With summer fast approaching and spring looking well and truly established, the gardens are starting to take shape for another fabulous floral year ahead.

Its usually about the beginning of April into May, when the fresh green shoots of perennial borders begin to emerge from their dormant winter slumber and our thoughts of colourful expectations collide with the plans for the Open Gardens. Held on the second weekend in June, whilst vibrant garden splendour is running riot and the hope of a dry sunny weekend is more than a vague possibility. The uncomplicated proposal of meandering from garden to garden sharing ideas and plant knowledge is really quite simple and a great way of meeting fellow enthusiasts, or merely a way to take a leisurely gaze at a variety of different gardens.

This year there are 17 gardens taking part over Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th June 1 till 5pm, most offering an assortment of homemade cakes and light refreshments. (Plus the ubiquitous plant sales.) We are also playing host to Hive, a Community Arts Charity, where you will discover gorgeous ceramics, pots and sculptures as you stroll around the gardens.

So please join us for a bright and blooming and all consuming pleasurable weekend and we hope you enjoy yourselves as much as we do taking part.

Shipley Open Gardens has run for many years and raises funds for The Children's Society. Tickets are £3.00 and can be purchased in advance from the Childrens Society Shop, Bingley Road, Saltaire BD18 4SB or on the day 15 Nab Wood Rise, Shipley, BD18 4JA