

Lynne Mee

Direct line 01423 556022

Communications and Media Manager Direct fax 01423 561154 not 24 hrs

24 hour fax “ 556010
Mobile 07884 226409

Email lynne.mee@harrogate.gov.uk

www.harrogate.gov.uk

pr1084.fourth Green Flag for Ripon Spa Gardens.doc DATE: 4 December 2004

photo opportunity – see below

FOURTH GREEN FLAG FOR RIPON SPA GARDENS

GARDENERS from Harrogate Borough Council's Parks' Team and members of Ripon Spa Gardens' Forum are celebrating their fourth Green Flag Award.

The Green Flag judges look for parks and open spaces which have a high quality landscape; are welcoming, safe, clean and well maintained. They also look for those which are sustainable and also involve the local community.

In their first entry in 2001 Ripon Spa Gardens took the only Green Flag awarded in the whole of Yorkshire and Humberside and in 2002 they were the only winners in North Yorkshire.

This year, the judges said: "...The park is maintained to a high standard, all developments are completed in the original style of the park and there is good evidence of community involvement."

Councillor Pat Jones, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Amenity Services, said: "Our success in these awards clearly shows the high quality of these wonderful Gardens. And to take a fourth Green Flag demonstrates the council's continuing commitment to provide the best possible public garden for the people of Ripon and its many visitors.

"And to show it, our gardeners and the very many volunteers who work with us are going to 'blow their own trumpet' floral style. Next year, as well as flying the Flag, we are going to make sure that their success is firmly 'embedded' in the Gardens. Ripon's most historic treasure – the City's Horn – will be depicted in one of the Garden's flowerbeds ready to bloom in June. It will be bedded out with Cineraria, Begonia and Marigolds. We hope many people will continue to get pleasure from the Gardens, which may only be small but they are much loved by local people and visitors alike." ENDS

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: 1.15 pm on Wednesday, 8 December in Ripon Spa Gardens when members of the Ripon Girlguiding Division – who have taken a great interest in the gardens from producing bird boxes to developing a garden trail – will be invited to 'hoist the Green Flag'. The photograph of the floral design for the City Horn flowerbed will also be on show and Cllr Stuart Martin, Ripon City Mayor and the Hornblower will be on hand to compare it to the real thing.

NOTE TO EDITORS: The Green Flag Awards scheme is run by the Civic Trust on behalf of a group of respected environmental organisations. The Civic Trust promotes and inspires progressive improvements in the quality of urban life for everyone. One of the Trust's core activities is to promote excellence by setting high standards of design, sustainability and community involvement and recognising the very best through a range of awards.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Pat Jones is available for comment on 01423 872466. Further technical information is available from Mr Patrick Kilburn, Head of Parks and Open Spaces on 01423 556704.