



# Chorley in bloom 2018



**Working in partnership with Chorley Council  
and Community Groups to make Chorley the  
“Best Bloomin Town” in the North West.**



## *Introduction*

The Chorley in Bloom Group which was formed in February 2015 is made up of community volunteers. We are an independent non profit-making group and work alongside our partner Chorley Council. We are extremely fortunate that Chorley Council has the foresight to continue their upgrading of the town centre and is aware of the benefits that are gained by the use of floral arrangements with strategic planting. The mix of wild flowers and perennials brings an added bonus to our pollinators and wild life in general. We are fortunate in the encouragement and help we have from Chorley Council.

Chorley in Bloom has been rewarded with the RHS Gold Medal Award in the Small City Category since our inception for 2015, 2016 and 2017. Our aim is to continue with this success in our work to further enhance our much loved town of Chorley.

I believe you will see a number of surprises in our town since the judges were here in 2017.

Chorley in Bloom took part in the BBC2 programme called Britain in Bloom in 2017, which was shown on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 and again more recently. Reviews from this programme were very encouraging with over 1,000,000 viewers.

Entries into the R.H.S. In Your Neighbourhood Competition have been encouraged and facilitated.

Since the programme was aired we have been approached for help from several newly forming "in Bloom" groups in the area for advice and information.

Thanks to our secretary we were successful in gaining a £10,000 lottery bid for workshops which we are developing with pupils and parents of Astley Park Special School and hopefully extending to other schools and community groups. The Sensory Garden at Chorley Hospital has been used much more by patients and staff since our involvement. The exhibition stand we had at the 2017 Chorley Flower Show raised over £1,100 for our projects. We are taking part again this year, as this is one of our main fund raisers after grants and sponsorships.

Our communications network is under constant review and expanding:

We now have a Web Page in use which is being updated regularly

We use Facebook (approx. 400 members) to make everyone aware of our progress and to encourage more participation in events e.g. growing for food, litter picking etc.

Chorley FM have been excellent in their coverage and advertising of our events. We often take part in the Community slot to disseminate information and thank volunteers and sponsors.

Our Vice Chairman (who is also the Chairman of Chorley Gardening Society) has a regular gardening slot. He gives advice on gardening. Updates the listeners of our Group's progress with projects and gives out requests for volunteers.

BBC Radio Lancashire has a twice yearly programme specific to Chorley and our In Bloom group.

I continue to do presentations and talks to Community Groups that request it.

We have steadily been building up relationships with voluntary groups of all abilities and ages

Our Community edible garden at Preston Brow has been hailed a success with local residents and the general public.

It has also been featured several times on the That's Lancashire TV programme and in the Local Press.

We are still facing considerable challenges with the construction/building works in the town centre. We are working to use these as opportunities not constraints. New ideas are being introduced into our work to minimise what some may call an eyesore and the disruption caused. In this portfolio you will see the Living Wall which is planted up in England Colours. We are taking part in a pilot to enhance Chorley Railway Station with a grant for £8,000, this has now been done and I am sure will be continued with support from Network Rail.

We will continue to encourage/provide opportunities for volunteers to make a difference within the community of Chorley and to help build the kind of environment they can enjoy where they live, work and play.

Chorley in Bloom has a thriving community base of volunteers. The Committee give willingly of their time and talents. We could not achieve as much as we have without our volunteers. A big thank you goes to all of them.

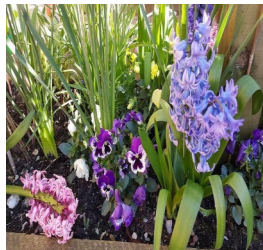
***Iris E Smith - Chairman***



# Horticultural Achievements

## Spring planting

Over the autumn period we have planted 43,000 plants this year. Our planting schemes consist of a mixture of Daffodils, Tulips and Polyanthus. The beds have made a massive impact throughout Chorley. We have beds in our parks, car parks, cemeteries and our gateways.



## Summer planting

We have planted 36,000 summer bedding plants, and in addition more sustainable herbaceous planting together with complimentary shrubs have been planted in the Council Office borders.



## Bringing nature to the town

This year we have varied our planting schemes, we have introduced wildflower areas and herbaceous beds as well as bedding plants

We have continued to increase wildflower areas on the roundabouts, in our parks and the car parks. The visual impact of the flower mixtures is one of the benefits you can experience when you visit our town. And of equal importance is our commitment to our environmental responsibility:

- Helping reduce our carbon footprint
- Introducing more ecological practices
- Adding value to the landscape and natural spaces
- Bringing wildlife back into the town centre

Sustainable planting has reduced the annual planting by over 50% this year.





## Wishing Well at Ackhurst Lodge, Astley Park.

We continue with the planting at Ackhurst Lodge. After a fantastic winter display of Violas it was time to dig them out and get the soil ready for the summer bedding.



The Intrepid Explorers worked extremely hard digging and weeding the beds ready for planting.

Once the ground was ready the scouts began the planting scheme. Working as a team and amid lots of laughter, they soon had the area looking sensational



Chorley in Bloom are grateful for the help from the groups who support them in creating the lovely areas for everyone to enjoy.



Volunteers from the Mormon Temple helped with the planting in St. Georges Quarter.





## Links with the Community.....

### Sensory Garden at Rookwood A Ward, Chorley Hospital—specifically for the benefit of Dementia and stroke patients

We continue to support the hospital with the help of the Girl Guides, who regularly plant, weed and tidy up the garden for the benefit of the patients.



Euxton Craft Group, and many individuals together with the knit and knatter groups continue to make hundreds of flowers, mini beasts and for Chorley in Bloom to decorate the town. The flowers are made from wool, card and recycled materials.



We continue with our radio broadcasts on Chorley Fm with Stephen and Barbara Lowe. David Brown giving his weekly Gardening spot and promoting Chorley in Bloom Events



Planting to Astley Park, Walled Garden Courtyard has proved very popular with the many visitors especially those who sit Outside Café Ambio, enjoying the view.



## Market Traders

Mike Bryan proprietor to Bees Country Kitchen on Chorley Market supports Chorley in Bloom and often contributes to our Facebook page.



He is a keen recycler and decorates his innovative planters with flowers and herbs. Everyone loves seeing what he will do next (and his food).



Another supporter is Chris Ball on Longlands Farm fresh vegetable stall. He was pleased to be able to sponsor the bedding for the planters between the Covered Chorley Market and Market Walks.

He was mesmerized by the activity of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from the Astley Village Scout Group who turned up to plant the bedding.



They were sorted into teams and set to planting up the four planters. The visitors to the Market loved the enthusiasm they displayed and enjoyed talking to them. Parents and Scout Leaders were on hand offering help.



The planters looked lovely when they had finished and the happy smiles on the group's faces when they finished made a fantastic picture. They were rewarded with SPICE Time Credits that they will use for an activity they can enjoy like swimming.





## Our First “Awards Presentation Evening, 2017.

We had our own “Awards Presentation Evening” to reward our Volunteers, Sponsors and our Partner Chorley Council for their huge amount of support during the year. The Leader of Chorley Council, Alistair Bradley and CEO Gary Hall were very impressed, the event was compared by Stephen Lowe, from Radio Lancashire and Chorley FM who did an excellent job of keeping us all in order.



Comment from Kieran Welsh – Head teacher Astley Park School (Special)

“A blooming marvellous evening! “

“What a fantastic evening we had at the Chorley in Bloom celebration awards on Thursday at the Lancastrian Suite at Chorley Town Hall. Iris Smith, Chairman of Chorley In Bloom offered a warm welcome to the audience that was made up of the Chorley In Bloom Committee; and all of the sponsors and volunteers of the various community projects and their friends and family. There were two special visitors at the end of the evening Mr and Mrs Christmas, who made a stop off at the Town Hall as they had heard that some very special young people deserved a special treat for working so hard and being good community citizens.”

## Chorley Flower Show 2017

Chorley in Bloom took part in the Chorley Flower Show where we raised over £1,000. Our band of Knitters added Bugs and beasties to the flower picture frame and it was a great success with Carol Klein and Chris Beardshaw both having their photos taken in it. During the two day event over 1,000 people had their photos taken in the frame.



The Chorley in Bloom stand raised just over £1,100 today which will go towards making Chorley even more blooming marvellous for another year. Thanks go to everyone who gave prizes and all our volunteers. Thanks also to everyone who visited us, without your support we would not have been able raise so much for the group.

## Raising Funds

We had the Charity Stall on the covered market which was a great success. We all had some fun and everyone worked really well together. We raised £60, our thanks go to Colette Hart of Anise and the Busy Bees Country Kitchen for their contributions which helped to make the stall look attractive. Astley Park School (Special) pupils came and helped on the stall.





## Workshops

We now run a variety of workshops for the community and local schools and nurseries. Sometimes in their schools and sometimes at our Community Edible Garden. The Workshops consist of teaching how to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers and in the Autumn we are hoping to teach them how to cook good wholesome nourishing foods from the produce, using our local Homestart. We also run bespoke lessons people with disabilities including mental illness. "These lessons have given him confidence, brought out the best in his abilities and enabled him to access a wider range of clubs that he just couldn't face or enjoy before he came to Chorley in Bloom" is one of the many quotes we have had from carers.



**Chorley in Bloom Open Day**

To Celebrate National Vegetarian Week

**Tuesday 22nd May**

10am-2pm Tasting

At Community Edible Garden

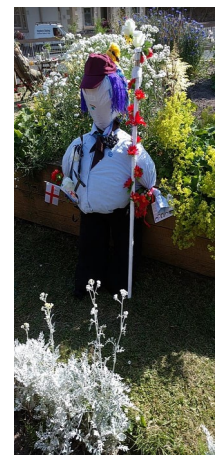
A6 near B & Q Chorley

Have FUN Everyone Welcome Have FUN

Learn how to plant fruit and vegetables  
Try new and different crops  
Learn how to take cuttings

**Scarecrow Competition** - Community Groups, Schools, Nurseries and Nursing Homes all had a great deal of fun making these scarecrows. It was so hard to pick the winners, but they all won prizes.

The Scarecrows are displayed in the Community Garden and have created lots of interest from the media.





## Chorley Train Station

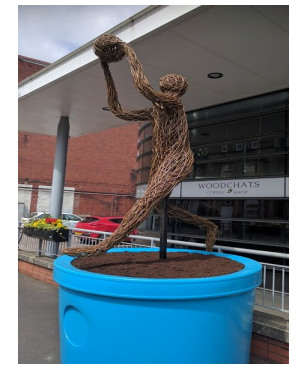
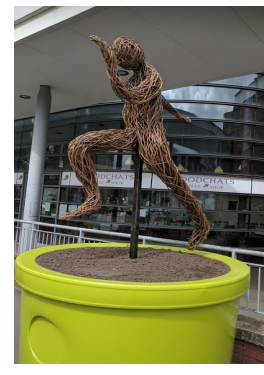
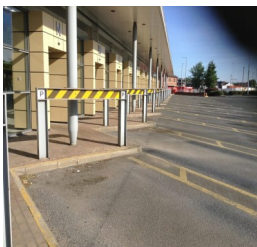
2017/18 and the Railway Station was undergoing a major restoration project by Network Rail.

We were extremely lucky to be awarded a grant to turn the bland and uninviting area into a floral delight for visitors and train passengers whilst recycling and encouraging wildlife.



## Chorley Bus Station

Thanks to a grant from Lancashire County Council, we have given Chorley Bus Station a makeover. It is hoped that this will encourage bus users to explore the town and see the difference the planting has made. The site is more cheerful and welcoming and enhances the new Youth Zone and the walkway into St. Georges Quarter.





# History and Art In the Landscape

## Chorley Pals

When War broke out in early August 1914 Captain James Milton from Chorley took steps to form a 'Pals' battalion in Chorley and district.

By the 3rd September, thirty men had signed up and they were eventually formed into a Company to join a newly raised battalion at Accrington. By the end of September the Chorley Pals Company as they

became known was up to full strength, with some 212 men and 3 Officers.

The Chorley Pals were held in reserve and would not see the front line trenches for a while yet.

However, as early as the 29th March 1916, the Pals were told they were to attack the small village of Serre, in the French Department of the Somme.

As a result of the attack on the morning of the 1st

July 1916, the Chorley Pals (Y Company) had 31 men killed and three died within a month of their wounds received on that day. 21 have no known graves their names are transcribed on the Thiepval memorial to the Missing on the Somme battlefield. This Garden of Remembrance was commissioned by the Chorley Pals Memorial charity

### Commemoration.

To celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Chorley Pals leaving the town to go to war, soldier willow figures have been incorporated in the floral displays adjacent to the memorial statue.

This year we have added a Wildflower area surrounding the Pals garden. The mix is prominently Cornflowers and Poppies.

The Cornflower is the flower for Chorley as seen on its crest

There is also an environmental factor of having the Wildflower

- : it helps to reduce our carbon footprint
- : introduces more ecological practices
- : brings wildlife back into the towns
- : adds value to the landscape and natural spaces



# Hartwood Roundabout

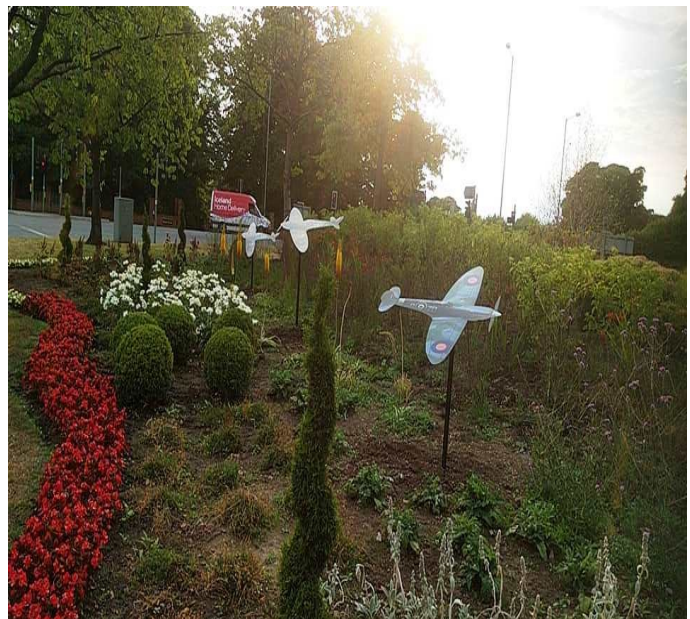
## Celebrating 100 years of the RAF

### Commemorate, Celebrate and Be Inspired

This year we wanted to celebrate the achievements of the RAF reaching 100 year's in service.

We chose an area that would be a focal point to people entering Chorley. So we chose the Hartwood roundabout.

The plants that has been chosen are Ornamental shrubs, colourful perennials and annual bedding. With all these combined with the Spitfire features it will definitely catch the public's attention as they go by.



This display will evolve in years to come just like the RAF





## Appealing to the senses

You'll see on your visit to our glorious Astley Park the result of a labour of love on the new Sensory Garden. This will delight your senses with its range of plants designed especially to heighten all the senses of smell, sound, touch, sight and taste.



We continue to update and restore the sensory garden



## Allotments

Chorley is working hard to find allotment plots in the borough because demand far outstrips supply with 420 people on the waiting list. This is being done by finding new allotment sites, splitting large plots and extending existing sites. There are eight existing allotment sites, two new sites are proposed and a planning application in to provide 30 plots at one of them. Also sites in Euxton, Adlington and Croston have been identified and allocated for allotment provision following a recent open space study done by the Council. The Council has set up an allotment



## Reed Bed

AN ambitious new scheme to create a reed bed in Astley Park to help improve the water quality of the River Chor which flows through the park and woodland.

The scheme has created a new river channel at the Park Road end of the park which diverts the existing river through a ¼ hectare of wet reed bed planted with *Typha augustifolia* and *Phragmites australis* both of which remove pollutants from the water.

This will in turn improve the biodiversity of the whole area through native woodland, wetland and meadow wildflower planting, tree planting and the installation of rock ramps which will enable fish to pass up and down the channel.



Planting of over 700 trees, native hedgerow and understory woodland planting, hundreds of wetland and woodland wildflower plants and millions of wildflower seeds in the meadow area and within the wetland edge by the Friends of Astley Park and Chorley Council. A new interpretation board has been installed which tells the story of the project and also illustrates the wildlife, plants, trees and flowers that live and thrive in this newly created wildlife area.







### Magic roundabouts

We've certainly more than our fair share of roundabouts on the roads of Chorley! So we thought, why not make them a feature of our 'In Bloom' entry?

So, the roundabouts on the town centre bypass have, where possible, a theme to celebrate and highlight the history of the town.

Help and advice was sought from the internationally renowned Professor Wood who designed the wildflower park for the Olympics in 2012 to ensure that we came up with a mix of wildflowers to give the best effect and most sustainable for the environment.

**Lyons Lane Roundabout** – Sir Henry Tate the sugar magnate hailed from Chorley so this roundabout celebrates his success. We've put a path in the middle of the roundabout, planted potted bamboos (for a sugar cane effect) and erected willow figures to look like they are cutting cane and the area has been sown with wildflower seed with a white bouquet.



**Commercial Rd Roundabout** – has a market theme as Chorley is a thriving market town and has been since the market was first established in 1498. We've put a path in and erected a family of willow figures and market barrows. We've planted summer bedding and wildflower seed with a ground cover mix.

**Bolton Road Roundabout** – this is the closest one to our local football club, which has played in the town for over 130 years to celebrate the History of Chorley Football club we've installed four willow football figures and planted summer bedding in the existing flower beds.



### Our other roundabouts are as follows:

**B&Q Roundabout** – wildflower seed with a ground cover mix.

**Harpers Lane Roundabout** – a wildflower area with orange and yellow bouquet.

**Shepherds Way Roundabout** – wildflower seed with a yellow bouquet.

**Brooke Street Roundabout** - wildflower seed with a ground cover mix.

**Stump Lane Roundabout** - wildflower seed with a ground cover mix.

**Union Street Roundabout** – The attractive herbaceous planting on this roundabout has been left as it is.

**Gillibrand Link Road Roundabouts** - there are four roundabouts along this road. These have had the shrubs removed on the roundabouts, rotavated the area and wildflower seeded the beds with ground cover mixes.



## Galloways for the Blind

Galloways continue to maintain the barge and beds on St. Thomas's Square, Chorley.



Changing winter bedding into the stunning summer bedding.



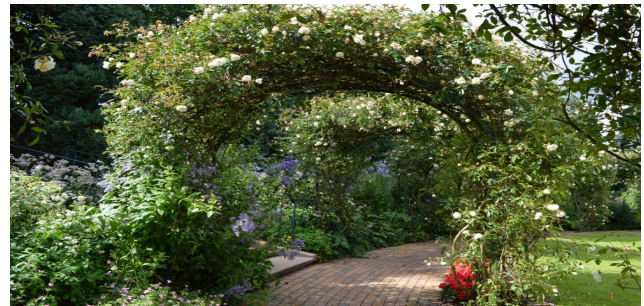
## Living Wall



## Working with members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Days Saints:



No one can miss the Preston Temple as they approach Chorley via the M61 at junction 8. It's the largest Mormon temple outside Utah and plays host to people from all over the world. We are really fortunate to have such great links with the Temple and as a result we regularly work with visiting groups of young people who travel to study at the Temple and take part in a service project as part of their Helping Hands initiative. .



The young people accompanied by leaders take part in litter picks, allotment spring cleans with allotment holders and community food growing/gardening projects





## Working with Chorley Schools

We are working with local primary, secondary and special schools to encourage pupils to take an active part in growing foods and looking after the environment. Pupils from Astley Park School (Special) have been helping us by growing some of the produce for our Edible Gardens in their polytunnel and the older pupils have transplanted them.



Today, 10G went to the Community Gardens in Chorley to learn how to plant seeds and transplant herbs. We taste tested foods that were made from fresh fruits and vegetables that had been grown and freshly cut from the garden. We enjoyed talking to the members of Chorley in Bloom and learning about the bug hotel and water recycling. We are looking forward to welcoming Chorley in Bloom into our school next half term.



8R enjoyed their visit to the community edible garden this week. We tried veg grown by Chorley in Bloom and was shown a very posh bug hotel. We found several different species of bugs and also learnt about home grown foods. As part of our visit we looked rapt what flowers attracts the wildlife so that we can plant our own back at school to welcome our bug critter friends of all kinds.

Thanks to a National Lottery Grant, we are now able to extend the workshops to more schools, families and community groups. Our focus will be Healthy Living and will include Growing, maintenance, harvesting and Plot to Pot cookery demonstrations. We shall also extend our support to schools needing help.

St. James Primary School Flower Show, showcasing five Chorley Schools artwork, designs and Produce grown by the pupils, Some fantastic garden designs and excellent produce.





## Community participation

### Best kept...

This year's annual competition for the Best Kept... promises to be bigger and better than ever. We've not only joined forces with Chorley and District Gardening Society and Birkacre Garden Centre in our **Best Kept Front Garden** competition, but we've also got our social housing partner Chorley Community Housing (CCH) on board; we've increased the value of the prizes and we've added an extra category to reflect community efforts.



As well as the Front Garden competitions, the following are also part of the competition:

**Best Kept Pub..** where we've joined forces with the Pub Watch to encourage pubs to brighten up their frontages with baskets and tubs, to find the floral display



**Best Kept Shop Front..** where we've involved Chorley Chamber of Trade and Chorley Traders' Alliance to find the town's best shop front floral display with two categories - independent shops or a national multiple.



## Still 'growing' strong

### Chorley and District Gardening Society.

This group which plays an important role in Chorley helping with planting around the town.. This year the society by supporting the Council at the Chorley Flower Show in Astley Park on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July.

With around 150 members, monthly meetings with a variety of speakers regularly attended by 70 people plus, an annual plant sale in spring and a flower show in late summer, the Society aims to cater for everyone in the area with an interest in any type of gardening.

A new website and Facebook page allows regular contact with the gardening community. Visitors are welcome at any of the meetings.



Each year the Chorley and District Gardening Society plants up barrels in Chorley Town Centre which offer a colourful display over the summer months that people in the town centre can enjoy.



# Chorley in Bloom Partners

## Authorities

Chorley Council  
Lancashire County Council

## Local groups

Extra volunteers from Inspire Youth Zone.  
Chorley & District Gardening Society  
Astley Walled Gardeners  
Friends of Astley Park  
Friends of Yarrow Valley Country Park  
Allotment Society  
Lancashire Wildlife Trust

## Other supporters

Chorley Community Housing (CCH)  
Chorley Chamber of Trade  
Chorley Traders' Alliance  
Pub Watch  
Chorley & South Ribble Disability Forum  
Galloways Society for the Blind  
Chorley & District Natural History Society  
Chorley FM  
Chorley Historical & Archaeological Society  
Chorley Heritage Support Group  
Spice Time Credits  
..and many individuals who have contributed to the Chorley in Bloom Partnership

## Businesses / Sponsors

Amberol  
Asda Supermarket  
B&Q DIY Store  
Birkacre Garden Centre  
Chris Livesey  
CC Kim Snape  
Chorley Building Society  
Everglades  
Eco Arts  
Glenroyde Nurseries  
Midstream  
Morrisons Supermarket  
NatWest Bank  
Neil Winfield  
National Lottery  
Pole Green Nurseries  
SM Sheet Metal  
Smart Image Workwear  
Smithtech Engineering Ltd  
Tesco Supermarket  
Woodpecker Garden Products  
Walker Oakfield

## Suppliers

Year after year – and this year is no exception – we get praise from members of the public, residents, visitors and people who work in Chorley for our Amazing hanging baskets, hay racks, lamp post baskets and long barrier and half circle planters.

This praise is really only to be expected considering the quality of the plants they contain and a lot of that is down to our fantastic suppliers.

Giving more than a helping hand **Midstream (West Lancs.)** is a social enterprise providing work for people with learning difficulties, physical disabilities and sensory impairment and horticulture is one of its core activities.



The whole focus of **Midstream** is to give these young people and adults the opportunity for progression and social interaction in their working life through the acquisition of skills, experience and accreditations towards nationally recognised qualifications according to their individual needs.



We've also had the help and support from local garden centres and nurseries with 100 planted hanging baskets from **Pole Green Nurseries**, plus plants supplied by **Birkacre Garden Centre** who we've also partnered with for the Best Kept Garden competition again this year.