

Hunton in Bloom 2024



Welcome to Hunton, a small rural village in lower Wensleydale equidistant from the market towns of Bedale, Leyburn and Richmond.

The village has a strong community who work together to create a thriving social scene and who enhance and maintain the village landscape, there is a Community Pub, Village Hall and Chapel with a variety of groups who hold weekly, monthly and annual events.



Contents

Pages

- 3 Introduction
- 4 Our Aims
- 5 Our Year so Far
- 6 Achievements and Plans
- 7 War Memorial
- 8 Conifer Lodge
- 9-10 Pinfold
- 11 Village signs and verges
- 12 Village Centre
- 13-16 New in 2023/24
 - 17 Environmental Responsibility
- 18-20 Our Community
- 21 Communication
- 22-23 Fundraising and Grants
- 24 Conclusion



Introduction



Hunton in Bloom vision:

“We aim to enhance the beauty of our village in a way that is in keeping with its rural setting. We will do this in a way that is sustainable, encourages biodiversity and engages with the whole community”

During the summer of 2022 the Hunton in Bloom group was set up and last year entered ‘It’s Your Neighbourhood’ where we were awarded Level 5 – Outstanding.

Our Steering Group is made up of a small core group of five, from right to left: Claire (Chair), Linda (Treasurer), Janet (Secretary), Maria and Jean who cover a variety roles.

We welcome all into the group and currently have a Wider Supporters Group of more than thirty local residents, they support us in a variety of ways by attending fundraising events, baking, donating raffle prizes, sharing plants and helping on volunteer work days.

Our steering group meets regularly throughout the year and we communicate plans and updates with the community through leaflets, facebook, emails and face to face.

Our Aims



Our aim is to develop areas of planting and enhance various locations, keeping them looking their best all year round. The planting designs are kept simple and easy to maintain while improving biodiversity by creating new habitats for birds, small mammals and invertebrates and ensuring a food supply for pollinators at times when flowers are scarce.



Key Design Points

- *Low maintenance plants to limit the need for watering and pruning.*
- *Evergreens to give year-round interest and provide a backdrop for other plants.*
- *Plants that thrive in their chosen area - right plant right place.*
- *Plants that flower and/or fruit in late autumn, winter and early spring.*



Our year so far

<i>Aug 23</i>	Planned our Donate a Daffodil initiative
<i>Sep 23</i>	4th - Donate a Daffodil launched. 11th - Steering Group mtg. 28th - Yorkshire in Bloom Results Day “ Outstanding ”.
<i>Oct 23</i>	7th - Hunton in Bloom celebration meal. 3rd/17th/22nd/23rd - Volunteer Work Events - planting 1,400 Daffodils around the village. 15th - HiB Newsletter delivered to every household.
<i>Nov 23</i>	6th - Steering Group mtg. 18th - Craft Fair fundraiser. 29th - Volunteer Work Event - Planted two memorial Crab Apple Trees.
<i>Dec 23</i>	15th - Making festive floral table decorations for the Seniors’ Christmas lunch. 28th - HiB Newsletter delivered to every household.
<i>Jan 24</i>	8th - Steering Group mtg. 12th - Volunteer Work Event - Planted 100 snowdrops and 50 aconites at the War Memorial. 13th - Coffee Morning in Village Hall - to share plans for the year and feedback for new project. 17th - Present ‘Green Acres Island’ plans to Parish Council.
<i>Feb 24</i>	19th - Steering Group mtg.
<i>Mar 24</i>	15th - Steam Rally donation presentation evening. 18th - Volunteer Work Event - Conifer Lodge, weeding & pruning. 25th - Steering Group mtg. 29th - HiB Newsletters delivered to every house in the village.
<i>Apr 24</i>	8th - Volunteer Work Event - pruning & planting new beds.
<i>May 24</i>	13th - Steering Group mtg Fundraising letter. Growing on Sunflowers for Hunton Bash. Wild flowers seeds sown on bus stop beds.
<i>Jun 24</i>	5th - Steering Group mtg.
<i>Jul 24</i>	7th - Woodland Open Day fundraiser including plant sale, tea and cakes. 23rd - **Judges visit**

Achievements and Plans

We focus our efforts into four main communal areas in the village and work hard to ensure they look good all year round. Evidence of our work is shared in the following pages.

War Memorial - Sited in an area of the village which was the former village green, with the Quoits pitch to one side and the area outside Conifer lodge to the other. We have taken a staged approach to improving these areas and completed the final stages this year.

Pinfold - A beautiful space on the Leyburn road, originally restored by the Parish Council in 2008. It has been planted and further developed and now provides a lovely place to stop for a rest and enjoy the view, perhaps on the daily dog walk. (Dogs not compulsory!)

Village signs & verges - The four main entrances into the village and verges were an obvious starting point for our group. Two now have a natural sedum roof above their stone bases, the other two along with all the verges have been planted with bulbs.

Village centre - Includes the village hall, the bus stop, playing fields, playpark and two triangles of grass (where the Fish & Chip van visits every other Wednesday). We have considered all these areas in our planing.

Future Plans - We intend to:

- ❖ Care for our planted areas ensuring they look good year round.
- ❖ Complete our major project of providing a reduced mobility bench with space alongside for a wheelchair, and sensory planting, in the area we call Green Acres Island.
- ❖ Continue to offer opportunities for volunteers to help with planting and maintaining the above community areas. Work alongside other village groups to help keep our village a welcoming and vibrant place to live.
- ❖ Implement QR codes for the Village Trail leaflet and War Memorial booklet so that these become more widely available and can be viewed electronically.

War Memorial



Before



Clay planters have been planted with dwarf Skimmia and variegated Ivy



Remembrance Day 2023 & D-Day 80th Anniversary



After

The War Memorial has been cleaned, relettered and planted. The borders each side were planted with Sweet Box, Erigeron and Primulas in 2023. Hellebores, daffodils, snowdrops, cyclamen and evergreen ferns have been added for year round interest.

The planting design was kept simple and more formal in the areas next to the War Memorial and becomes more informal as you move further away.



Beautiful knitted poppies are displayed on commemoration days, organised and displayed by Heather.

Conifer Lodge



Conifer Lodge sits to the left of the War Memorial. The essential removal of some large conifers had exposed some very overgrown shrubs and left tree stumps. We pruned the shrubs and cleared the area to allow for regular grass cutting.



New beds were prepared along the wall and planted with Primroses, Hellebores, Daffodils, Geraniums and Foxgloves, to echo the style of planting further along.



A stump planted with primroses & succulents.



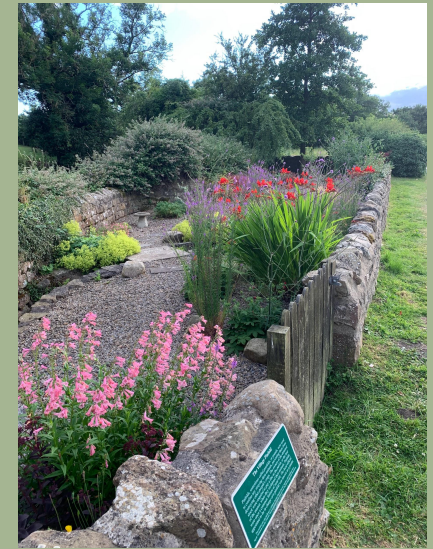
Flowering beautifully

Linda and Tim maintain the area together with Finlay, a young volunteer who lives nearby.

Pinfold



The Pinfold is a beautiful space in the village which is enjoyed by villagers and visitors alike. The bug hotel is teeming with wildlife. The area is maintained by Claire who has planted the area with low maintenance plants whilst considering which are the most attractive to pollinators. When watering is required water is used from the stream flowing through the Pinfold.



Sedum roofed store



Pinfold (cont.)



Plenty of food and shelter for the many birds who visit.



The bench is made from recycled plastic. It provides a lovely spot to sit and view the beautiful planting, listen to the beck and enjoy a moment of calm.



A nice grouping of penstemon, stachys, thyme and sedum enjoy the sunny spot by the gate.



Heuchera and hardy geranium make a good pair

Village signs and verges



The sedum roofs on the village entrance signs are still looking good, despite the attentions of a hungry horse on the Church Bank entrance sign, we hope to see further shoots of life here! A Donate a Daffodil initiative in September was a great success and a further 1,400 bulbs were planted on the verges around the village.

We thought all may be lost when a hungry horse was spotted reaching over to eat our lovely sedum roof. The horse was 'encouraged' away and we sought advice from the supplier. We have ensured the sedum doesn't dry out and have started to see signs of life.

Hunton in Bloom Donate a Daffodil



We will be planting more daffodils around the village in late September and will be in touch soon with locations and dates. Your help with planting will be very much appreciated.

In the meantime, if you would like to donate some bulbs, please place these in a donations box which is situated in the bus shelter - no later than **23rd September**.

Bulbs are currently readily available at garden centres or supermarkets. We're also happy to make use of any bulbs you intend to split from the garden. Simply put them into paper bags (if not daffs don't forget to write on the outside what they are) and pop them into the box.

Thank you



Spring colour 2024 on all the verges in the village thanks to donations of daffodil bulbs, and to the volunteers who planted them.



Village centre



New beds were prepared and planted in 2023



New noticeboard added & Bus Shelter painted



Daffodils for colour - March 2024



Village trail leaflets have been added to the Bus stop

The Village centre project continues with further improvements in 2023/24. The new beds constructed and planted in 2022/23 are well maintained and the plants are thriving. The lavender is enjoying its sunny position and filling out nicely with the aim of making low hedges either side of the path. Prior to the wildflowers being re-sown pots of daffodils provided spring colour to extend the season of the bus shelter beds. Ongoing maintenance to the bus shelter has kept it looking good and the additional notice board has been well used. The Village Trail leaflets have been produced and seem to be popular as the new leaflet box in the bus shelter has to be topped up regularly.



Plants are thriving



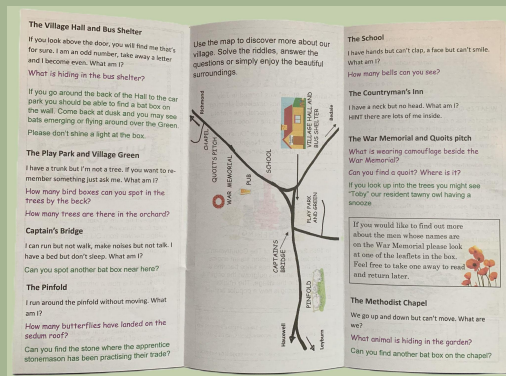
Beautiful Wildflowers fill the new beds either side of the Bus Shelter



New in 2023/24

Village Trail Leaflet

Written and produced by Claire (Chair), these leaflets provide residents and visitors alike with a fun, informative guide and map to the main areas in Hunton village.



Memorial Crab Apple Trees

With an accompanying plaque to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III

Planted in autumn 2023, when the weather was cooler and the soil was moist, the trees had the best start and bloomed beautifully in Spring.



Copies are kept in the new leaflet box in the bus shelter, in the pub and in holiday homes in the village.

We selected varieties in red (Red Sentinel) and yellow (Butterball) to provide a lovely contrast and interest when the crab apples are in fruit.

New in 2023/24 (cont.)

A New Volunteer

Finlay lives near to the War Memorial area and as part of his DofE Award he has volunteered to water, weed and mow this area and also sweep and tidy the memorial.



In the longer term he will also grow on seeds for cut flowers and construct a bug hotel. His help is much appreciated by the whole team.

Sunflower Competition

A fun way to bring some colour into the village.

In April we gave each house in the village three 'Giant' Sunflower seeds to grow on. Additional plants were also shared at the annual village get together in May.



Progress is being shared on our village residents Facebook page, both good and bad. Our local slug and rabbit population seem to be enjoying the competition!

We look forward to judging the tallest (or last Sunflower standing) in September.

New in 2023/24 (cont.)

Bat Boxes

Nicky Tucker, who has made a number of bird boxes for the village, has turned her hand to bat boxes. She has made 4 “Kent bat boxes” and met with North Yorkshire’s own “Batwoman” from the North Yorkshire Bat Club in order to find out where best to site them.

They can be found on the Village Hall, the Methodist Chapel, the School and one on a tree next to Captain's Bridge.



Recent sightings of bats using this box have been reported by a resident living nearby.



Spotter Sheets

These are shared with residents via the bus stop notice board.



War Memorial Booklet box

Providing a more visible home for a booklet produced by Mike on behalf of the History Group, which gives details about the men who are named on the memorial.



These were produced in 2014 but were kept somewhat hidden in the Village Hall.

New in 2023/24 (cont.)

Green Acres Island

Our current project is to provide an accessible bench with sensory planting on an area of land next to the Play Park.

We held a well attended launch event to involve residents and the Parish Council in our early planning. We gathered feedback in person and via a questionnaire, to seek opinions, and received overwhelming support for our ideas.



The bench selected is a mobility bench and has been designed with additional arms and a higher seat to make it easier for those with mobility issues to use.

There will also be space at the side for wheelchair users and/or children's buggies.



The planting will be low maintenance and include grasses for movement and lavender for colour and scent.

Shrubs/plants/bulbs will be included to provide interest at other times of the year.



Ideas for planting

The project has been funded through a grant from North Yorkshire County Council Locality Budget and donations from the H.E.A.D.S (Pantomime group), the Steam Gathering committee and local business Randall Orchard.

Environmental Responsibility

RESOURCES/RECYCLING

We considered how to reuse the resources we have in the village, and what we could add to make the environment better for ourselves and for the wildlife in the area. We reused soil donated by Sally and Shirley from their garden and manure donated by Mary from her horses. We planted perennials directly into the ground to save watering, and where we use compost it is peat free. Where we can we use water from the stream for watering nearby plants.



We introduced water butts, plant pot and seed tray recycling



We planted Sedum tops on road signs and the shelter in the Pinfold to attract birds and other wildlife to create a thriving eco-friendly habitat, also to aid air quality.



Before planting the Lavender outside the village hall we undertook a group visit to a Lavender farm to consider the best variety to grow to meet our aim of attracting pollinators.



Last year we put lots of bird boxes around the village and this year we have added bat boxes

Our Community

Many independent groups and individuals add to the rich fabric of the community

Village clubs & groups:

- ★ Garden group
- ★ Hunton Ladies Choir
- ★ Badminton
- ★ Carpet bowls
- ★ Table tennis
- ★ Pilates
- ★ Lace making
- ★ Line dancing
- ★ History group
- ★ Art group
- ★ Quoits team
- ★ Toddlers group
- ★ The Methodist Chapel

Hunton Parish Council - an active and supportive team of volunteers who have initiated many improvements for the community and look after much of the landscape of the village.

Village Hall – A voluntary run resource which hosts many of the village clubs and social activities.

Village events:

- Annual Pantomime
- Seniors Christmas lunch
- Annual Steam Gathering
- The Hunton Bash
- Christmas craft fair

Hunton in Bloom is one group amongst many groups and individuals in the village who all play their part in contributing to our outstanding community.

The Wildlife/Wildflower group
A group of three who planted and care for all of the wildflower areas on the Village Green and Play Park.

Individuals - who give their time to projects to improve the village such as litter picking, bridge building, weeding, building bird and bat boxes, social media updates and the village work day. Also baking, photography and knitting poppies..

The Countryman's Inn our community owned pub – weekly coffee mornings, weekly games night, monthly quiz, family quiz nights during school holidays, Children's Christmas films, music nights and much more.

The Hunton in Bloom steering group
supported by a wider group of more than thirty friends and neighbours who contribute in many different ways.

Our Community (cont.)



BEFORE



AFTER



Commissioned and funded by the Parish Council the footbridge linking both sides of the play area was replaced by volunteers with specialist skills and machinery, assisted by engineering apprentices.



DURING CONSTRUCTION



The Seniors Christmas Lunch is organised and run by the Village Hall Committee and the community pub and supported by individuals and groups within the village including the Ladies Choir, and Hunton in Bloom



Our Community (cont.)

Wildlife areas

Wendy, Jan and Steve came together with the purpose of creating an undisturbed wildlife friendly feeding and breeding opportunity for a range of animals and birds, to protect trees, to create a wildlife corridor by allowing natural cover to grow along the beck sides and in two large areas of mown grass.



Since creating these areas, a duck has nested below Phase 2, and we've seen frogs and toads in both wild areas. Bumblebees, butterflies and other pollinators are commonly seen on the plants and blackbirds, thrushes, dunnocks and wrens find live food in dry times particularly



Phase 1, an area by Captain's Bridge, was scalped, turf-banked, planted with homegrown primrose plugs and sown with an annual mix, including yellow rattle.



Phase 2, on the south east side of the village amenity area, was originally planned for more annual wildflowers so sowed a range of annuals. However, the shade from a sycamore tree, as well as a small oak tree, which was taken into this area to avoid strimmer damage, meant we have adapted planting with shade loving perennials and spring and autumn bulbs, English bluebells under the trees, plus cowslips and primroses. We have also planted excess campion, daisy and yellow flag iris along and in the beck margins to create cover, and added what will become a bank of cowslips, primroses and Farndale species daffodils, along the north east approach to the ford.

Communication

We communicate in a variety of ways to make sure everyone knows what we are working on and has opportunity to give feedback.

Hunton in Bloom updates
March 2024

GREENACRES ISLAND PROJECT An accessible bench has now been ordered. It will be paid for with a grant from the North Yorkshire Local Authority and a generous donation from the Stream Gathering Committee, thank you. Thanks must also go to Steve Akred for volunteering to fetch it in his van, saving us £120. The bench has a slightly raised seat and armrests to make it easier to sit down and, more importantly, get up again. It is made from recycled plastic and so, should be easy to maintain.

A big thank you to the Countryman's Inn and their quiz-goers for their wonderful donation of £187 from the Pub Quiz.

Bet boxes Nicky Tucker, who has made a number of bird boxes for the village, has turned her hand to bet boxes. She has made 4 "kenn bet boxes" and has met with North Yorkshire's own "Betwoman" from the North Yorkshire Bet Club in order to find out where best to site them. ...they will be going up soon.

Have you ever wondered about the lives of the men whose names appear on the War Memorial? In December 2014 the village History Group researched and published a booklet which detailed the lives of these men. There were a number of spare copies of the book in the Village Hall which will now be housed in a box near the Memorial. The booklets may be taken away to read but we would be grateful if they could be returned to the box once finished with since members are limited. If you would like to purchase one, please let us know.

COMMEMORATIVE TREES A plaque has now been erected by the two crab apple trees on the village green. These were planted to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III. Thanks to GSC Gray and Hunton Parish Council for their sponsorship.

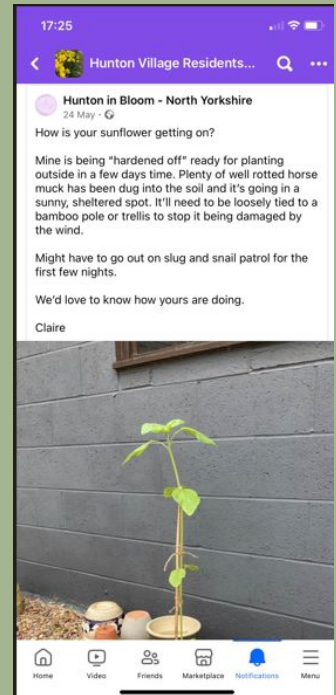
The Open Gardens event planned for 31st June has been cancelled. Unfortunately, there weren't enough gardeners to make it a viable event. However, a number of people told us that they may be in a position to open in the future so we may revisit the idea next year.

The Village Trail is now up and running. This is designed to lead you round the village to some of its key landmarks as well as the planting sites maintained by Hunton in Bloom. It is suitable for all ages, with some routes to solve and things to spot as you walk round. There are copies in the bus shelter and the path for anyone to pick up.....something to entertain your visitors'! Leaflets may be returned to the box in the bus shelter if you do not wish to keep them. If you have a folder left in the village and would like some please let us know by emailing huntoninbloom@gmail.com

SUNFLOWER GROWING COMPETITION This one suggested by some of our supporters, it sounds fun so we hope lots of you will join in. We have attached an envelope with a few seeds to this newsletter. The seeds are best sown in April into small pots of compost or soil and then transplanted into the ground in a nice sunny spot. If you don't have any pots available, please help yourself from the plant pot recycling bank at the eastern end of the Village Hall. **NO TREES TO NOW FALL - NO MORE DONATIONS REQUIRED.** Judging will take place in September...date to be confirmed. No need to tell us you're entering at this stage, just get growing. If you don't wish to take part, please pass your seeds on to someone else or pop them into the village hall box in the bus shelter.

RHS YORKSHIRE IN BLOOM We have entered the Small Village/Hamlet category. We hope you'll join us in showcasing our village in the best possible light. Judging will take place in July, we won't know exactly when until nearer the time.

- **HiB Facebook page** used to post events, information and updates to our Hunton Residents group FB site or wider.
- **Leaflet** updates posted to each home in the village approx 4 times per year.
- **Parish Council Website** - a page under the Community tab at Huntonpc.org
- **Bus stop notice board**
- **Flyers** for events, posted to each home.
- **Email** - huntoninbloom@gmail.com - send regular emails to our wider supporters group who have asked to be kept informed via email.
- **Face to Face** - at open events or in passing whilst out gardening!



Hunton in Bloom
Coffee Morning
Village Hall - Saturday 19th January 10am to 12pm

Join us for Coffee & Cake and find out about our plans for the village in 2024, including:

- Hunton's entry into the RHS Village in Bloom 2024.
- Our proposal for a new accessible seating area on Wild Hill Lane near the entrance to Green Acres. We would like to hear people's views on this project particularly those living close by.
- Our new Village Trail, a leaflet will be available to take away.
- Hunton Open Gardens - 30th June 2024.

Please send us an email huntoninbloom@gmail.com for further information.

Fundraising and Grants

Funding has been secured from local councillor Tom Jones, through the Locality Fund and the North Yorkshire Community Grant, towards the work to be carried out on the Green Acres project, an accessible bench has been purchased and work is to commence this July.



Janet receiving a donation from Hunton Steam Gathering on behalf of Hunton in Bloom



Hunton Steam Gathering was founded in 1985. The first rally was established to raise funds for the development of the land that now forms the village green and playpark in the centre of Hunton. The show has continued to raise a great deal of money over the years and has made donations of over one hundred thousand pounds to local charities, including more recently Hunton in Bloom.

To celebrate the coronation of King Charles III local estate agent GSC Grays kindly made a donation for the purchase of a commemorative tree



In 2023 we had a stall at the village Craft Fair and sold many items with a garden/wildlife theme, all made and donated by members of our community to raise funds.

HEADS

(Hunton Extremely Amateur Dramatic Society) Kindly made a donation to Hunton in Bloom. As well as the annual village panto the society sing carols around the village every Christmas.

Randall Orchard Construction have gained planning permission for the construction of new housing in the village and have kindly made a donation to our Greenacres Accessible Bench Project

Hunton in Bloom held a Coffee Morning in January to introduce our plans for the year and gain feedback on our Accessible Bench project. Further to a leaflet drop to every house in the village it was a well attended event and generous donations for drinks and cakes helped our funds.



Hunton Parish Council continue to support the work of Hunton in Bloom and have donated to several projects, and replaced or repaired various items such as the gate post in the Pinfold.

The Hunton in Bloom team assisted by some of the wider supporters group spent an enjoyable evening together making table centres for the Seniors Christmas lunch, who, to show their appreciation, made a donation to the group.

Fundraising and Grants (cont.)

Claire and Gareth generously open up their woodland to the village to raise funds for the Woodland Trust and Hunton in Bloom. Teas, coffee and cakes are sold along with plants donated by individuals and the Hunton Garden Group.



Hunton Ladies Choir came along to sing and entertain the guests who attended the Open Day



Plant sale



Conclusion

We have had another busy and enjoyable year 'In Bloom' working together and with our community to bring colour and interest throughout the village. We have also encouraged volunteering to help keep our shared spaces well cared for.

Highlights from our Hunton in Bloom year include involving the community and bringing 'yellow' to the village with 1,400 Daffodils and the Sunflowers we hope to see peeking over walls in late summer. Also we're very grateful for the grants and many donations of time, bulbs, cakes and money, which have all supported our funds and enabled us all to enjoy our village in bloom.

Finally, it has been lovely to complete the development of the War Memorial and surrounding area this year. Working together with the Parish Council and local residents this area has been transformed from an overgrown space to a lighter place which brings the memorial to the fore.

