

YORKSHIRE
News from around the Region

**Mytholmroyd Station
Partnership
receives Queen's Award**



Mytholmroyd Station Partnership, a group of volunteers based in Mytholmroyd, have been honoured with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group.

The Station Partnership was formed in 2006 by a group of local residents determined to return the railway environment, sadly vandalised and unwelcoming, to its former glory.

Twenty individuals signed up then and have worked many voluntary hours over fifteen years to reach this goal. The overall plan was to engage with our local youngsters, work with them, give them a sense of ownership and pride in the station area; a successful outcome has been achieved, there has been very little vandalism on the station for many years now.

Chairman Geoff Mitchell said: "Who would have guessed fifteen years ago when we then met as strangers and now are good friends that the hard work of those pioneer volunteers would be recognised and honoured in such a wonderful manner. It is amazing! We are overwhelmed.

NEWSLETTER

Keeping Yorkshire Blooming
July 2021

Hello!

Summer has arrived and the focus in the garden switches to lots of outdoors activity like hoeing, weeding and watering, you might be noticing the creatures that are enjoying your garden. You might even be noticing that there seem to be less than last year or the last few years. And you'd be right with that observation. Wildlife, including our all-important pollinators, are in decline due to a mixture of habitat loss, climate change and the use of pesticides. BUT, all is not lost! There is plenty we can do as gardeners to help encourage these vital creatures back into our gardens to give them a helping hand. Remember register for the 'It's your Neighbourhood' awards that are also for the first time, this year on line, see article link.

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

John

Co-Ordinator
YiB



*Pic. Right
Mytholmroyd Station*



Northallerton Secret Garden.

Liz Styan informs us

'Several of the churches in town have now got together to start a climate action group and hope to engage with our community to bring about positive change. Inevitably my head immediately goes to tree planting! We have approached the town council who seem supportive about some planting on their land, but obviously expect a well thought through plan, a sustainable ongoing maintenance plan, and presumably one in keeping with how the community currently uses the land. We also have a potential funding source through a local business and don't doubt we could find some willing labour.'

We wish them well in their endeavors. Philippa from the garden has also been making several videos to enhance people's wellbeing. "We linked with a local residential home and met Barbara who is the activity officer for the residents. She said they are retired farming folk living with dementia. So I made a video from our farm, slow and sensory to show to the residence along with jars of captured scent."

Foxwood Residents Association (York) FOXWOOD PARK AND MEADOW

Working with the Council we are now well on our way to establishing a wildflower meadow on the area without the goalpost. Already we have lady's smock or cuckoo flower which is a food plant of the caterpillars of orange tip and green veined butterflies, buttercups, clover, yellow rattle, poppy, ox eye daisy, meadow cranesbill and many more native species. The grass on this area will be cut twice a year - spring and autumn.

The area under the goal posts is to have matting placed there, the gates are to be repaired and concrete removed from the perimeter, this land which is now an informal play and recreation space. We are pleased that some dog walkers have banded together on an informal basis to keep this area clean so we ask everyone to help them by cleaning up after your dog and using the many bins in the area.



"Great British Spring Clean"

The Residents Association team cleared 10 bags of litter and rubbish including a lot from the amenity areas



Elloughton cum Brough

Sir Captain Toms Tree and plaque that Spindlewood residents a sister group to our in bloom group funded.



Article supplied by
Sarah-Jane Mason
RHS Community
Outreach Advisor
Yorkshire

Water the Way Nature intended – Pledge to switch from Mains to Rains

Mains water usage in our homes and gardens is often highest when water availability is lowest – in hot, dry periods. However, by adopting a few simple pledges, we can all make our gardens and outdoor spaces thrive on the rainfall we receive by collecting it and re-using it during dry spells.

I thought you might be interested in www.mains2rains.uk/ a collaboration by the RHS and Cranfield University encouraging gardeners to make small changes which will have a big impact on the amount of water used in our gardens.



Everyone can pledge to take new, easy actions in their gardens and by inputting some basic information about

your garden you will be given an estimate of how much water could be saved in a typical year. The aim is to show people that everyone can reduce the amount of mains water that we use and still grow great plants.



Slow the flow Helping to reduce risk of flooding



Healthy soils Store more water and nutrients



Roots matter Deeper roots can access more water



Collect the rain For use when there's none

Gardeners can be part of the solution by making better use of rainwater in their gardens. It doesn't just mean fixing up a water butt, or necessarily making big changes in the way we garden - there are many things we can all do to make a difference.

Your pledges will deliver heaps of benefits to your garden and the environment



Using a waterbutt

Store rain water for use during dry spells and reduce flooding in wet periods. Plants prefer rainwater too

Using a watering can instead of a hosepipe. Direct the water at the roots where it is needed, rather than the leaves



Placing drip-trays beneath pots to collect drainage. They collect drainage and nutrients for better plant growth (but remove in winter to avoid waterlogging)

Avoiding watering my lawn

Longer grass means deeper roots and more drought resilience, so raise the mower blades too!



Adding mulch around new plants. Wood chip or bark lets the rain through and reduces soil evaporation, meaning less watering is required whilst roots

establish.

Adding home-made compost to my soil. Healthy soil holds more water so plants suffer less from drought.



Choosing the right plant for the right place. Find a plant to match to your garden environment.

Using self-watering pots or baskets. They capture rain, drainage and nutrients for better plant growth. Plants will require less watering too



Swapping paving for plants. De-pave an area and fill it with plants and mulch to slow down runoff and encourage infiltration

Choosing permeable paving rather than hard landscaping. Slow down runoff, reduce flooding after high rainfall and help in Greening Great Britain



follow the link and pledge to switch:
<https://www.mains2rains.uk/>



RHS Flourish Fund



Sharing the best in Gardening

The RHS launched on the 16th June 2021
A new fund called Flourish.

The fund aims to support horticultural development and training in communities, with a focus on diversity and inclusion.

The RHS have a commitment to inspire everyone to grow and attract and support a wider range of people to connect with the horticultural sector. We deliver a huge range of activities across the UK to grow people's interest in plants and gardens, and are striving to ensure we promote diversity and inclusion in our industry and support grassroots horticulture.

What is the Flourish Fund?
We want to inspire everyone to grow, and the RHS Flourish Fund is part of our pledge to attract and support a wider range of people to connect with horticulture. A commitment of £150,000 in 2021, consisting of grants up to £15,000. The Fund aims to support organisations across the UK and in the heart of communities that are helping people grow horticultural skills.

Grants of up to £15,000 are now available. We would particularly welcome applications from

- Organisations that are currently helping to, or would like to, improve diversity and social inclusion within horticulture
- Can demonstrate how the skills and training they offer can create onward opportunities for work experience, further training and employment.

If your organisation fulfils these objectives, we would love to hear from you. Please access the application form
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/bursaries-grants/rhs-bursaries/flourish-fund>
If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact :
flourish@rhs.org.uk for further information.

Apply by Friday, 13 August 2021

Creating a more sustainable industry

The RHS deliver a huge range of activities across the UK to grow people's interest in plants and gardens, and we're striving to promote diversity and inclusion in our industry and to support grassroots horticulture. Only by being inclusive and welcoming people from all parts of our society, will our industry become more sustainable – **and the Flourish Fund is a part of helping us to realise that vision.**



Spofforth Summer Solstice Challenge – 25th-27st June

Scarecrow, Picture & Sculpture trail.



Since all other fundraising and social activities had been curtailed again for



another year Spofforth have continued with the trail weekend and Grow Social activities. Over 1000 visitors admired the entries all exhibited and visible from the footpath and roadside. With social distancing parameters in place, visitors could follow the trail around the village admiring all the excellent and inspiring entries based on Favourite Films. Blessed with good weather, the event was a huge success and helped strengthen the community.

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Please share with us any Grow Social Stories you have.



RHS Yorkshire in Bloom recognise the enormous challenges the last 12 months have had and are continuing to have on all our lives and especially the "bloom community" and although we have taken the very hard decision in 2020 and again in 2021 to cancel the competitive element of entering your individual community, business, or neighbourhood, into the regional campaign, we felt we had to celebrate all your hard work in keeping our county blooming. So, we are launching our "Best of Yorkshire" awards to help congratulate you on your community's resilience from the effects of the Covid pandemic.

Based around the three main pillars of Bloom, Horticulture, Environment and Community. These awards are open to everyone to nominate. They are FREE to enter and if successful you will receive a certificate of achievement to display in your community. These new awards will be for one year only and will replace our normal campaign which we hope will return for 2022.

11 Categories to choose from

BRITAIN
IN BLOOM®
with the RHS

YORKSHIRE

'Best of Yorkshire'

Covid Resilience Awards 2021

RHS Yorkshire in Bloom

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Self-nomination

- ❖ Each community/entry can put forward up to **five** of their best examples (out of the eleven).
 - ❖ Each submission should have written evidence of between fifty and a hundred words accompanied by three (no more) photos, (each photo limited to 2mb size)
- All entries must be submitted by September

Horticulture

- "Yorkshire in Springtime" :- award, for the best spring displays seasonal or sustainable (March to May)
- "Yorkshire in Summertime" award, for the most impressive summer floral or sustainable displays June to September (can even be wildflower meadows)
- "By heck that's good" award for the best floral feature, can be for the most traditional carpet bedded feature or themed garden display, examples could depict the heritage of the area, or perhaps a themed display thanking NHS workers with innovative planting with either sustainable or traditional bedding plants

Environment

- "On a wing and a prayer" award for the most impressive War memorial, cemetery or place of worship, large or small can be maintained for wildlife or immaculately manicured flower beds and lawns.
- "Kind to nature wildlife project" can be a small wildlife friendly garden or a well-managed nature reserve, village pond or riverbanks.
- "Saving the planet" award for good examples of resource management, recycling projects or tree planting initiatives.

Community

- "Clap for the Community" award to the volunteer or team of volunteers who have kept going through the pandemic and helped their community get through the past year (not necessarily florally could be doing things like organising food banks, looking after the elderly or keeping spirits up within their area)
- "Community Litter Heroes" awarded to the individual or group who throughout lockdown have continued to keep their community clean by regular socially distanced litter picks or clean ups.
- "Wheels of Fortune" award to celebrate local transport centres, could be anything from a floral bus stop to a heritage railway station and anything in between
- "Heart of the Community" award for businesses who have supported their community by whatever means, anything from delivering meals for the elderly to donating materials for making face masks or helping the NHS staff with discounts or free materials or just blooming up to lift peoples spirits and making us smile.
- 'Young Bloomers' includes any project or activity encompassing resilience of young people. Can include, youth groups, schools, or individuals.



All entries via website page

<https://www.yorkshireinbloom.co.uk/bestofyorkshire2021>

Why should I join It's Your Neighbourhood?

RHS 'It's Your Neighbourhood' 2021

It's Your Neighbourhood is a non-competitive scheme for community groups who want to 'green up' local areas – adding some colour to your community, making new friends and getting active in your local area

This year 2021, the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' campaign is on line with no direct face to face contact or visiting assessment.

Each entry **simply** logs in to register and submits photos and information to the following criteria:

Community

Who have the group been working, connecting or partnering with and how have they been involved?

Environment

What have the group been doing to make the local environment cleaner, greener or better for biodiversity?

Gardening

Why did the group choose to use certain plants, and what were they aiming to achieve?

Registered groups receive:

- An annual visit from an It's Your Neighbourhood assessor, with useful feedback and advice to help grow for maximum impact, for both your community and local environment
- Support from experienced mentors who will provide guidance and advice on how to progress and achieve your ambitions
- Recognition of your hard work with an annual certificate of achievement
- Membership to a nationwide network of groups engaged in community gardening
- Access to networking opportunities in your area
- A free copy of the RHS community gardening magazine, *Grass Roots*, full of inspirational stories and expert advice
- The opportunity to purchase affordable insurance cover, specifically created for community gardening groups
- Free advice from expert RHS horticultural advisors
- Access to a range of seed giveaways

Gardening can help connect us – with each other, with ourselves and with nature.

With green spaces and positive community connections becoming more important to many of us over the last year, the 2021 theme with 'It's Your Neighbourhood' and Grow Social is *'performing small acts of kindness'*, to help everyone feel less alone.

FREE to entry

Register and submit your story to :

<https://itsyourneighbourhood.awardsplatform.com>



JOIN NOW

Closing date for **ALL IYN** submission is 25th July 2021



Website:

www.yorkshireinbloom.co.uk



Contact:

01422 885222



Email address:

admin@yorkshireinbloom.co.uk