

University of Bradford

Gold Rose Award

Category Winner

Introduction

What a pleasure to visit both of the main sites of Bradford University. Heaton Mount School of Management, is set in its own well established grounds, also used as a wedding venue, it displays a blending of old and more modern in a beautiful setting. The main campus has completed many new buildings being close to carbon neutral. The ground staff have then further enhanced the area with an awareness, enthusiasm and commitment to produce ecologically sound planting for all to enjoy. It is very clear that Bradford University embraces environmental awareness throughout which not only provides a delightful environment for students, university staff, and the local community but also for extensive wildlife.

Areas of Achievement

At Heaton Mount colourful beds and planters by the entrances give a good first impression which is continued throughout with a mix of planting including wild flower areas which had been planted with a golden mix for the RHS 50th anniversary. The commitment to replace every tree removed with 2 (preferably) native species is commendable. The replacement of lighting with LED energy efficient alternatives. Provision of bird/bat boxes in co-operation with schools.

The main campus is a delight of varied wildlife friendly planting which includes green roof, ponds, woodland walks, meadow planting, herbs, fruits and vegetable planting throughout being available for pick your own scheme to encourage student involvement. The provision of cut fresh herbs and lavender to students. The grass and more formal areas were a credit. New landscaping with innovative planting and even indoor areas were all very pleasing. There is a definite year round plan and a networking with local schools which is to be encouraged. The bio-digester (The Rocket) recycles food waste to provide excellent compost. Throughout the site there are many innovative features and planting schemes with thought given to effect on the environment.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Ponds at main campus may benefit from gentle water circulation.

Introduce information boards at vegetable/fruit beds to advise on harvesting e.g. timing of lifting potatoes.

Consider hard landscaping or crevice planting for space under overhanging building where there is a lack of rainfall.

Removal of dead trees in wildlife areas.

Introduction

With some 48 hectares of land and over 10,000 trees the grounds of Sheffield University are managed by a small but clearly dedicated landscape team. They have a challenging role in ensuring that the prestigious University campus is maintained to a high standard, they succeed in that role and can be proud of their achievements.

Areas of Achievement

Commitment to sustainable and diverse planting, including green roofs and wildflower areas.

The beautiful Firth building deserves a special mention with the formal, colourful planting to the main entrance and lovely central court area. Also the Endcliffe student village with its lovely grounds, a haven for students and wildlife too.

Bringing the greenhouses back in to use this year and beginning the process of growing your own plants for your many sites. It was also encouraging to hear that when you remove beds you rescue and re-use plants.

Local environmental quality was good and your recycling practises, with facilities at all sites and an 80% recycling rate, impressive.

It was good to see areas where staff and students were involved, e.g. the herb garden and the community garden project where students are growing their own produce. The fact that this is managed by a specifically formed society and has a healthy membership is very encouraging

It was also encouraging to hear about the Universities bio-diversity plan and that new buildings were already being influenced by this.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

You already have plans to return the central court at the Firth building back to how it was originally; it will be interesting to see how this develops.

I understand how diverse the university is with many departments and budget holders and wonder if the formation of an 'In Bloom' steering group, with student and staff membership might be advantageous.

The plans for the development of the Nursery site, with the conversion to a bio-mass boiler and the installation of composting facilities sound exciting and I would encourage you to pursue them.

Again, I understand the difficulties, but it would be good to meet other people involved in your entry.

Introduction

A university campus in the heart of the city, York St John University is an exquisitely and incredibly well maintained site. It is clear from the outset that there is a dedicated and skilled team looking after and developing the horticultural features of the site. A wide and varied style from Japanese gardens to formal quadrangles, and floral displays using annuals, perennials and containers

themed to compliment the textures and architecture of the buildings and of course the Tour de France, Grand Depart.

Areas of Achievement

Close cooperation across the university ensures that horticulture is included in the development of areas forming a fundamental part of the design and finished article. There is a real sense of place with sensitive high quality planting complimenting the architecture and character of the buildings. Students and the local community are encouraged to use and engage with the site, students helping to create wild habitat areas and designed floral features. A 30 year plan guides the development and maintenance of the site ensuring that the site's long term future is secure.

Further Development – Constructive/Helpful Remarks

Development and expansion plans offer an opportunity to expand the range of horticultural features and it may be appropriate to introduce a floral meadow near the proposed sports field complex, introducing a softer planting with the benefits of supporting wildlife. The gardens are a rich source of inspiration and an interpretation leaflet explaining the value and purpose of these areas would add to the students and visitors understanding and appreciation of the site.