

NEWS



LEAF

Issue: 2

April 2017

Welcome to the second issue of Newsleaf. Haven't you been busy?

Keep the stories coming, it is great to share your news and please do circulate Newsleaf to your members, put on websites, Facebook, Twitter etc so even more people will read all about it.

We hope you enjoy this issue which has again been produced by Harrogate in Bloom - but now we have help. Read on...

Harrogate Spring Water, already a partner to Keep Britain Tidy, has agreed to a new partnership with Harrogate in Bloom. This is brilliant news in the year we need all the support we can get as we aim for the top honour of Champion of Champions.

Nicky Cain, Harrogate Spring Water's Marketing Director, said: *"We were delighted to be approached by HIB. Although we were aware of Harrogate's outstanding reputation in the 'In Bloom' world, we could see that the group needed support locally to raise awareness of and pride in all that they have achieved over the past forty years and will continue to achieve for Harrogate.*

"There's real value to the competition both at a community level, as well as on a commercial level from which local businesses and individuals should join in to celebrate and ultimately derive benefit."

Pam Grant, President of HIB added: *"Harrogate Spring Water is passionate about Harrogate and about what it does. Their care for the environment and communities at home and abroad has no bounds and it all fits neatly into the three BIB judging pillars. But more than that, collaborating with a Harrogate company that is internationally-renowned is going to be invaluable."*

HSW is sponsoring this and future issues of Newsleaf and this will ultimately benefit all Team Harrogate members.



In Partnership with

HARROGATE SPRING WATER

Come and see us at the Spring Flower Show

Harrogate Spring Flower Show is the first big event in the gardening calendar, welcoming the new growing season with a spectacular celebration of the very best in horticulture.

Rated Britain's top gardening event by Which?, the Show runs from 20-23 April at the GYS showground, featuring beautiful show gardens, the very latest in gardening trends,

great shopping, live entertainment, the biggest exhibition by florists and flower arrangers in the country and us!

At this year's Show, members of Team Harrogate will be Rooting for Harrogate in RHS BIB Champion of Champions alongside our local tourism body Visit Harrogate.

We have created a new banner for our stand and we'll be handing out Rooting for Harrogate window stickers. And thanks to our very stylish local florist Caine's of John

Street we'll have on loan some beautiful floral arrangements of our own.



Thanks Caine and Lance
for your floral support

Children will also get some hands-on gardening as we'll have a plot on our stand where they can plant seeds in readiness for the Harrogate Flower Show team to create the garden designs from HIB's children's competition. The two gardens will be planted up in raised beds at the Victoria Shopping Centre.



Rooting for Harrogate GOLD MEDAL WINNER

Yorkshire in Bloom, Britain in Bloom and Europe in Bloom for over 40 years



www.harrogateinbloom.org.uk



Show Director's praise for youngsters

HIB was staggered by the number of children entering its Children's Spring Art Competition - 802 which is 200 more than last year.

We are grateful for sponsorship by Harrogate Flower Shows and Nick Smith, Show Director, who judged the competition along with HIB members Mary Mann and Angela Henson, said: "As well

as the record breaking numbers we also saw a rise in quality. We love what the children come up with but this year the standard was even higher.

"It is so heartening to see that children want to create something beautiful for their town. This mirrors what we and HIB want to do. I congratulate this voluntary group for its annual competitions which encourage involvement from all age groups and sectors of the town.

There was a good turn out for the awards ceremony on 1 April which was attended by Cllr Nick Brown, Mayor of the Borough of Harrogate, who is pictured with Sophia Whitaker, winner of the pre-school colouring class and Phoebe Lavery and Ellora Turner KS1 and KS2 winners of the design a garden class. Thanks to support from the Victoria Shopping Centre Management their designs of a beautiful butterfly and a stylised H for Harrogate will be planted up in the centre's gardens. A must for judges day visit.



Photographs courtesy of Harrogate Advertiser

Children and Easter Eggs Galore

Near neighbours the Pinewoods Group and Friends of the Valley Gardens held Egg Hunts over the Easter weekend with nearly 600 eggs available thanks to fund-raising and eggs donated from a number of local supermarkets. The children had some brilliant clues to follow that were fun

but also educational about their local environment.



Jon and Steve from FOVG putting final touches to the Egg Hunt clues

Sing it with flowers

HIB's Residential Care Home competition this year is being run in conjunction with St Peter's Church.

The Church is holding a Flower Show from Tuesday 6 June to Sunday 11 June and entries from our latest competition will be on display.

The theme for the competition and the Flower Show is 'Sing it with Flowers'. There are many songs with flowers in their titles. Staff in the town's Residential Care Homes value this competition and enjoy working with their residents to encourage them to enter. They are always very creative so we are looking forward to seeing some wonderful displays.

There will be musical entertainment with light refreshments at the Church on Wednesday 7 June from 1.30pm.



Nature cameras in Pinewoods

With funding from North Yorkshire County Council, the Pinewoods Conservation Group

(PCG) has purchased a number of cameras which, over the next few months, will capture images and videos of wildlife in the wood. These will be made available to other Harrogate based groups for their use - that's the cameras, images and videos, not the wildlife!

At the request of landowners Harrogate Borough Council signs have been put up at entrances to the wood to draw attention to this activity as images will be shared on line.

New chicane at Willow Woods

A lot has been done to deter illegal motorcycling along the Nidderdale Greenway and throughout Nidd Gorge but sadly it has happened again.

The Bilton Conservation Group (BCG) has been working with Harrogate Council and North Yorkshire Police in an effort to mitigate this anti-social behaviour by improving the porous Nidd Gorge boundary.

Students from Grove Academy have helped members of the BCG to reconstruct a chicane to deter motorcyclists from gaining access to Nidd Gorge and Nidderdale Greenway from Willow Woods.



During this work signs were put up to recognise that students from Grove Academy have helped make these improvements for the benefit of local biodiversity and so visitors can enjoy this beautiful area without worrying about being run over

Beetles and butterflies ... and an ant or two

The verges of the Nidderdale Greenway between Bilton Lane and Nidd Gorge are particularly rich in wild flora and invertebrates such as ants, beetles and butterflies. The Conservation Group works closely with Harrogate Borough Council (HBC) each autumn to take off the lush vegetation as a 'hay crop' to reduce the fertility of the soil and improve the prospects for wild flowers and native grasses. This should be helpful to species like the large Skipper Butterfly. We photographed this one last July as it fed on Cocksfoot and False Brome. If these verges became too rank the taller species would dominate and the habitat would become scrub and, eventually, a woodland edge.



Hot work so Greenway artwork doubles as useful coat rack



Large Skipper Butterfly

BILTON BUFO BUFO

Bilton Fields and the Nidderdale Greenway are blessed with lots of common toads (scientific name bufo bufo). Their breeding ponds are at Valley Farm and the old railway reservoir at Starbeck.

Once the breeding season is over they leave the water and disperse to drier habitat as much as three kilometres from where they spawn. They are a frequent and welcome sight along the

Nidderdale Greenway where they wait patiently to ambush caterpillars and slugs.



This little chap was found during hay making last year

Planting and propagating

HBC's Central Nursery at Harlow Hill grows over 277,000 bedding plants from seed for summer planting. They will use around 24,000 of these plants in 800 stunning hanging baskets you'll see around the district which create a wonderful floral impact in the district's town centres.

About 600 of them go up in Harrogate and include the 134 offered to HIB at a subsidised rate for us to sell on to Harrogate town centre businesses. Once again businesses have been very supportive and all were sold by the end of February. These baskets which are also watered and maintained by the council will go up first week in June.



Pictured in one of the Nursery's greenhouses is Shirley Farrar one of just four full and four part time council employees who make up this award winning team.

The public can buy plants from the Nursery from 31 May.



New tourist guide

Harrogate town centre and the iconic Valley Gardens are home to many sculptures and installations but, up to now, there has been no definitive guide for tourists to follow.

Step in HIB member Angela Henson who has put that right by producing a new Sculpture and Installation Trail ready for the start of this year's tourist season.

The trail details sculptures, monuments and installations as old as Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, the opening of the New Zealand Garden in the 1950s right up to celebrating the 2014 Harrogate Grand Depart of the Tour de France.

We would like to thank the Harrogate Civic Society for their financial support in producing this leaflet.

The guide will be available on line and from TICs.



Angela at the Garden Pavilion pictured with Cupid and Psyche

Rossett Sensory Garden

Work is progressing well on Rossett School's sensory garden. There are new footpaths, railings and seating round the pond, there's a new pagoda, fruit trees and the wildflower garden is under way.

Rossett's Jo Clark, who is the garden's driving force, has achieved a lot over the past 15 months working with a number of grant giving bodies including the Audrey and Stanley Burton Charitable Trust and the George Martin Trust. Jo has received grants totalling £6,500 but she needs more so that work can continue.

Jo has also received a huge amount of support from a number of local groups who have either worked on the garden or donated material, plants and trees.

Well done Jo for your tenacity and commitment.



Allotment News

The allotment season has begun with everyone starting to plant their early veg. There are strong waiting lists on the majority of sites but some have plots available at short notice.

The allotment show this year is being held in the Valley Gardens on Sunday 20 August. Our chosen charity this year is Open Country.

The HIB 2017 competition for the allotments is titled 'Second Chance' which interprets to 'what have you recycled on your allotment' or, in true Yorkshire tradition, 'owt for nowt'. We are expecting several of the competition finalists' entries to be displayed/replicated at the Harrogate Autumn Flower Show.

Wild about wildflowers

Hookstone and Stonefall Action Group have been doing a number of surveys over the past few months. They have found an astonishing 68 species of wildflowers at Stonefall Park which is amazing when you think that this used to be an old bricks works/quarry and later

a landfill site. The group has been planting more wildflowers with seeds received from Kew Gardens.



Plans are under way to create a history display board now that photos of the old quarry have been found and the group is also seeking funding to create footpaths over wet areas.

At Hookstone Park the group has been surveying footpaths and a programme of re-stoning these paths is under way. A local scouts' group is keen to get involved and support the group's work.

Upcoming diary dates

- Thursday 20 to Sunday 23 April
- Harrogate Spring Flower Show
- Monday, 24 April
- Yorkshire Business Market
- Saturday 13 May
- Wildlife Night Woodlands Community Garden
- Tuesday 6 to Sunday 11 June
- St Peter's Flower Show
- Sunday 18 June
- Valley Gardens 1940s day
- Saturday 8 July
- Woodlands Community Garden Open Day
- Sunday 20 August
- Allotment Show Valley Gardens