

STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL
NIB SUMMER PORTFOLIO 2024



Environment, Education & Conservation

Northumbria in Bloom has enabled Stanley to create the gift that keeps giving to our community year after year!

Stanley Town Council have included lots of detail in the Spring Portfolio telling you what we have been trying to achieve for Northumbria in Bloom 2024, hopefully giving you an understanding of what we are about. Our aim for the summer portfolio is to provide you with various visual images, rather than lots and lots of text to read. It's impossible to include everything, so hopefully with the pictures presented they will tell you the story. What's the saying

“A Picture tells a thousand words “



“Bloom creates Identity and sense of Place”



Morrison Busy Roundabout Project



The above photo (Top two photos) is a new 2024 project situated to the side of Morrison busy roundabout Stanley. The coal truck has been refurbished to a minimum to promote its heritage and to tie in with our coal trucks heritage theme that are strategically placed around Stanley in prominent locations. The smelter bucket (formerly from Consett steel works) will now have a permanent home. Sustainable shrubs create a fitting backdrop for the sitting area for the public. Giving it a real sense of heritage. We look forward to this site maturing over time.

Creating new life and vibrance into areas for improvement



The A693 is a main road into Stanley town centre. It was agreed that additional colour was required to further enhance this gateway area. Self-watering barrier planters have been fitted to the highway barriers as an additional project for 2024. The planters will be a permanent display feature each year.

Police Station's



The neighbourhood policing team in Stanley have been active in Northumbria in bloom for the past two years. Entering the IYN section of the national competition. The officers maintain and water the station area under community engagement and are dedicated to Stanley in bloom and recognise the importance. Sgt Terry Archbold keeps them on their toes! The Sgt and officers are active with the community and local schools in Stanley in bloom.

The police are always looking for new ideas to enhance the community station and this summer have planted up police helmet hanging baskets. We wish them good luck for (IYN) this year. The wild-flora meadow provides colour to the car park.



Gateway features Stanley Town Council area

We have several gateway features in the Stanley area (examples below) they have been planted up



with sustainable shrubs and summer flowering herbaceous plants. Summer bedding has been planted as additional colour as the shrubs mature.



The wedding cars (above right) gateway feature in Craghead has been planted up with sustainable plants. The owners of chapel wedding cars maintain the feature and cuts the grass around his home.....“Community engagement at its best”.



Annfield plain park

Stanley Town Council continue to oversee the former coal truck that was damaged by a vehicle on Morrison busy roundabout. The refurbished coal truck has been planted with sustainable plants and some summer bedding fillers to enhance the feature. The display takes pride of place in the green flag park.



Bloemfontein memorial stone feature Craghead

The former Durham County Council shrub bed taken over by Stanley Town Council has been developed over the past years into a gateway feature for Craghead. Sustainable shrubs and herbaceous plants now cover the feature which is admired by all.



The below photo is a closeup of the small bed at Bloemfontein to prevent cars parking on the grass area. The new bed was requested by the school following a spring bulb planting session at the site by the children. Sustainable planting was picked especially.



Stanley Allotments & In Bloom “making the most of opportunity”

Stanley Town Council in the last few months have taken over the Allotment Service in Stanley, this consists of over 50% of the entire allotments within County Durham. As you can imagine this is a massive task.

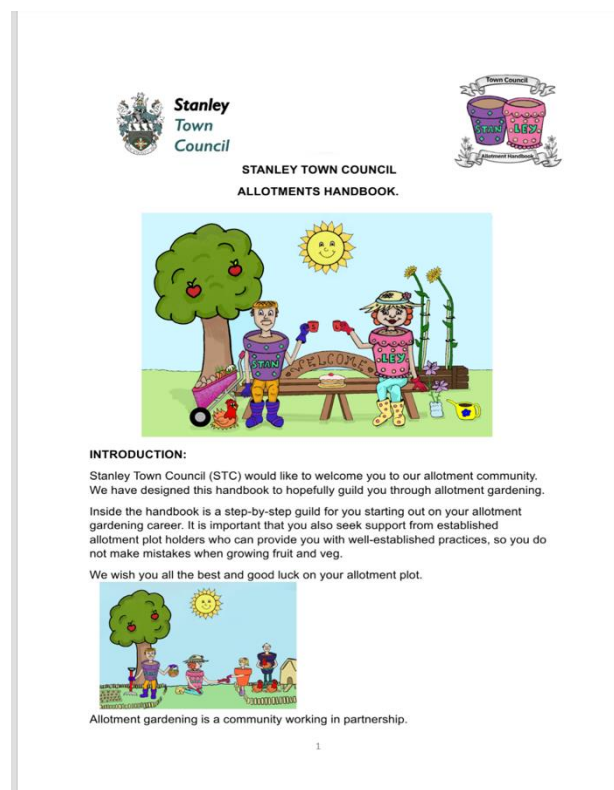
However, we have started engaging with the various sites to create community gardens within the various site grounds. This would mean 31 community



gardens created throughout Stanley to provide education for growing, not just fruit and veg but also flowers and blooms and promote the benefits of gardening outside together.

An allotment handbook following the adoption of the new service is being developed.

The handbook which will be issued for all new allotment plot holders and is a step-by-step guide for starting off your allotment plot career. The cartoons are designed to make the process fun and links with healthy living, exercise, and community engagement through allotment gardening and creating in Bloom.



Stanley Green Corridor:

The green corridor feature was a project that has seen multiple art features installed in the Stanley area back in the 1980s.

Stanley Town Council took over the features in 2019 and added them to the maintenance programme. Trees, bushes and vegetation have been pruned and shaped at the different sites to open up the artwork visually and sustainable plants have been planted to adore the gateway features.



Clough Dene Gateway Feature

The gateway feature was installed by Stanley Town Council to promote



train industry. Mr Matthew Kirtley the 1st Superintendent of midland railway was born in Stanley and the plaque is to recognise his achievements in the train industry.

Little acorns Southmoor

One of the self-watering planters on Park Road Southmoor has been delivered to the little acorn's nursery. The children have planted up the planter and are looking after the flowers daily. The staff are delighted that the children have all shown an interest in their own garden at the nursery. The future of Stanley in bloom.



The Louisa Centre Front Street



The Louisa centre nursery have planted up the wall area to the sports centre for the past few years. Last year sustainable plants were planted to reduce the amount of spring and summer bedding planted. This year only a small amount of colour has been planted for additional colour.

Southmoor Memorial Park

The bespoke metal trough planters on the entrance gates to the park have been a huge success with the public who visit the park. Spring and summer bedding adorn the entrance and add colour to the memorial displays by armed forces veterans.



Louisa memorial Stone Front Street



The site has now been planted with sustainable shrubs and summer flowering herbaceous plants. Summer bedding has been added to the feature for additional colour while the sustainable plants mature.

The memorial stone was saved from a local closed Stanley church yard and is now situated in Stanley. A memorial service is held yearly to honour men and boys who lost their lives in the pit disaster.

Craghead Miners lamp Feature



Following the adoption of the miner's lamp feature at Craghead in Stanley the town council have now planted up the site with sustainable plants. The feature is unique (miners' lamp) and promotes the mining heritage in the Stanley area from the past years. A favourite feature for the residents, which has been further enhanced with summer bedding.



Craghead Miner's Feature

The miner was installed the same time as the miner's lamp, which is approximately a quarter of a mile away. The public always comment on the smell from the lavender that we have introduced to the site.



PACT House in Front Street



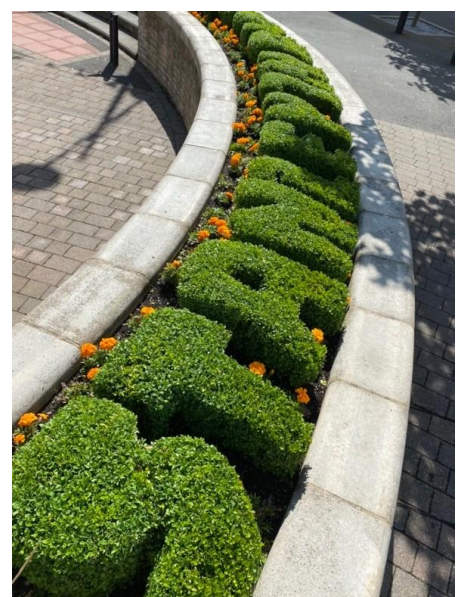
PACT House Stanley is situated on front street Stanley in the town centre. The community hub is very popular with residents and community groups. The hub has been active with Northumbria in bloom and keep Britain tidy for several years. The staff and volunteers carry out regular litter picking events, plant and maintain the tubs at the building and assist with other partners under Stanley in bloom.

St Josephs RC School bed in front street

The school have been very active in Northumbria in bloom over the past years. Entering for the first time in 2019 and were awarded GOLD. The school continue to support Stanley in bloom. The school still maintains and plants the bed on front street next to the school yard. The school also ordered 420 free woodland trust trees this year and the application was approved 04/07/2024 for planting schemes in the Stanley town council area. The children attend the tree planting events under climate change.



Buxus Hedging front Street Stanley



This Stanley in bloom feature was installed back in 2017 by volunteers from the haven community centre in Southmoor Stanley. Stanley Town Council have taken over the feature. The design was originally planted flat, over the past two years the hedging has been reshaped to an angle so it can be read from the pavement. Residents always comment on how lovely the feature is.

The Greenhouse Greencroft Industrial Park



The greenhouse is the new base of operations for Stanley Town Council (STC). The management from the business complex has agreed that STC will carry out the ground's maintenance to the

greenhouse. Preparations are underway ahead of the Northumbria in bloom 2024 summer judges visit on Friday 19th July 2024.

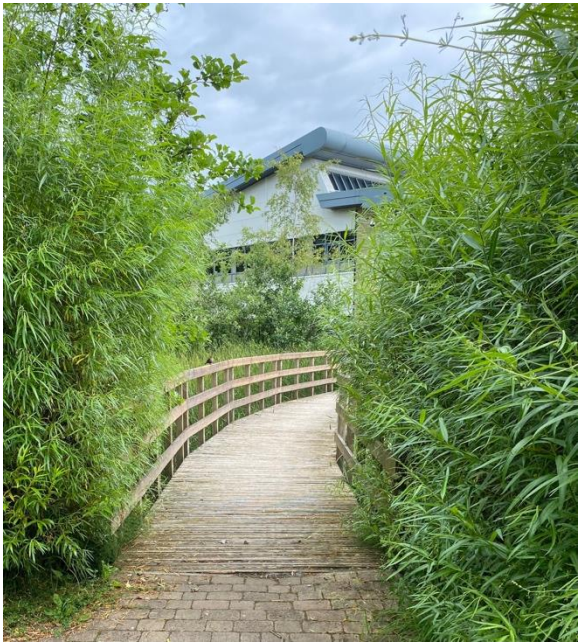
One of the improvements to the greenhouse has been the transformation of the old red storage container. Management have handed the container over to STC who have transformed the container which will be used for teaching classes for horticulture, creating an education site.



“We hope that this project really takes hold of the vision we we have for giving support to our our community and especially the ones that it will benefit the most”

“educating Youth and supporting mental Health”







“Pond Walk at the Green house”



“Contemplation Time”



“Purpose Selected plants to attract Bees & Butterflies”





**Hollie Hill Care
Home South
Stanley:**

Example of One of our (IYN) partners who support Stanley in bloom. Allison pictured with her certificate for attending the STC blooming good fun event. She is also looking to start an NVQ level two in horticulture, which shows her commitment and dedication to the environment.



Sustainable plants:

Pictured is one of the van loads of sustainable plants for the Stanley Town Council beds within the seven wards. The gateway feature barrels have been replaced with new one's last year. The old barrels have been refurbished and handed over to our partners so they can carry out various projects. The spring bedding has been reduced by 70% due to the planting of the sustainable plants, which is a considerable reduction.

Stanley town council have also encouraged all 44 partners that sustainable planting is the way forward when it comes to Northumbria in bloom and helps the reduction in future maintenance. STC support the partners daily and are actively involved in their projects which support Stanley in bloom. It is plain to see the pride in their work in the Stanley area, long may it continue, especially with the young children.



Litter Picking at St Andrews Church Stanley

Litter picking events carry on in the Stanley area throughout the year, not just the spring cleanup event. Children from St Josephs RC School, litter pick the cemeteries and church yards in the Stanley area. These are good areas for WILL who is disabled and can only pick up litter from the



footpaths. This enables him to attend a school litter picking event with his school friends and classmates.



North Durham Academy Stanley:

North Durham academy is one of our partners in Stanley in bloom. The academy is currently developing a sensory garden inside the building. The garden will be a place for the students to relax and concentrate on their studies. Once the garden has been completed the academy will enter Northumbria in bloom in your neighbourhood (IYN) category of the national competition. The established planting to the front of the academy is always well maintained and looks amazing.



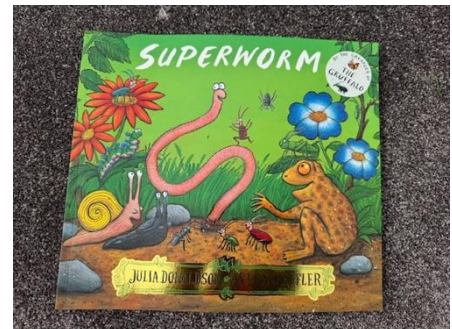
Oxhill nursery school Stanley



Judges met with the Nursery in the Spring Visit. This visit has just spurred them on even more and they are going from strength to strength. We are confident that the nursery will be part of the specials submission in 2025.

The wear rivers trust (WRT) education team have attended the school to promote wildlife in the wild-flora meadow next to the school. Three classes were arranged

with the head teachers. Two teachers from the (WRT) presented a story (super worm) to the children before looking for wildlife in the meadow. The children loved the mornings events. The collected insects will be used for an official survey report on the wild-flora meadow biodiversity.



James (Environment services manager) from Stanley Town Council said;

“This picture encapsulates what being part of in bloom can really achieve..... community/education/environment/in Bloom”

“By far my favourite for 2024 NIB in Stanley”

Annfield plain cricket club Stanley

The Leader of the Council has been working with the cricket club for Stanley in bloom. The club entered (IYN) in the national competition last year 2023. As part of the improvements for the Annfield plain area, funding was acquired for an additional eleven half barrel wooden tubs with shrubs. The cricket club have entered (IYN) this year and additional volunteers have joined their in-bloom activities.



One of the residents who works for a house clearing business has saved trees, shrubs, and some flowers from the tip. The items have been used at the cricket club car park and outside his home.

A new composting area has been made improving a grot-spot from the cricket club grounds.



The probation service carries out painting and grounds works at the ground with the full approval from the management committee.

Pictured is the tubs and shrubs for the eleven new planters.

The cricket club entering Northumbria in bloom has inspired the local community and customers who attend the club to volunteer and tidy up the Annfield plain and Stanley area with several events. Litter picking, fund raising events and support for projects have brought a sense of pride back to the area.

Tourism, Heritage and in Bloom

The Tanfield Railway being the oldest surviving operational railway with an impressive single arch bridge situated in Stanley. The Tanfield Railway Team paired up with Stanley Town Council in last year's NIB and really impressed the judges.

The intention for 2024 NIB was to go all out, to ensure it became one of Stanley in Bloom Specials.

In Bloom intertwined with Tourism and heritage has certainly complimented one another and now becoming one of the proudest achievements of Stanley in Bloom to date. A real showstopper!

A fab example of altogether better..... This year the Tanfield railway team dug out an original metal coal bucket

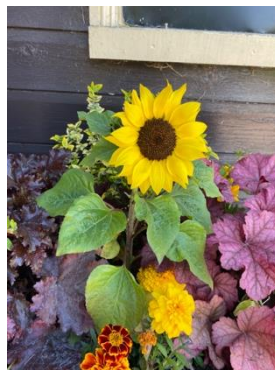
from the archives store and the Town Council helped to make it a feature for all to admire on entry to the site. With the aid of in bloom giving it a new lease of life.

Further In Bloom enhancements to the platform have been introduced, providing the wow factor for all that visit. The Tanfield Railway Management and team of volunteers show enthusiasm and commitment that is really an example to us all.



“NOW THAT’S A BLOOMING GOOD PLATFORM FOR **NIB**”





Events



The Town Council focus various events at the centre point of our front street where our beacon of light is situated. We have used this community point to show off various in bloom displays every year. Again this is a great way for Stanley in Bloom to enhance the various community activities that bring people together. Examples for 2024 were the unveiling of our D-Day memorial and the Armed Forces Day. Our in bloom displays complimented these events very well.



“Cadet & Vetran parade”

“Old & New”

Site of Special Scientific Interest



Stanley in Bloom are now proud partners with the Rangers of Durham County Council. They have shown great interest in our Northumbria in Bloom Success and are committed to working with us and using in bloom as a fantastic way to educate the residents of Stanley about many of its Special scientific sites of interest. *“ANOTHER IN BLOOM SUCCESS STORY”*

NIB "WE ARE PROUD OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS"



**Stanley
Town
Council**





