

PRESS RELEASE

Floral Narrowboats Moor Up in Skipton

Skipton in Bloom, through the generosity of the Skipton Business Improvement District, has commissioned the creation of three new, colourful planters at the Canal Basin in Skipton. The planters built to resemble the nearby narrowboats were conceived by Craven College lecturer in horticulture, Michael Myers. His initial sketches were developed by Craven College's Andrew Sharpe and Paul Slack, lecturers at the Centre for Construction and Heritage Skills.

Staff and students at the Centre for Construction and Heritage Skills built the planters which are designed (with care) to last up to ten years. They were then painted by several other groups under the guidance of tutors, Graham Haworth and Andrew Johns. The signwriting was also produced by Graham and Andrew, demonstrating the wide range of skills now on offer at the Centre for Construction and Heritage Skills.

Michael Myers commented: "When I first approached Andrew and Paul they were keen to help but not sure how the project would fit in with teaching, particularly with less than two months to complete the boats. Despite the tight deadline, the staff and students at Construction have produced three wonderful planters that are a superb example of their skills and far better than I think anyone on the Skipton in Bloom committee could have hoped for. I hope they are well received by visitors to the Canal Basin."

The Mona Plant System 2' cubes that are inserted into each boat (4 in each) were provided at cost by Green-Tech of Nun Monkton near York and planted at the Centre for Horticulture at Craven College before being moved into position with the planters. The self watering system relies on a unique 25l tank that releases water when the plants need it so reducing watering.

The size of the planters means they will stay at the Canal Basin throughout the year and act as a novel and attractive feature in this prominent part of the town irrespective of whether or not they are planted with bedding plants.

Craven College students have also planted nearly 100 hanging baskets for the High Street and adjacent areas as well as redesigning and planting the cenotaph garden. The cenotaph will be judged for a special award this year when the Yorkshire in Bloom judges come to Skipton on Friday 17th July.

Several exciting collaborations between Skipton in Bloom and Craven College are planned over the next few years. For further information about the Skipton in Bloom campaign, visit www.skiptoninbloom.co.uk.

Thanks to all those who helped with this project from Craven College and Skipton in Bloom, also Green-Tech, Guy Machinery (for supplying a trailer) and Dave Akrigg (workshop technician for Rural Mechanics at Craven College for transportation).