



**Best Kept Village Competition**  
**Haughton 2014**  
*and*  
**Haughton in Bloom**  
*Newsletter*  
**March**



**Launch Meeting**

The Launch Meeting for our joint entries into the Best Kept Village Competition and Heart of England in Bloom was held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at the Village Hall. Councillor Derek Warbrick, leader of the campaigns, gave an overview of this year's initiatives, including the 'Growing for Gold' theme, the Garden Competition, our popular Tidy-ups, Grassy Lane improvements and new planting in the churchyard. Key dates were given, problems were discussed and volunteers were asked to support by adopting an area, growing golden plants for pollinators and by joining a working party when time allows. The evening finished with discussions and plan-making over tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits.

**Yes, it's a dandelion!**

Pollinators love them and perhaps we need to try to love them, too... or at least wait until the last moment before we chop their golden heads off!

**Best Kept Garden Competition**

The Garden Competition, organised and sponsored by Haughton and District Garden Guild, will be held again this year. If you live within the 30 mph limit your garden and hanging baskets (including trough baskets fixed to a wall) will be entered automatically. Prizes will be awarded in August, following independent judging. *(Further details next month)*

Just a reminder – the RHS Britain in Bloom theme for 2014 is *Growing for Gold*



**Tidy-ups are here again**

This year, during our regular tidy-ups, we will be attempting to separate the waste we collect, so that we can recycle as much as possible, rather than put it into the general waste. We will have teams looking for litter, which will be collected in separate bags for depositing into the appropriate bin, and teams to collect leaves, twigs, weeds, dead-heads and other green waste. In addition, those who enjoy sweeping or disinfecting will be able to continue to do so - it really is a case of come along and do what suits you. Some like to get down and dusty and some like thick gloves and the long arm of their litter-picking tool. Whichever you prefer, you will be made welcome and can be sure that you will make a difference.

Litter-grabbers, tabards and bags are provided, but feel free to bring any tools of your own.

**April dates - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

**Meet at the Village Hall car park at 6.30pm**

**Grassy Lane and Brook Clearance**

During March, volunteers have been working on improvements to the Grassy Lane. Fallen branches have been removed from the banks and the brook, overhanging branches and brambles have been cut back and the holly trimmed. The area will be left to naturalize this year. As this happens, we would like to identify and record as many plants, birds, mammals and invertebrates that live there. Sightings and photographs can be sent to Haughton Webmaster at the address below.

**Civic Amenity  
Van Visit**

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

Village Hall Car Park

**9.00 - 10.00 am**



To help in the campaigns please contact any member of the Parish Council

Further information on Haughton's BKV and Bloom campaigns, past and present, can be found at [www.haughton-staffs.org.uk](http://www.haughton-staffs.org.uk)