

Welcome to 'Yorkshire in Bloom' judges Mr R Hibbert and Miss R Jeffcock for the Spring judging of Pocklington – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008



Pocklington is a classic English market town situated at the foot of the Yorkshire Wolds about 15 miles east of the City of York in the East Riding of Yorkshire. In recent years the town has expanded considerably with the population now being 7,600. The number on the electoral list is currently 6410.

The town has its own web-site [www.pocklington.gov.uk](http://www.pocklington.gov.uk) which carries local news and details of 'In Bloom' projects.

## 'Pocklington In Bloom'

Pocklington in Bloom members comprise councillors, individuals representing groups in the town and other interested people. Current membership is twelve who regularly embark on projects to keep the town and floral displays looking good. Finance for the group comes from a yearly grant from the Town Council of £2,000 and various sponsorship. Members are very much 'hands on' and restrict meetings to the minimum choosing to make a difference on the streets. The committee enjoy close liaison with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council unitary authority whose staff are always available for guidance. Considerable use is made of the 'Pocklington Post' our weekly newspaper who carry articles about the 'In Bloom' effort.

For the last two years the town has been awarded a Silver in the small town section of the Yorkshire in bloom competition. Last year saw the town centre flooded in June which caused over £2m of damage. Some business premises were out of action for six months which made it difficult to push the 'In Bloom' message too much!



One of the beds at the Memorial Gardens last year

### REVIEW OF RECENT PROGRESS

Over the last three years the committee has:

- Regenerated the Memorial Gardens in the town
- Taken over the maintenance of 21 tree planters in the town originally donated by the Civic Society to bring some more greenery to the town
- Created a flower-bed in the grounds of All Saints Church which is used as a feature.
- Bought planters and organised the planting of lamp-post rings, flower beds and railings in the town
- Designed and planted a permanent shrubbery and flower bed at the edge of the West Green car park

- Engaged local groups in bulb planting on the towns outskirts, on the playpark and open spaces. Groups included Army Cadets and school children.
- Assisted with publicity about anti-litter and dog fouling
- Created permanent planting around an electricity sub-station
- Encouraged residents to create planting schemes on areas around street signs
- Assisted with the re-furbishment of West Green under the 'breathing spaces' initiative.
- Organised a film showing of 'Grow your own' night at the local cinema to raise funds
- Organised a front garden competition
- Operated a subsidy scheme for hanging baskets for businesses in the town

The local Roman Catholic School assisted in planting snowdrops in the Jubilee Gardens which were subjected to the earlier described flooding. The bulbs however survived and provided a remarkable display this spring.



Here the children are planting the snowdrops



Memorial Gardens last summer



The display bed at All Saints Churchyard



The lamp-post rings put up in spring and summer



West Green - before and after!



From this - to this





Bulb planting West Green



Pocklington in Bloom maintains close contact with the East Riding of Yorkshire grounds maintenance unit. They share the maintenance of the Grape Lane memorial garden and assist with the weeding of other public areas.

Pocklington in Bloom receives assistance from the Pocklington Horticultural Society who operate a 'not for profit' garden shop every weekend on the allotments.

Close contact is maintained with the 140 tenants on the allotment site on The Mile. An annual competition is held to reward the best maintained plot. Every new application for a shed or greenhouse has to incorporate water collection facilities.

Last year a front garden competition was organised which proved popular. We aim to repeat this in summer and wonder if you would be able to present the prize during your summer visit?

Sustainable development is high on the Pocklington in Bloom priorities. At the Jubilee Garden a natural area has been designed alongside the Pocklington Beck. When West Green was re-developed attention has been paid to maintain and encourage wildlife. Bird boxes have been installed and natural flowers encouraged.

Raised beds and other appropriate areas are regularly mulched with bark chippings to conserve moisture.

A local group of volunteers the 'Greengrass Recycling Group' is just starting a green-waste recycling initiative on the Sherbuttgate Estate. This is a kerbside collection service which aims to return soil enhancer back to those who give their green waste. A composting site has been identified on the outskirts of the town where green waste will be turned into a useable material. The Environment Agency has given an exemption certificate and planning permission has been obtained. This initiative has been possible through grants from the Langaed Fund and the local authority. A vintage tractor is to be used to collect the waste.



A water tank is to be fitted to the tractor to water the plants in the town.

The local authority operates a monthly collection service for waste paper, plastic and tins.

Glass, shoe and clothing recycling facilities are available at the Sainsbury supermarket.

#### ITINERARY FOR THE DAY

1000hrs Judges meet the Town Mayor Cllr Richard Bryon and in bloom members John Barber and Richard Wood at Burnby Hall Gardens. (Parking and toilet facilities available)

The tour will commence on foot from the Gardens along The Balk. The W.I. bed is outside the main entrance. Alongside this bed is an herbaceous border which is a recent development.

The walk into town via Regent Street takes us passed the tidy gardens of sheltered houses in Stewart Court where individual owners tend their plots.

The All Saints churchyard flowerbed is planted with aubretia and tulips. The trees have been felled on both side of the footpath to the church but plans are in hand to replant with more suitable trees.

The Grape Lane Memorial Gardens are then visited to view the flower displays. This is an area jointly maintained by the East Riding staff and In Bloom members.

As we pass the Pocklington School the monument to William Wilberforce is in the school grounds. On the opposite side of the road the daffodils were planted by Army Cadets from the nearby unit. West Green has been recently re-developed under the Breathing Spaces scheme. Bulb and tree planting was done in January which schoolchildren and adults took part in. Over 200 trees were planted on the site.

The Market Place hosts the weekly market on a Tuesdays. The winter and spring hanging baskets and lamp-post rings are provided by the In Bloom committee. At the Post Office the 1<sup>st</sup> WW memorial garden is maintained by a local businessman with assistance from John and Una Barber from the In Bloom Committee. Last year



the displays depicted the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of slavery.

The towns allotments are on The Mile covering 12.4 acres. At the Mile roundabout there is an impressive display which again is maintained by John and Una Barber.

Along George Street on our way back to Burnby Hall Gardens notice the tree planters on the footpath which the local Civic Society donated to the town.

The Balk roundabout includes planting of permanent and annuals which makes a really favourable impression on entrance to the town.

Burnby Hall Gardens opens to the public at Easter and has a nice café and museum facility.

If you would like to help 'clean up' the town prior to the judging please telephone 01759 304851 for more details. A working group is starting from the Grape Lane Memorial Gardens on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008 commencing at 10am. – all are most welcome – bring your own trowel!.

