



# 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 Locality Budget and a generous donation from the Steam 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.

**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 has met with North Yorkshire's own "Batwoman" from the North Yorkshire Bat 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 numbers 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 Grays and Hunton Parish Council for their sponsorship.

The **Open Gardens** event planned for 30th June has been **cancelled**. Unfortunately, there weren't enough gardens 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 this 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 riddles to solve and things to spot as you walk round. There are copies in the bus shelter and the pub 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 holiday let in the village and would like some please let us know by emailing [huntoninbloom@gmail.com](mailto:huntoninbloom@gmail.com)

**SUNFLOWER GROWING COMPETITION** This was 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. **NB THIS IS NOW FULL - NO MORE DONATIONS NEEDED.**

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 trail 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.