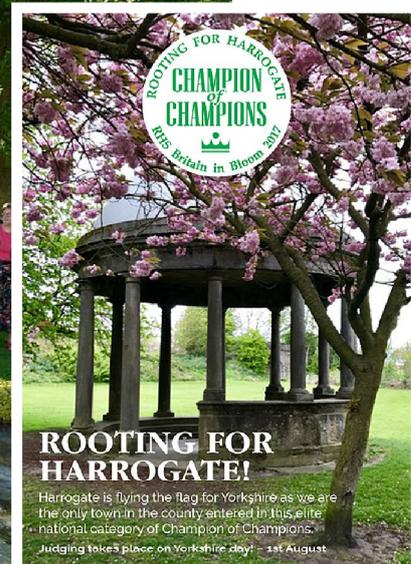


*Welcome to the third issue of Newsleaf.*

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.

## Business support Rooting for Harrogate campaign



*Business leaders 'Rooting for Harrogate' in the gardens at Cedar Court Hotel*

At a meeting held on 25 May, business leaders were unanimous in their support for 'Rooting for Harrogate'.

The meeting, held by courtesy of the Cedar Court Hotel and chaired by Jean Macquarrie Editor of the Harrogate Advertiser series, heard from a number of speakers including the Chair of Visit Harrogate, Caroline Bayliss. She said: "Harrogate doesn't just happen. 'Brand Harrogate' is based on the elegance and style of our town supported by its floral and spa heritage. There is any army of people, including volunteers and businesses, who make it a place people want to live, work and visit.

"It is things like winning Britain in Bloom that makes sure Harrogate gets more than its fair share of visitors

which clearly demonstrates there is a commercial as well as a community value to these awards. Our success supports the council in its choice of generously budgeting for the Parks and Environmental Services Team in this time of tight council budgets. They know our floral displays and beautiful parks and gardens are a major reason people visit our district. If the council did not have the economic arguments of tourism for this spending that picture could be very different and you as businesses and we as residents would suffer."

A range of ideas for business support was produced for the meeting.

## Rocking it up for the Valley Gardens

If the Valley Gardens had a roof it certainly would have been raised this month as the FOVG put on two crowd pleasing fundraising events. All money raised will go towards the new King Edward VII memorial gate.

The Harrogate Rock Choir performed on 4 June which was followed on the 18th by the ever successful 1940s Day.



*Maria Manchester performs with Echo 42 for 1940s day*

It was the 7th annual 1940s day whose popularity continues to grow pulling in a crowd of over 30,000 this year.

The Mayor of the Borough, Cllr Anne Jones, led a parade of evacuee children from Western Primary School, then the fun began with, stalls, food, picnics, fashion, music, entertainment, dancing and so much more.

There may have been rationing and severe shortages in the 1940s but this led to community togetherness, bravery and camaraderie. And this generation certainly knew how to have fun!

The Green Park entrance is in a dilapidated state and plans are underway for a £60,000 total restoration. Nearly £50,000 has already been raised since planning



*Artist's impression of King Edward VII memorial gate*

permission was granted last June. The King Edward VII memorial gate, which was originally sited at the entrance to the long-gone Rose Garden on Kings Road, is to be recreated at this entrance on Valley Drive. The pillars were stored at the council's depot and the gate, which was sold years ago, was tracked down to a farmer's field above Pateley Bridge and bought back by the FOVG. All are in need of restoration.

The King was known as 'the Peace Maker' as he endeavoured to prevent war in Europe. The adjacent rose beds will be planted with memorial roses including Peace, Tommys and Flanders Field. The last two are WWI memorial roses and it is hoped to complete this project in time for the 11.11.18 centenary of the end of this terrible war.

## Children's garden designs planted up by Harrogate Flower Show Team



*It rained but that will be good for the plants!*

Harrogate is highly regarded for its stunning flower beds but this year there will be two extra special ones on the piazza at the Victoria Shopping Centre.

KS1 and KS2 pupils Phoebe Lavery from Ashville College and Ellora Turner from Brackenfield School were among over 800 who entered HIB's Children's Spring Competition. The older pupils were invited to design a garden flower bed for a public place.

Phoebe and Ellora's designs for a beautiful butterfly and a stylised H for Harrogate were the judges unanimous winners. On Monday,



*Children plant seeds at Spring Flower Show*

5 June the girls were allowed out of school to help Nick Smith, Director of Harrogate Flower Shows and his gardening team plant up their designs. Cheerful and colourful plants were used some of which were grown from seeds planted by children visiting Team Harrogate's stand at the Spring Flower Show.

Victoria Centre Manager James White said: "We were delighted to be involved and there can't be many shopping centres which will have their gardens planted by an award winning show team.

The designs are stunning and we will be sponsoring two signs explaining them to the many hundreds of people who will walk past them every day throughout the summer. We shall look forward to seeing Phoebe and Ellora again as they meet the judges on the piazza on judging day on 1 August which is of course Yorkshire Day so we will all be 'Rooting for Harrogate.'

## A treat for the senses

Rossett School's sensory garden is looking stunning. The aquatic planting and wild flower garden help bring serenity to this lovely new quiet space.

Work is also underway on the Japanese garden and all is on target for a summer official



opening. Fundraising continues and all plant donations would be welcomed.

## Stray FM

Harrogate Spring Water invited HIB members Pam Grant and Lynne Mee to join them in a recording of Stray FM's Homes & Garden Show to promote our Champion of Champions 'Rooting for Harrogate' campaign. It went out on Friday 26 May but got an extra broadcast on Sunday 28th on a show Stray reserves for their favourite bits from the week of shows. More details on Stray FM's website.

## Pupils plant purple flowers in bid to rid the world of polio



There was a new parade of purple crocuses on The Stray this spring as local schoolchildren and the Rotary Club of Harrogate planted bulbs last November.

Some 8,000 crocus bulbs were planted to support Purple4Polio, the Rotary International's

campaign to eradicate polio across the globe.

Around 90 children from St Joseph's, Richard Taylor's, Oatlands Community School, Brackenfield School and Saltergate Infants helped Rotary members with the planting.

The purple crocus is a symbol of Rotary's worldwide campaign to beat polio, its colour represents the purple dye used to mark the finger of a child who has been immunised.

## Transition day

HBC held a transition day on 26 June involving around 100 students from Rossett 6th form. A host of activities across Team Harrogate groups which ranged from balsam bashing at Rossett Nature Reserve, litter picking and cleaning of street furniture, rhododendron removal at the Pinewoods with the Arboriculture Team and cutting back vegetation on Bilton to Ripley cycleway with Ranger Sam. They also worked in the Valley Gardens and had activities in their own school garden.

## Ramping it up for frogs

Frogs visiting the Valley Gardens boating pond are finding it easier to get in and out thanks to three new ramps installed by the council when the pond was drained recently.

Local resident Graham Shatz campaigns for wildlife and had alerted the council to the problem. He explained that the Valley Gardens has a large population of frogs and toads but, as is the case in many public parks, the straight sides of its boating pond make it easy for creatures to get in but difficult to make a quick exit leaving them vulnerable to predators or drowning.

The three new ramps into the pond will enable frogs and toads, and indeed any wildlife, to make a timely exit.

## Yorkshire Business Market

Thanks to the organisers of this successful annual event, FOVG, Horticap and HIB had a free stand. Great for networking.

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society were also given a stand which happened to be next to HIB's stand.

Pam asked if the Society would like to get involved in Rooting for Harrogate by penning and performing a suitable Yorkshire themed piece to entertain the judges on judging day which is, of course, Yorkshire Day.

They said yes!



*HIB's stand was highly commended by the judges*

## Posters in the Pinewoods

A number of PCG members have raised concern regarding the number of posters being placed within the woods and the length of time they are left up. Some have remained for many months.

The committee has proposed a policy to request that after four weeks they are removed by those posting them. Where posters are not removed voluntarily the committee will look to remove.

The group is seeking members views on the policy.

## Action for cleaner air

Some of our busiest junctions have poor air quality. That is why Harrogate bus company Transdev has won millions of investment with support from Andrew Jones MP for their bus services to make them cleaner and greener.

A grant of £237,000 is seeing some of the worst polluting buses retro-fitted with filters to take the worst pollutants out of exhaust fumes. And a grant of £2.25m will see a new fleet of emission-free electric buses travelling on our streets. This is excellent news for Transdev who sponsor HIB's annual Awards Afternoon and in return we look after their garden at the bus station.

## Extinction is Forever

Keith Wilkinon of the Bilton Conservation Group says it is hard to underestimate the rich biodiversity of Bilton Fields, Nidd Gorge and the Nidderdale Greenway.

In 1999 40 volunteers spent over 3000 hours identifying different life forms. 500 flowering plants, over 150 mosses and liverworts, 16 ferns, 259 fungi, four amphibians, one reptile, one crustacean, 16 fish, 104 resident or visiting birds, 21 mammals - and they didn't even look at the thousands of moths, butterflies, spiders, bugs, beetles, flies and other invertebrates.

By 2008 they knew of at least two local extinctions, the water vole and British crayfish.

On a happier note, this year has seen the native otter making its first appearance in the Nidd Gorge for over 60 years, the American Mink is in retreat and the majestic Red Kite is again a familiar sight.



The group is keen to update its millennium record and is having a Bioblitz day on 22 July. Please send any reports of wildlife sightings and photographs if possible to niddgorge@gmail.com

## Nature cameras update

The PCG nature cameras are starting to pick up some interesting photos and videos. They will be moved around the woods over the next few weeks with images being shared online. Highlights so far include a great video of a badger.

## Hedgehog Awareness Week

Organised by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS), the initiative is an annual spring event, which aims to highlight the problems hedgehogs face and how we can help them.



This year's focus is on the harm done to hedgehogs by strimmers and cutting machines. Every year they cause many terrible injuries or deaths and the BHPS is asking everyone to check their gardens carefully before using any machinery.

With the many hundreds of miles of grass cutting carried out by HBC, they were pleased to sign up and all machinery are stickered as

a reminder to the team to check for these lovely little animals.

The council has been added to the Hedgehog Heroes online Roll of Honour.

## St Peter's Flower Festival

This was a joint event with HIB held 6-11 June and the theme was 'Sing it with flowers'. Nearly 30 entries were received and arrangements included those entered in HIB's care home competition. Visitors to the festival were invited to choose their three favourite arrangements and winners will be announced in St Peter's on Sunday, 19 June. Winners of HIB care home competition will be announced at the awards afternoon on Sunday, 24 September.



*Daisy, Daisy  
give me your answer do*

## Dates for your diary

### 8 July

Woodlands Community Garden's sharing ideas day

### 23 July

Batchelor Fields Children's fun day and family picnic

### 28 July

Horticap's Summer Garden Party

### 9 September

Pinewoods Open Day

### 24 September

Harrogate in Bloom awards afternoon