

HALTON GARDENING GROUP

What have we been doing this year?

The Plant Sale on 19th May

A big thank you and congratulations to everyone who helped in any way, especially to all who came and supported us by buying or donating plants. The sale was more successful than we had dared to hope as it clashed with the League Football Final and a Royal Wedding. We had a huge variety of plants on sale, both decorative and edible. The Cumbria Hardy Plants Society also took a stall, which was good for them and provided a different range of plants. A detailed post-mortem has highlighted how we can do even better next time.

Gardening around the village.

This year we have been very proactive and have been greatly helped by the valuable support of the Parish Council. They removed old planters so we could replace them with something more manageable. A new planter, that had been bought with the help of the Lune Hydro Trust and established near the bus stop opposite the Top Shops, looked so lovely it was decided to try and purchase some more – one near the shops and two at the Centre.

We asked for permission to redesign the Top of the Ginnel bed to put in a raised bed. Many people helped with this project. Special thanks must go to Hayley Auty and her husband for ordering the wood and getting it into place and to Warren Cadman of Wrenman Homes for topsoil. We were lucky to be able to plant it with City Council red and white geraniums that had been grown for the RAF 100th Anniversary. This has now been replanted with spring plants and bulbs.

We have been starting to work on the Wild Flower area on the slope between the football field and the playground. The school was eager to participate as part of their environmental programme. We made visits to the school and the children came down and planted wild flower seeds from Kew Gardens. The school logo has just been sent to us so we can order the notices for the wild flower area.

A new planter by the lower bus stop has been created by Pete Lambson and planted up. It brightens a dull corner.

Following discussion Warren Cadman of Wrenman Homes offered to build an excellent new Halton sign incorporating raised beds. This is very striking and should be easier to manage than planting at ground level and will be safe from the effect of dogs and over enthusiastic mowing of the verge.

The bed on the entrance to Lythe Fell Avenue has been improved by pruning the pampas grass and the rose, and has been planted with a variety of bright plants and spring bulbs.

We have also worked hard on the Burial Ground, the Memorial Garden and the slope in front of the Centre. Thanks to everyone who has given their time to any of these areas. Our next project should be redesigning the slope so that it is safer for our members to care for.

We would love it if more people were able to have fun gardening with us so that we could do even more for the village. You are welcome to join us whatever your knowledge and interest in gardening.

We meet in the upstairs Foyer at the Centre at 9.30 -11.30am on the 3rd Tuesday of every month (except holiday time in August, in December when everyone is too busy, and in January when nothing much is growing). Contact Ann Wilson on 811684 if you want to know more about us.