



NEWSLETTER

December 2020

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Pontefract in Bloom
2021



Wishing you a
Happy Christmas
and a much
better 2021 from
Pontefract in
Bloom



4-TIER PLANTER AT ROPERGATE END

The pandemic has been a challenge for everyone, including Pontefract in Bloom. Lock-down was imposed in March just as we were planning the summer planting and we had to find an alternative way to deliver Pontefract in Bloom for the summer. Many “in bloom” groups decided to give this year a miss but we were determined to ensure that Pontefract was brightened with flowers to raise morale at this difficult time.

Summer 2020



A SPLASH OF COLOUR BY THE WAR MEMORIAL

In previous years we have worked with Day Opportunities at Thornes Park, a group providing work for people with learning difficulties, to grow our plants for us, and have recruited volunteers to help with the planting. We would have normally bought plug plants in March to be grown on for us at Thornes Park but when lock-down happened in March Thornes Park Nurseries was closed and of course we couldn't use volunteers for the planting. We arranged for First Impressions Nurseries to retrieve most of the planters, clean and plant them under cover at the nursery. When they were reinstalled at the beginning of June the plants were already well established and looking good. A total of 14 tiered planters, 9 square planters and two stone troughs were provided. They were watered and maintained by First Impressions Nurseries Ackworth. We also arranged for 31 hanging baskets to be provided for town centre businesses by White Rose Plants based at Featherstone. In addition, we supported the planting of the St Giles' Church and Valley Gardens' flower beds. It was significantly more expensive to contract with the nurseries to do the planting for us instead of volunteers and the additional financial pressure was the reduction in sponsorship income because so many town centre businesses were unable to trade during lock-down. However, we were fortunate in obtaining grant funding from Wakefield District Housing, Wakefield Council's Neighbourhood Improvement Fund and Tesco "Bags of Help" fund. Detailed information about our finances and grant funding is available on Pontefract in Bloom's website: www.pontefractinbloom.btck.co.uk



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021



Saturday/Sunday 4/5th July – lockdown lifted!

Market place planters – below left

Valley Road planters – below right

Having the flowers well established when the planters are reinstalled has the advantage that the plants are less vulnerable to being stolen or vandalized than when planted on site, but we didn't expect the heavy tiered planters would be tipped over. Two on the Market Place were pushed over by late night drinkers during the first weekend after lock-down ended in July. The plants were quickly replaced and to our surprise recovered well but the planter outside the Red Lion was tipped over again a few weeks later, the plants could not be resuscitated, and the planter had to be removed. Most of the planters are now in winter storage but the few remaining have been planted for the winter, along with the St Giles' Church and Valley Gardens' flower beds. We have cut back on winter planting to conserve our funds for next year given the uncertain Covid-19 situation to ensure that Pontefract in Bloom Summer 2021 is even better.

