



CHIPPING
in BLOOM

2026



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 has seen various industries in its history including water-powered mills. Today, many farms continue to provide employment. Shops, pubs, cafes, 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. Although Chipping is currently seeing significant change it remains a vibrant community with a population of 723.

Chipping in Bloom began in February 2008, in an effort to keep the village connected when the local businesses, including the chair factory, closed their doors. It aims to work with the whole community to enhance local day to day life, business, tourism and the environment. We are extremely grateful to the huge numbers of residents and friends who have helped our community to 'blossom!'

People moving into the village have found Chipping in Bloom a great way to get involved in village life and grow friendships. Each group member, many of them also linked to other organisations, 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.



This year the group members are

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Helen Lear - Chair | Jean Church-Taylor |
| Irena Preston - Treasurer | Jill Skelton |
| Ken Preston | Susan Whitehead |
| Maureen Priestley | Anne Lythgoe |
| Pam Tomlinson | Mary Hall |
| Jane Tattersall | Paula Incerti |



Review of the Year 2026

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| JULY | Chipping appeared on NW Tonight 25 in 25 following filming in June
Hedgehog boxes arrived, placed in wildlife garden and on village green |
| AUGUST | Outline plan for the year ahead created |
| SEPTEMBER | Haymeadow scythed by volunteers Pat and Ted
Review of Bus Stop beds |
| OCTOBER | Group outing to RHS Bridgewater
Hosted 'Women in Farming' exhibition at St Mary's hall
Seed collection with Brabins Primary School children
Hyacinth and Paper white narcissus planted in pots for coffee morning sale
Plug plants added to haymeadow patch-Ragged Robin, Betony and Grea Burnet (Donated by Forest of Bowland National Landscape)
Allotment area cleared and tidied |
| NOVEMBER | North west in Bloom presentation attended - GOLD award and Best Village award
Preparations for coffee morning - made grave pots, split plants to sell
Coffee morning, plant sale and seed swap
Haymeadow raked and additional Yellow Rattle seed added |
| DECEMBER | Grave pot orders completed and distributed
Christmas festival at ST Bartholomew's Church-our 'Blooming Angel' exhibit created |
| JANUARY | Greenhouse windows repaired
Pernicious weeds and grass removed from haymeadow and seed added
Repairs made to large bug hotel
Shopping list created ready for funding bids |
| FEBRUARY | Greenhouse cleaned ready for use
Tete-a-tete plants added to Bee and Butterfly Bed
Coffee morning preparation-Mother's day floral creations, pots and baskets planted |
| MARCH | Coffee morning, plant sale and seed swap. Klingsharp tool sharpening available
Bus stop beds - pruned
Bee and Butterfly Bed pruned, new bulbs and plants added to refresh planting
Logs in Butterfly Zone replaced - cut from fallen tree. Old logs used in stumpery area
Allotment area tidied and raised beds repaired
St Mary's Community Wildlife Garden risk assessment carried out
Plug plants added to streamside - Goat's Beard, Meadowsweet and Melancholy Thistle, Wild Angelica, Hemp Agrimony (Donated by Forest of Bowland National Landscape) |
| APRIL | Seeds sown for allotment and displays
Village community planting theme agreed 'Bringing Nature Home'
Annual wildflower patch prepared ready for sowing
Seed sowing wildflower nectar patch with children from St Mary's School
Plug plants added to streamside with help from children
Buddleias in all areas pruned and Butterfly Zone edged
Bus stop Beds weeded, pruned and dead perennials removed.
Last Chat Club of the season all invited to join group after gardening
Constitution and supporting guidelines formally adopted by the group |
| MAY | Resources purchased to create 'Volunteer Kit' for use on Community Help Out days
Posters for Community Theme and 'Big Help Out' developed and circulated
Waterbutt on village green repaired ready for use
Bark mulch added to village green and bus stop beds
Broken planters replaced at entrance to St Mary's
Plant stall set up with Honesty Box
Planning for Winnie the Pooh event
Mangers installed. Watering rota started
Sunflower and Verbena Bonariensis seed started to grow as bird feeders on Bee and Butterfly Bed |
| JUNE | 6th June Community Help Out Day -Thank you and list of achievements shared
Renewed planting of herbs in Nature's Helpers Bed
Old planters removed from Farm Shop area in preparation for replacement
Visit to Gardeners' World live with Grimsargh Gardening Club |
| JULY | New planters purchased and planted up at Farm Shop
Preparations for judging |



Notable Events And Achievements

Chipping was thrilled to be presented with a 'Britain in Bloom' GOLD award in 2024 and this was followed up in 2025 with Gold and Best Village awards in North West in Bloom. Since 2008, Chipping has been awarded a total of 17 Gold Medals and 3 Silver Gilt in these competitions. A full list is available at www.chippinginbloom.co.uk/aboutus

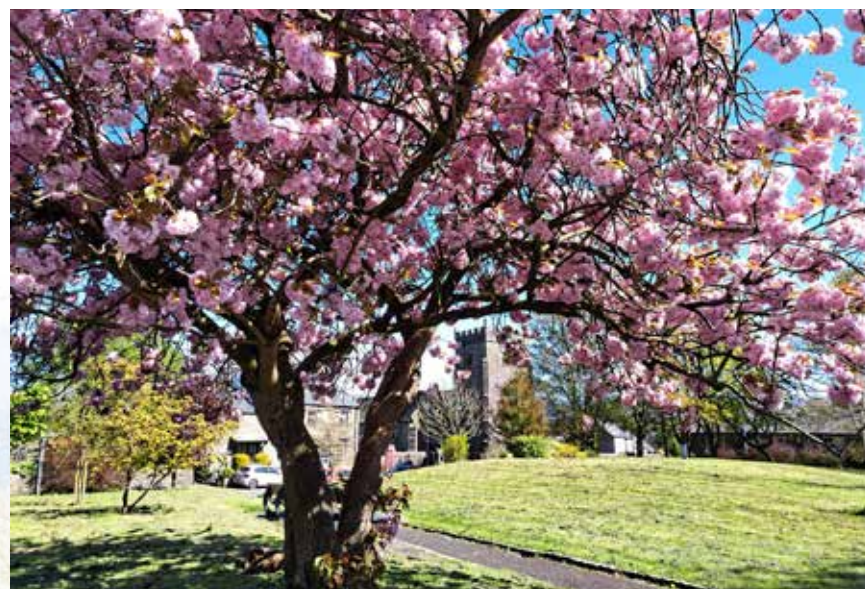
Horticultural achievement

A1 Overall Impression

Our guiding principles are 'REVIEW, RENEW, REVIVE, REDUCE AND REPURPOSE' and every year Chipping in Bloom aims to bring new interest for residents and visitors including setting an annual theme for planting in the village. Everyone is encouraged to get involved and this has resulted in many colourful and interesting displays.

The village green is central to Chipping and has visual interest as well as a source of nectar and pollen throughout the year. This is provided by the Bee and Butterfly Bed featuring the Jubilee Stone, 'Purple for Polio' crocuses, snowdrops planted as a sign of peace and remembrance and a stunning display of daffodils.

www.chippinginbloom.co.uk/villagegreen



Several areas of horticultural interest are spread around the village which create impact making 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, Bus Stop Beds, Entrance stones, and the Wishing Well area. We use natural materials and plants to reflect Chipping's countryside setting where possible.



A2 Maintenance of Planted Areas

To keep planted areas in good condition we follow a cycle of **REVIEW, RENEW, REVIVE**, throughout the village, and a job list is produced each month. We have developed various maintenance skills from training with outside agencies, for example pruning and willow management, and these techniques are shared within the team.

Each group member now oversees a specific area within the village so that they can ensure it is always kept in good condition and alert the team when action is needed.



We have a maintenance plan for the wildlife garden, and the mini-haymeadow is scythed at the end of the summer by volunteers.

A3 Plant Selection

When choosing plants we consider the location and growing conditions, as well as the seasonal interest it provides. We are increasingly aware of the benefits to wildlife provided by year round sources of nectar and pollen and strive to include this in our floral displays through use of a diverse range of pollinator friendly plants.

The Bee and Butterfly Bed is now flourishing following a major rejuvenation project. A plant list has been developed identifying flowering period, colour and wildlife value, this enables us to fill any seasonal gaps and to make best use of the space. A diary of maintenance work is being kept to inform future planning.





A similar project to rejuvenate the Bus Stop Beds is now in its second year and significant pruning and clearing has been ongoing. The benefits have been evident with healthier plants and increased flowering. More seasonal planting will be added throughout the year to create a nectar corridor and to provide visual and wildlife interest



A4 Plant Quality

We strive to keep plants in our displays healthy and looking their best through our maintenance schedule and creating the right environment. Mangers and planters are watered, fed and deadheaded on a rota basis, and any problems addressed as they arise.

Our local nursery who specialise in hardy, locally grown perennials are invaluable friends to us and they are always happy to give advice on providing the best growing conditions, care and maintenance taking into account the climate of Chipping. If plants are not thriving despite our best efforts we seek advice and take appropriate action.



Environmental Responsibility

B1 Local Identity & Pride of Place

We strive to instil a sense of pride in the village through example, and by holding 'Love your Village' and 'Big Help Out' community events and we now have our own 'Volunteer Kit'. Increasingly we are seeing local residents taking action to improve communal open spaces around them. This includes the creation of a Secret Garden, and a display of planted wheelbarrows. New replacement wooden planters have been installed at the entrance to St Mary's Church. Our successful bid for a Voluntary Organisations Grant awarded by Ribble Valley in Bloom will allow us to replace and plant up the wooden planters by the Farm Shop.

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, tree health, dog fouling, and provision of green bins.

St Mary's Community Wildlife Garden is a valued area in the village and has been used for church, school and art events. A specially designed interpretation board includes a site plan with details of the biodiversity and development of the area. QR codes linking it to the Chipping in Bloom website www.chippinginbloom.co.uk enable access to more detailed information.



B2 Natural Environment

Biodiversity is a key aim throughout the village. Wildlife is encouraged via pollinator friendly planting, and a range of habitats including bug hotels, bird homes, a dead hedge and a moon garden to attract night pollinators. Bird and bat boxes, provided by RSPB have been positioned in the Community Wildlife Garden, Brabins School, and around the village. Hedgehog homes have also been installed.

The village community theme 'Bringing Nature Home', linking in to the RHS theme for 2026, will hopefully extend this practice into the gardens of residents and businesses.

St Mary's Community wildlife garden was set up in 2012 and provides a peaceful wildlife haven for all to enjoy. www.chippinginbloom.co.uk/stmaryscommunitywildlifegarden The Annual Nectar Patch, Mini-meadow, Nature's Helpers Bed and Butterfly Zone attract pollinators in summer whilst the Winter Garden provides for wildlife at a time of the year when other areas are less productive.

The recent addition of a stumpery, along with a selection of plug plants to the Mini-meadow and streamside areas will further increase biodiversity.



Working with specialists from the 'Forest of Bowland National Landscape' we have gained knowledge and skills to collect seed and grow plug plants. Training on plant identification and participation in meadow surveys has enabled us to survey our own hay meadow patch. We have already observed success in attracting wildlife and participate annually in the 'Big Butterfly Count'. A monthly record is now kept of birds identified using the Merlin birdsong app.

B3 Environmental Management

A significant increase in ladybirds has been noted since the installation of lodges at three sites across the village. These were provided via the Lancashire County Council Biodiversity Grant and they help to control pests biologically.

Rainwater is captured using several water butts around the village, and a beech hedge is planted alongside a path by St Mary's graveyard to help alleviate flooding. We strive to garden organically, our peat-free compost is made from raw materials and plant food is made using comfrey and nettles grown in the Wildlife Garden. Our community theme 'Bringing Nature Home' encourages similar good practice, and Help Out days lead to the whole community engaging in hand weeding

The greenhouse is used for overwintering plants, raising cuttings and growing plants from seed. Plant pots have been repurposed in our plant sales and for making grave pots and planted arrangements.



Community Participation

C1 Year Round Activity and Future Commitments

Throughout the year the 'Chipping in Bloom' group plan activities and events to keep the community interested and involved. This year has included:

- Autumn coffee morning selling plants, hand-made crafts made using recycled materials and foliage from the garden, as well as grave pots and winter arrangements.



- 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. People attending were also able to have their garden tools sharpened at 'Kingsharp mobile sharpener'



- Plant sale with Honesty box at various times throughout the year.

- 'The Big Help Out' Community volunteer day held in June with refreshments provided by the Parish Council. Volunteers helped to tidy the village with litter-picking, pruning, sweeping and weeding.



- Community planting theme 'Bringing Nature Home' linking to the RHS theme for 2026

- A teddy bears picnic to celebrate 100 years of 'Winnie the Pooh' is planned for the summer. This was inspired by our group visit to RHS Bridgewater.



C2 Communication, Education and Awareness

The Chipping in Bloom constitution and supporting guidelines have been updated and formally adopted by the group. These are in line with current advice from the RHS enabling group members, including new recruits, to have a shared understanding. Risk assessments are also being developed. Details of the work of volunteers can be found on our website which was launched in April 2023. www.chippinginbloom.co.uk/community The News page and monthly review keeps the website relevant and interesting, and the website is linked via QR code to the Wildlife Garden. Chipping in Bloom' also has its own Facebook page and Noticeboard, updated monthly, to share news and ideas, and promote our fundraising and community events making it inclusive to all. We also make use of the village Facebook page, Parish Magazines, and noticeboards at the churches and village hall.



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. They have also helped with planting at the War Memorial and along the streamside in the Wildlife Garden. Both schools have their own gardens and encourage children and the wider school community to become involved in a range of growing, environmental and Forest School activities.

C3 Support and Funding

Chipping in Bloom is built on a strong foundation of friendship. We exist through our own fundraising and through local support and donations. A big thank you goes to everyone who has helped us over the last year.

- ALL VOLUNTEERS for giving their time and effort
- ALL WHO DONATED PLANTS FOR OUR PLANT SALE
- AVJ DESIGN for designing and printing our portfolio
- PAT BARLOW and TED for scything the hay meadow
- BOWLAND WITH LEAGRAM PARISH COUNCIL for monies for the upkeep of the War Memorial
- BRABIN'S SCHOOL for helping with annual wild flower seed collection
- ANN BROWN for the Secret Garden
- MARTIN and BARBARA BUTTERS for donations
- CHIPPING PARISH COUNCIL for donation and provided refreshment at the Help Out Day
- REGINA and PETER COLES for gardening around the village
- WENDY ETCHHELLS for the wheelbarrow display
- CAROL EDMUNDSON, FOREST OF BOWLAND NATIONAL LANDSCAPE for donation of plug plants
- The FLETCHER FAMILY for planting and care of the triangle bed
- BARBARA GREEN, CHIPPING PARISH COUNCIL for her support and donation
- GWEN GRIFFIN for donation
- MARY and DAVID HALL for St Mary's Peace Garden
- MARY HALL, WENDY ETCHHELLS and JUNE EVANS for St Mary's School garden
- EMMA and GARY HELM for donation
- HELP OUT DAY supporters, and everyone who fed and watered them
- JANE AND GARETH MITCHELL for continued village maintenance
- The O'HARA FAMILY for donation in memory of our friend MICHAEL O'HARA
- RIBBLE VALLEY IN BLOOM for Voluntary Organisation Grant
- PHIL SMITH for help in maintaining the bus stop beds
- SO PLANTS for continued support in sourcing our plants
- 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 wildflower project, allotment and shed
- ST MARY'S COMMUNITY HALL for providing us with a home
- ST MARY'S SCHOOL for helping with annual wild flower seed sowing and plug planting
- JOHN and EUNICE SHARD for donation
- PAM TOMLIN for donation
- MICHELLE UNWIN of SO PLANTS for planting advice, suggestion and encouragement
- DAVID URIE and ANDY CHURCH TAYLOR for care of the War Memorial

Future Aspirations

- Carry out wildlife observations and surveys to assess the effectiveness of our interventions and inform future plans
- Replace and update signage and information linking in with St Mary's Church
- Add seasonal, pollinator friendly plants to the Bus Stop Beds to create a nectar corridor
- Create a tribute for passed members of Chipping in Bloom
- Hold a themed community event in the summer
- Create a 'Nature Library' to promote community interest and engagement

Bringing Nature Home

