

2023



CHIPPING  
*in* BLOOM



[www.chippinginbloom.co.uk](http://www.chippinginbloom.co.uk)

# Introduction

Situated in the shadow of the Bowland Fells, there has been a settlement on the site of Chipping for around a thousand years. The village flourished industrially when the water power of the district was fully developed and there is still evidence of two waterwheels in the village. Chipping has seen various industries over the years, these have included iron and brass foundries, cotton and corn mills, cheese making and furniture production.

Today, many farms continue to provide employment. Shops, pubs, cafes, hotel and a caravan park are some of the other enterprises around Chipping. The beautiful location, three churches, two primary schools, excellent village hall and numerous community groups make Chipping a great place to live and work. Chipping is currently going through a period of significant change with house building, holiday lets, and empty properties awaiting redevelopment.

## 2023 GROUP MEMBERS:

Helen Lear - Chair  
Irena Preston - Treasurer  
Maureen Priestley  
Ken Preston  
Steven Bamford  
Pam O'Hara  
Jane Tattersall  
Jean Church-Taylor  
Alison Kerry  
Trudy Chandor  
Jeff Culshaw  
Jill Skelton  
Susan Whitehead  
Anne Lythgoe  
Mary Hall



Chipping in Bloom began in February 2008 with the aim of involving the whole community to enhance local day to day life, business, tourism and the environment. Since then, we have, quite literally seen the community 'blossom'! Many people are involved in Chipping in Bloom - whether that's by being 'hands on' with building or planting, fundraising, helping on community days or simply repurposing, everyone plays a part.

The Action Group membership has changed over the years, but those who comprise the group remain dedicated to that first aim. Each member brings a different talent and we are fortunate to have a wide range of skills and gardening knowledge within the team. Many of our meetings see us actively working in and around the village raising our profile and visibility.

# Notable Events & Achievements

## MAJOR AWARDS

2008	North West in Bloom GOLD
2009	North West in Bloom GOLD Britain in Bloom GOLD
2010	North West in Bloom GOLD
2011	North West in Bloom GOLD
2012	North West in Bloom GOLD Britain in Bloom SILVER GILT Lord Mayor's Award for Diversity
2013	<i>No entry to North west in Bloom due to changes in our group</i>
2014	North West in Bloom SILVER GILT
2015	North West in Bloom SILVER GILT
2016	North West in Bloom GOLD North West in Bloom ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AWARD
2017	North West in Bloom GOLD
2018	North West in Bloom GOLD Britain in Bloom SILVER GILT
2019	North West in Bloom GOLD
2020	<i>No competition due to Coronavirus pandemic</i> North West in Bloom CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION
2021	North west in Bloom GOLD
2022	North west in Bloom GOLD & BEST VILLAGE winner 'Lancashire Best Kept Village' winner and Best Public Garden

## Improvements Made

- Continued the REVIEW, RENEW AND REVIVE campaign throughout the village and further strengthened efforts to REDUCE & RECYCLE in all activities.
  - Developed a winter garden along with a record of plants to demonstrate diversity of plant species and value to wildlife.
  - Received training in Willow weaving and willow management, and used the skills gained in our activities.
  - Increased the range of wildlife habitats and use of biological controls around the village
  - Extended the growing area in the allotment and piloted cultivation of a range of crops. Registered with 'Good to Grow'.
  - Launched the 'Chipping in Bloom' website with links to QR codes.
  - Created an interpretation board in the Wildlife Garden to increase educational awareness.
  - Joined with Chipping Parish Council to organise the 'Big Help Out' community event to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.
  - Engaged with our community, volunteers and partners through active involvement in various events, use of social media and themed gardening initiatives.
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# Horticultural Achievement

## A1 Overall impression

Several areas of horticultural interest are spread around the village which create impact and make Chipping a beautiful place to visit. These include the War Memorial, St Mary's Community Wildlife Garden and Peace Garden, St Bartholomew's Church, Village Hall, Entrance stone, and the Wishing Well area. We use natural materials and plants to reflect Chipping's countryside setting where possible. Community planting themes bring different areas of the village together, as well as encouraging residents and businesses to get involved.



The village green is central to Chipping and provides visual interest as well as a source of nectar and pollen throughout the year. This is provided by the Bee and Butterfly Bed, 'Purple for Polio' crocuses, snowdrops planted as a sign of remembrance, a stunning display of daffodils, and a growing selection of trees. To mark the coronation of King Charles III a donated stone trough was added to the Platinum Jubilee stone in the 'Bee and Butterfly bed'. This stone was provided by the Parish Council and funded through a grant. Seasonal floral displays have been added to complement the feature.



## A2 Maintenance of planted areas

To keep planted areas in good condition we follow a cycle of **REVIEW, RENEW, REVIVE**, throughout the village.

The Bee and Butterfly bed has seen considerable rejuvenation in recent years and it has now developed into a mature shrub bed. We have recently set up a working group to map the area and create a design and maintenance plan for the future. We recognise that this is a considerable task but necessary to maximise its biodiversity.



Following our Willow training session in January we have used the skills and knowledge gained to pollard our willow tree, harvest willow, and maintain and shape the willow hide in the Wildlife Garden.



Mangers and planters are watered and fed on a rota basis, rain water is provided from several water butts around the village. We have a maintenance plan for the wildlife garden, and the mini-hay meadow is scythed at the end of the summer by a volunteer.

## A3 Plant Selection

We are increasingly aware of the benefits to wildlife provided by year round sources of nectar and pollen and strive to include this in floral displays through increased use of perennials, as well as increasing the diversity of plant species.

The Winter Garden was established in the autumn of 2022 to increase the diversity of habitat and to provide year-round interest for wildlife as well as visitors. The planting includes hardy shrubs, herbaceous perennials and bulbs, and has been chosen to provide a source of winter nectar for insects from the flowers of plants like Mahonia, Rosemary and Winter Aconite. Grasses, Phlomis and Pyracantha produce edible seeds and berries, and the denser shrubs like Japanese Quince, Viburnum and Camellia provide possible bird nesting sites. There is also underplanting with important natives like Wood Anemones and Snowdrops.



#### A4 Plant quality

We strive to keep plants in our displays healthy and looking their best through our maintenance schedule. If plants are not thriving despite our best efforts we seek advice and take appropriate action. The Cornus and Acer trees have responded well to the addition of mulch and improved protection from mowing following advice from Myerscough College. The Malus Sylvestris planted to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II now has similar protection.

Conifers at St Mary's Community Hall entrance had become overgrown and planters waterlogged due to flooding so the plants were not thriving and needed to be removed. New perennial planting has been added and the area smartened to create a pleasant area, ideal for the 'Chipping Chat Club' and other community groups to relax in.



## Environmental Responsibility

#### B1 Local Identity & Pride of Place

St Mary's Community Wildlife Garden is a valued area in the village. With the help of funding from The Forest of Bowland AONB and others a specially designed interpretation board is being created. This includes a site plan with details of the biodiversity and development of the area. QR codes have been added to enable access to more detailed information on the Chipping in Bloom website.

We are very proud of the Chipping in Bloom stone which commemorates the Britain in Bloom Gold Award in 2009. Sponsored by the Steam Fair, it forms an iconic landmark at the entrance to the village. The floral display consists of spring bulbs and honeysuckle, as well as summer bedding.

Chipping in Bloom continue to work with the parish council, local authority and developers to maintain and improve the appearance of the village raising issues such as grass cutting and dog fouling. To make better use of an area of the village green old broken benches were removed and replaced with a new picnic table. This is made from recycled materials and is accessible to wheelchair users making the area more inclusive.



## B2 Natural Environment

St Mary's Community wildlife garden was set up in 2012 and provides a peaceful wildlife haven. It's used increasingly by individuals and families, schools and community groups, as well as visitors to the village providing a beautiful place of 'calm' in challenging times. The area has been redesigned to make best use of the site condition and incorporates mixed wildflower planting, woodland, pond, butterfly zone, herb bed and various types of wildlife habitats. Working with specialists from the Forest of Bowland AONB on various initiatives we have gained knowledge and skills to collect seed, grow plug plants and scythe our mini-haymeadow. The recent creation of a Winter Garden in this area provides for wildlife at a time of the year when other areas are less productive.

We are now achieving our aim of increasing the variety of wildflowers and pollinator friendly plants providing year round sources of nectar and pollen, as well as providing various homes for wildlife. This has informed our practice in other areas of the village including the Bee and Butterfly Bed on the village green, and the recent addition of a Moon Garden to attract moths. We have begun to assess how effective this is in attracting wildlife and participated in the 'Big Butterfly Count' in 2022. It will be interesting to compare results for 2023.



## B3 Environmental Management

The Lancashire County Council Biodiversity Grant which the Parish Council applied for on our behalf has been very useful in enabling us to increase use of biological controls. Ladybird nematodes have been placed at the War Memorial, the Village Green as well as in the Wildlife Garden. Several bug boxes made using recycled materials are placed around the village. Additional bird boxes have been placed around the village.

Additional veg beds have been created at the allotment using donated wood, and the increased growing area used to trial a variety of crops alongside companion planting. The greenhouse is used for overwintering plants, raising cuttings and growing plants from seeds. Our peat-free compost is made from raw materials and plant food made using comfrey and nettles grown in the Wildlife Garden.



# Community Participation

## C1 Year round activity and future commitments

The 'Chipping in Bloom' group have been involved in several planned events throughout the year. A stall at the Village Christmas Fair selling plants and hand-made crafts, made using recycled materials and foliage from the garden.



A coffee morning held in the spring, with plant sale, seed swap and 'Pop-up garden shop' selling garden inspired items and planted arrangements made by the group



The 'Big Help Out' Community volunteer day and barbecue for the Coronation of King Charles III. This was planned jointly with the Parish Council and was attended by around 40 volunteers who helped to tidy the village with litter-picking, sweeping and weeding.





Our community planting theme 'Jewels', inspired by the bright colours in the Coronation Crown and invitation. This has resulted in colourful displays popping up around the village!



# Future Aspirations

- Continue to **REVIEW, RENEW, REVIVE, REDUCE AND REPURPOSE** throughout the village and our activities.
- Rejuvenate the Bee and Butterfly bed -develop a record of plants to demonstrate diversity of species and value to wildlife, together with a maintenance plan.
- Continue to increase wildlife habitats and assess the effectiveness of our interventions.
- Update our practice and policies in line with current advice from RHS.
- Continue to replace and update signage.
- Evaluate and consider best use of the allotment to benefit the community.
- Rejuvenate the bus stop beds and Increase year round sources of pollen and nectar.
- Hold a themed community project in the summer and continue our involvement in community events and volunteer days

## C2 Communication, education and awareness

The Chipping in Bloom website was launched in April 2023 giving details of the work of volunteers, and areas around the village. It's QR codes link to the Wildlife Garden and has the potential to extend to other areas in the future.

Chipping in Bloom' has its own Facebook page to share news and ideas, promote our fundraising, community events, and to inspire the community in gardening initiatives. We also make use of the village Facebook page and our noticeboard situated on the main street.

Young people are the custodians for the future so we involve them in our activities whenever we can. Children from the two village schools assisted in sowing the annual wildflower nectar patch, and harvesting and drying the seed ready for reuse. The children also helped to plant the summer displays at the War Memorial. Both schools have their own gardens and encourage children and the wider school community to become involved in a range of growing activities



### C3 Support and funding

Thank you to our Sponsors, Partners and Supporters.

- ALL VOLUNTEERS for giving their time and effort
  - ALL WHO DONATED PLANTS FOR OUR PLANT SALE
  - AVJ DESIGN for designing and printing our portfolio. Also for advice and design of the Interpretation Board
  - PAT BARLOW and FRIEND for scything the haymeadow
  - THE FLETCHER FAMILY for care of the triangle bed
  - BOWLAND WITH LEAGRAM PARISH COUNCIL for monies for the upkeep of the War Memorial
  - BRABIN'S SCHOOL for helping with seed sowing
  - CHIPPING HISTORY SOCIETY for loan of tables
  - CHIPPING PARISH COUNCIL for donation
  - REGINA and PETER COLES for gardening around the village
  - CAROL EDMUNDSON, FOREST OF BOWLAND A.O.N.B. for seeds and plug plants for the haymeadow. Also for providing the lectern, printing and invaluable advice for our Interpretation Board
  - DAVID URIE for care of the War Memorial
  - BARBARA GREEN, CHIPPING PARISH COUNCIL for her support and donation
  - MARY and DAVID HALL & TEAM for creation and care of the St Mary's Peace Garden and St Mary's School garden developments
  - SO PLANTS for donating plants for the Queens funeral display
  - ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH for permission to hang the mangers on the church walls
  - ST MARY'S CHURCH for generously loaning the land for the Community Wildlife Garden, allotment and shed
  - ST MARY'S COMMUNITY HALL for providing us with a home
  - ST MARY'S SCHOOL for helping with seed collection
  - MAGS WOODS for planting St Bartholomew's barrels
  - Fr JOHN for general maintenance
  - JIM HOLDEN for wishing well maintenance
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Lovingly dedicated to the memory of

## **Brenda Glasgow**

a valued member of our team who  
passed away March 2023.