

Four years ago I joined a friendly group called Hopton in Bloom and became a 'Bloomer'. We are the ones in high-vis jackets and gardening clothes seen around the village on Wednesday mornings. We laugh a lot, we talk a lot and we work a lot on all sorts of projects.

We start at 9.30am and work until 11.00am when we have coffee and cake (usually homemade) then we work again until lunchtime. Usually, there are 10 to 15 Bloomers around doing a range of jobs such as building things, planting, weeding and having bright ideas. A talented group - some know a lot about gardening, others such as myself, are learning fast. We have ups and downs like any gardener such as the time we planted hundreds of wallflowers which promptly died and recently the shelves in the phone box plant theatre collapsed just after we had filled them with auriculas.

Luckily, we have had more successes than failures. This year the Rose Garden circles and its new border have looked lovely. We have created new circle beds on the edge of the car park and the recreation ground is looking good. Around the village there are beautiful garden areas which are a credit to Hopton in Bloom volunteers including tubs, borders, around Hopton Drive and Avenue, Elmwood Close and the Club.

The highlight of our year is the Garden Trail when people open their gardens to visitors. The range of gardens is impressive, some are fancy others are simple but all are cared for by their owners who are very proud to open them.

At Christmas we publish a calendar with lovely pictures taken around the village and this helps us to raise money to provide for plants and equipment during the year.

It is fun being a volunteer and we welcome new members. To join us just turn up at Croft House on a Wednesday morning.

We have been entrants in Yorkshire in Bloom for several years and we gained a Gold award in 2012. In 2013 we again gained gold and also gold for best village. This means we are now entrants in Britain in Bloom 2014. As Yorkshire people would say this is champion and we are very proud to represent our area.

We hope you enjoy your day with us.

Best wishes from Lynne