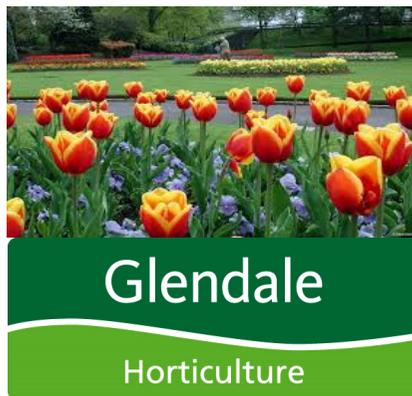




SOUTH WEST



SOUTH WEST

# RHS South West in Bloom Autumn Newsletter 2017



## Important Dates for 2018

Regional Judging **Wed 4th July to Wed 18th July**  
 IYN Assessments **Mon 2nd July to Monday 30th July**  
 National Judging **Mon 30th July to Friday 10th Aug**  
 Pride in Park Award judging **June 2018 to December 2018**  
 Spring Seminar The Imperial, Torquay **Thursday 15th March**  
 Presentation Westland Leisure Complex, Yeovil **Thursday 4th October**

Our South West in Bloom Facebook Page is also a great way for groups to showcase the work they have been doing- if your group has a facebook page, we would love for you to join ours.  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-West-In-Bloom/193263914018665>



**The Secretary,**  
 Denise James, 150 Charlton Road,  
 Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2JZ.  
 E Mail [southwestinbloom@aol.com](mailto:southwestinbloom@aol.com) .  
 Tel No 0117 9865830

Web Site [www.southwestinbloom.org.uk](http://www.southwestinbloom.org.uk)

## Our Patrons at the Presentation event



Jon chats to Lady Emma



Lady Emma Fellowes



Glendale  
Horticulture

## Chairman's Report

This without doubt has been one of our most successful years, as everyone in the region has worked hard and well together to promote the values and advantages of full participation in South West in Bloom. Volunteering is the key to success within the region as many thousands of hours have accumulated in the main competition IYNs and the new Parks and Business categories .

It is true to report that there have been real challenges for some groups where interest has waned for various reasons but what has been forthcoming is a range of new approaches based very much on sustainability within communities as well as the involvement of the business and tourism sectors. My special thanks to the RHS the vice Chairs and the full executive Committee and our Sponsors and everyone involved you have all met the Challenge and exceeded expectations.

As to the future managing change particularly in the diverse voluntary sector is the key to success. We have written to you all and have received a wide range of responses which we will take fully into account in developing the future agenda for the region

Thank you all and we wish you well for the future Bloom season.

Jon Wheatley

### Accreditation of Judges and Assessors

Acting in parallel with Yorkshire in Bloom your Executive have decided to progress this important initiative. This follows strong representation from many Judges and entry's to create a standard and a clear pathway for everyone involved. We have to follow the principles adopted in other similar areas in Horticulture and Environmental assessment and will safeguard the process which we would hope would be recognised by other areas.

The first of those judges that have completed their accreditation will be presented with their certificates at this years Spring Seminar in Torquay .

Jon Wheatley

**Please Note :- The closing date for the Main Competition, IYN, Town Centre and Business, Leisure & Community entries is**

**SATURDAY 10th MARCH**

**You can enter on line from 1st January.**

Another wonderful individual effort was made by Gary Lawson Kinross who took on removing the odd fly posting on electrical boxes, phone boxes and went gorilla painting between 5am and 7am for many mornings throughout the City even painting window frames and gutters on run down shops.

Along with the wonderful work of our many friends groups, Plant your street Project, Friends of Sunny corner, The Library community garden project, The Chancery garden all included within our tour. We also had the hidden gem of Tregolls Manor ,a residential home where Mike Sanders, the general maintenance man, not only carries out all the internal maintenance of the property but maintains all the grounds. Tregolls Manor also very kindly sponsor a rather posh Mercedes minibus for the judges to be chauffeured around on the day.



We were absolutely shocked and over the moon at the Imperial Hotel in Torquay when we discovered we had won the Portman Cup as category winner, even following the problem with the hanging baskets..

Tregolls Manor and Michael Sanders won the best business frontage within the South West and Team Truro also scooped the most meritorious entry which completed a fantastic day out for ourselves. This put us in good stead for the National RHS Britain In Bloom

finals at Llandudno

Llandudno proved to be another fantastic outing for us and we were fortunate enough to be crowned joint large town winners with Farnham. Team Truro being put forward again gives the unique opportunity of competing in the National Champion of Champion's category for the second time in three years. We will be giving it our all to try to scoop the top Accolade in the UK, although we are very mindful of the fact that we have fantastic competition in the wonderful Sidmouth, also from the South West! So hopefully between the two of us, one of us may bring the crown back in 2018 to the South West, which would be only the second time in our history.

Team Truro



## Team Truro Get Gold in Regional and National's

Again Truro had another fantastic and successful year in the In Bloom campaign, both regionally and Nationally.

Although it wasn't all plain sailing, due to this year struggling with horrific problems with phytophthora parasitica in our hanging baskets two weeks before judges Richard Taylor and Bob Sweet would visit. The phytophthora had severely taken effect on our surfinia petunia baskets.



We had to source any basket material we could and had to replant around 350 Traders displays around the City, this was mainly due to the fact that we had such a warm and wet summer and didn't help that when our watering team had been watering they were picking up phytophthora in droplets of water on the lance, then spreading it to the next baskets.

We ended up purchasing a huge amount of begonia illumination from a local nursery and set about the job of planting and re-hanging as we went, although the baskets looked simple, they were quite effective!

The Floral displays were up to our normal usual standards we are quietly confident in the strength of our other areas Environmental Responsibility and Community Participation. This is where Truro really comes into its own, in the community participation side.

The Team took careful observations of last year's judging notes and particular attention was taken on concentrating on the recommendations. One of these was the poor condition of the street furniture within the City. A retired member of our Truro In Bloom team Mr Godfrey Mortimer took on the challenge of getting all the street bollards and hanging basket poles within the city painted, we had approach the County Council and unfortunately they couldn't afford to fund or take on the liability of painting them, although they are their property.

The Truro In Bloom committee and Truro City Council funded the paint and the community payback team to come and paint them through the City, all well managed by Godfrey who some ten years previously had worked within the Highways Authority and having the fantastic know how and a knowledge of how to achieve this project.



## National results in 2017

### Large Town Truro, Gold, Class Winner



Truro Gold again what a team effort ! Truro City Council can be justly proud of the Parks Department and the excellent Community team that annually maintain and promote a complete Bloom entry . Congratulations to you all Gold and Joint Category winner as well as selection for next years Champion of Champions.

### Small Town Sherborne Silver Gilt

Sherborne Silver Gilt on a very good and comprehensive entry. We expect great things from you in the future and thank you for taking part you did us proud!



### Village Class Cannington Silver Gilt



Cannington Silver Gilt and another first time entry. Very well done and thank you so much for taking part on our behalf highlights include Community commitment Brymore School and the Walled Garden.

## National results in 2017

### Urban Community Clifton Silver Gilt



Clifton Our Urban Category winner of a Silver Gilt Medal. Outstanding IYNs, horticultural features and the Fabulous Bristol Zoo made this a very good entry well done.

### Town Newquay, Gold, Group Winner

Newquay. A late selection in this years competition resulted in a Gold award and Category winner. What a transformation you have achieved over the years. The judges cited horticultural quality and teamwork as being key to your excellence.



### Seaside Sidmouth Gold, Group Winner

Sidmouth Gold and Category winner and a selection for next years Champion of Champions, what a result. Many congratulations as you have continued to develop maintain and celebrate Bloom in the region.



## South West in Bloom Winners of the Children's Painting Competition 2017

This year we were again pleased with the response to the Schools Children's painting competition. The theme this year was "Seasons". The winning paintings were framed and returned to those who painted them, together with their certificate.

Up to 6 yrs Old. Joint Winner  
Samo age 5  
Loddiswell Primary, Kingsbridge.  
Autumn



Up to 6 yrs Old. Joint Winner  
Lily Thomas Age 6  
St Just Junior School.  
Autumn



7 to 11 years Old Joint Winner  
Paige Hosking Age 9  
Kingsbridge Primary School  
Summer



7 to 11 years Old Joint Winner  
Sky Jennings, Age 8  
St Just Junior School  
Winter



## Presidents Message

In the Autumn of 2016 I reported on our first Winter storm named ANGUS by the Met office, it has now repeated itself with the end of a hurricane called OPHELIA causing some damage in Cornwall and severe in Ireland and parts of Scotland. What followed was quite eerie with skies turning yellow and a blood red sun. Apparently Saharan dust and smoke particles from fires in Spain and Portugal. It was almost 30 years to the day of the 1987 one, where we lost around 15 million trees.

It illustrates just how fragile our eco systems are, and in a very short space of time landscapes can be changed forever. This is where you come in, with the ground still warm an ideal time to plant as many trees and shrubs as you can in your areas. There are tree species to suit most situations today. You will be rewarded with the spectacular autumn colours we are experiencing this season in a year or two, so please get planting.

The Hotel Imperial Torquay was the venue for the Civic reception and our annual Presentation.. The reception kindly hosted by Torbay Council with Chair of Council Councillor Anne Brooks and escort Mr William Taylor in attendance. Entertainment being provided by the talented Brixham Orpheus Male Voice choir was enjoyed by civic dignitaries and their guests, a big thank you.

Presentation day October 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 saw delegates from across our region assemble for the awards ceremony. Our patrons Lord and Lady Fellowes, I am told, excelled in their duties on stage, making everyone's day that extra special. My personal thanks to you both, and sorry I was not able to be with you on this occasion. As always congratulations to you all for taking part.

Without your enthusiasm and commitment in beautifying your local communities it would be a much duller world,

My greetings to you all for the festive season.

**Vic Verrier MBE**  
**President**  
**RHS South West in Bloom**

12 to 15 years Old Winner  
Verity May Elizabeth Manley Age 13  
Cape Cornwall Comprehensive School  
St Just



## **Champion of Champions** **Portishead, Gold**



Gold in Champion of Champions is an accolade indeed You are indeed the Icing on the Cake as far as we are all concerned. Over the years you have transformed the town to become one of the most innovative creative and inspirational of groups. Thank you Sandy and your excellent team for making Portishead a lovely location to live work and play. We must add Glendale, our sponsor, into these thanks..

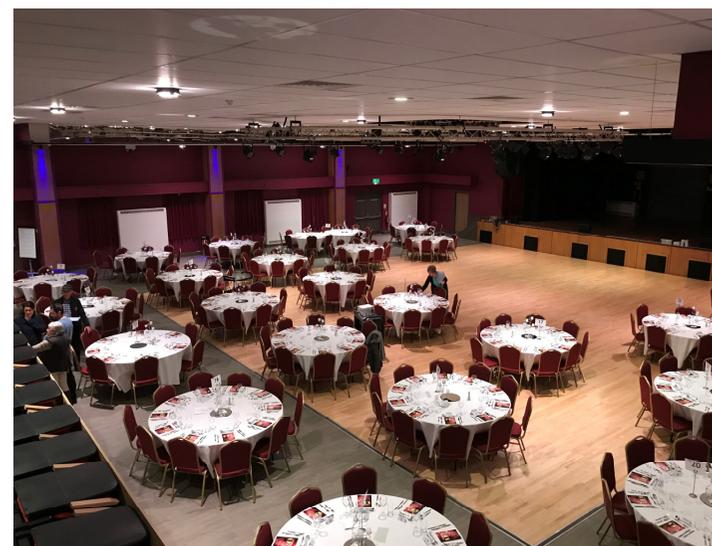
In summary our best ever year congratulations to all of you.

**Jon Wheatley.**

## **Presentation of Awards 2018**

The award ceremony in 2018 will be held at the Westland Leisure Complex in Yeovil on Thursday 4th October. It will be in conjunction with Yeovil Town Council and Yeovil in Bloom.

It is a newly renovated centre and will provide an excellent location for the event. More details will be in the Spring Newsletter.



**Westland Leisure Complex , Yeovil**

## Free guide offers advice on attracting sponsorship for environmental improvement

Councils, Britain in Bloom groups, horticulturalists and community organisations are being offered a free guide with advice on how to attract sponsorship for initiatives to improve Britain's public spaces.

The 30 page booklet has been produced by Amberol, who manufacture self-watering planters and street furniture such litter bins, benches and picnic tables, all made from recyclable or recycled materials.



Amberol self watering planter

The guide is free from Amberol on application. Sections include advice on attracting sponsorship from businesses and other groups, with suggestions for ways of approaching organisations, raising awareness and putting a sponsorship structure in place. The booklet also explains some of the

forms of grants and funding available, as well as including a range of case study examples from Britain in Bloom groups and organisations who have successfully used sponsorship to fund a range of improvement projects.

Patience Atkinson-Gregory, Amberol's managing director, explains the reasons behind creating the sponsorship guide. She says: "There's a lot of hard work that goes on around the UK to keep communities looking attractive. Although much of that work is voluntary, it does cost money to buy plants, containers, tools and important items such as litter bins. In our experience, businesses are often happy to help, but they aren't sure how to go about it. After all, a well-kept and good-looking environment benefits everyone and can help improve the economic prosperity of a region. "

Councils and community groups are continuing to struggle with funding issues and budget cuts, so many organisations are looking for positive ways to involve businesses and other sections of the community in improving their environment.

## Leisure, Tourism & Commercial Award

It was again a very successful year for this recently introduced award with 17 entries in the Leisure Tourism and Commercial Category. The results are below.

### Town / City Centre Awards

This was a new class introduced in 2017, and we had six entries in it's first year. This showed we have some very good city or town centres, and we hope to see more of these entering in 2018.

Commercial, Leisure & Tourism		
TOWN/VILLAGE	NAME	AWARD GIVEN
Babbacombe	Model Village	GOLD
Bath	Milsom Place	GOLD
Beer	Pecorama	SILVER GILT
Buckfastleigh	South Devon Railway	GOLD
Buckfastleigh	Buckfast Abbey	GOLD
Buckfastleigh	Salmon Leap Cafe	GOLD
Burnham on Sea	Home Farm Holiday Park	SILVER GILT
Burnham on Sea	Salt Express Limited	GOLD
Cricket St Thomas	Warners Leisure	GOLD
Hele	Hele Valley Holiday Park	GOLD
Penzance	Victoria Inn, Perranuthnoe	GOLD
Plymouth	Royal William Yard	GOLD
Radstock	Radstock Co-operative Society	GOLD
Radstock	The Radstock Hotel	GOLD
Radstock	Radstock Museum	SILVER GILT
Trowbridge	Castle Place Shopping Centre	GOLD
Yate	Yate Shopping Centre	GOLD
TOWN/CITY CENTRE AWARDS		
Downend	Downend & Bromley Heath in Bloom	GOLD
Liskeard		GOLD
Modbury		SILVER
Royal Wootton Bassett		GOLD
Street		GOLD
Wells		GOLD

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**SATURDAY 10th MARCH**

**You can enter on line from 1st January.**

# Glendale Horticulture

Glendale Horticulture is the leading UK grower of bedding plants, shrubs and perennials with 12 nurseries across the UK.

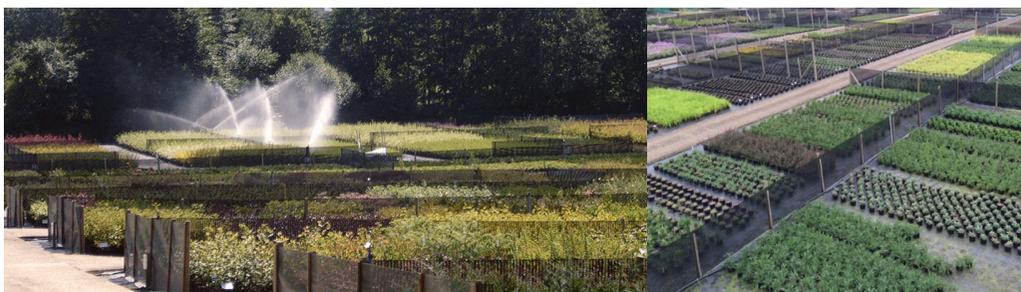


Glendale supplies a wide range of plants from the firm favourites, such as the award-winning Geranium Rozanne, with its large violet-blue flowers that flower year after year to popular bedding lines such as primroses, pansies, viola and cyclamen.

"We're also seeing more and more people attempting to grow their own fruit and vegetables. To support this we've launched our 'Give it a grow' range earlier this year to encourage parents to get children involved in the garden and enjoy the outdoor space together." said Daniel Slinger, marketing manager of Glendale Horticulture.

For 2018 we're focussing on catering for the demand for larger shrubs and perennials with our 5-litre herbaceous perennial range and 7.5-litre specimen shrub range. In addition, we're introducing some new exciting lines, such as the Hydrangea paniculata bobo with its pure white blooms in late summer and the compact Agapanthus Queen Mum.

For more details about Glendale Horticulture call 01452 740216 or visit [www.glendale-horticulture.co.uk](http://www.glendale-horticulture.co.uk)



We thank Glendale for being our main sponsor



"Many of our customers use commercial sponsorship to help fund improvements for their community that local authority budgets can't always stretch to," adds Patience. "However, it's important that any scheme is mutually beneficial. This guide aims to help community groups and horticulturalists create a successful strategy for working with organisations that are able to offer sponsorship and support – which doesn't always have to be financial."

A family run company set up in 1969, Amberol work with councils, In Bloom groups, schools, businesses and voluntary organisations across the UK. They

offer advice and make products to help improve communal spaces such as town centres, parks and commercial districts. Their bestselling self-watering planters have a unique reservoir and wicking system which means that they only need to be watered once a week, even in very dry conditions, making them popular with organisations looking to conserve water and reduce maintenance.

The sponsorship guide is available by calling Amberol on 01773 830 930, emailing [sales@amberol.co.uk](mailto:sales@amberol.co.uk) or writing to Amberol at The Plantation, King Street, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 7TT.



Amberol have 2018 Wall planners available, they send them out on request.

For more information about Amberol's products, email [sales@amberol.co.uk](mailto:sales@amberol.co.uk) or call 01773 830 930.

## Penrith Bid, Cumbria. ( Spring Seminar presentation)

Penrith Community Gardeners are a group of volunteers who meet and cultivate the forgotten parts of our town. Although we started with the intention of encouraging the growing of vegetables, members of the group quickly got into planting for bees and butterflies.

We do not seek grants, have a committee or a bank account- we just 'do it' and encourage others to join in even if it is only by planting an onion! We work with business in our town who are only too willing to help where they can with the supply of timber and compost etc. Plants we get at cost price or free. Penrith BID is only too keen to help us and we work closely together.



## National nominations for 2018

### Champion of Champions Sidmouth



### Champion of Champions Truro



We are unable to announce the other nominations until early 2018 when they will be confirmed by the RHS.

## RHS South West in Bloom Pride in Park award.

Following the success of the Parks award, we will continue with this award in 2018. Judging will take place anytime between June and December.

This will allow for the park to be judged at "Its Best". Closing date for entries Monday June 11th.

As in previous years the presentation for the 2017 awards will be held as part of the Spring Seminar in Torquay on 15th March 2018.



**Parks entry form to be sent  
to The Secretary  
Denise James,  
150 Charlton Road,  
Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2JZ  
by Monday 11th June  
Tel No 0117 9865830  
Download from Web site after 1st  
January 2017**



He would encourage others too but would often be on his own pottering for 5 mins at lunch or break time. He learnt lots from Mrs Shackleton and also Mrs Rogers, who came to school to help. He was keen to keep the potting shed tidy far more than his bedroom.

Peter was very proud of the school gardens and grounds and was often asked to show visitors around. We always received such wonderful comments and praise on both his knowledge and manners. He loved showing off his school. Peter has a trowel presented to him by Mrs Shackleton and it has become a treasured tool.

We had to look for a Secondary School for Peter and went to visit all the local schools. Peter asked at all 3 schools about gardening and outside learning and not one had any at all. One school offered an Orchid growing project but Peter felt although it was fascinating it was science rather than growing.

Brymore open day. We went along and took part in a tour of the school. Peter literally came alive!! He was absolutely amazed and in awe of the school. Peter was asked to attend for an interview.

We finally heard on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, Peter had been offered a boarding place to start September 2017. Peter screamed with delight and cried and cried. We all cried! He had worked hard to try and get into Brymore and had done so. We had a Brymore Boy!

Peter is now enjoying his second term at school. He now has his 'plot' to look after and use to produce items that can be used and sold at school. He came home for half term and called Mrs Shackleton and asked if she needed him to do any work at all at school. He went into school and helped the children plant bulbs in the village for PiPP and also planted up at the Village hospital grounds. He was keen to help more and in all spent 3 days helping at school or in the village.

PiPP - Amazing group of volunteers who are not only keeping our village looking beautiful but encouraging children to take pride in their surroundings and watch what they do grow and brighten up spaces. They work their socks off all year round.

## Peter Hockley – His journey into horticultural

We first became aware of Peter when our secretary Denise James told us about this wonderful lad that she had met when she assessed one of Pride in Paulton Partnership's (PiPP) IYN project at the Hub in Paulton. Peter explained to her that he had been involved with the school gardening club at Paulton Junior School since he was in year two (six years old) and that he was soon to start at Brymore School. Denise felt that this was a lovely story of how a young lad had become inspired with horticultural, which had actually begun at his School Gardening Club. Even since starting at Brymore, Peter can't resist still helping the PiPP volunteers and joins them at every opportunity. We wanted to share with you Peter's story and have been in touch with his Mum Mandy who has shared with us Peter's incredible journey into horticultural.



"We have often joked that Peter should have been born a scarecrow. He has had a love of being outside since he could walk. He would spend hours and hours as a toddler just pottering and tidying in the garden. Peter started growing his own vegetables when he was 3. By 5 he had a little plastic green house. He was not always keen on planting flowers but his 'chuck em in they'll look lush' theory always produced the best tubs and baskets in the garden.

He has always grown our tomatoes and green beans every year and loves growing radishes and chillies. He has a selection of seeds in his box and has already found a couple of favourite varieties.

Peter always enjoyed helping in the gardens at school and would help in Infants School whenever he could. The school caretaker said he was always at his side asking him what he was doing and why. Peter built a bug house from all sorts of wood and small poles etc and it is still in the school grounds.

Peter fell in love with the Gardens at Paulton Junior School and the fact that you could actually go to Gardening Club. He was a keen member and was always popping in for a bit of weeding and watering when he could.

## Presentation Day at The Imperial Torquay Thursday 5th October 2017

We again had a very successful presentation event at the new location of the Imperial Hotel, following the closure of the Palace hotel. The day did start with a bit of a hitch when we had a fire alarm, and all delegates had to vacate the building.

However following that, the day went very smoothly with the Business awards and the IYN's being presented in the morning.

The morning also included "An Audience with Lady Emma" where our Chairman Jon Wheatley asked Lady Emma a series of questions, which she answered with great entertainment. This certainly seemed to be popular with delegates.



Cllr Ann Brooks  
Mayor of Torbay



The afternoon saw the highlight of the day with the presentation of the main awards.

The Hotel proved an excellent venue for the event. Photos of the event are still available on the Big Image web site.



[www.bigimage.co.uk](http://www.bigimage.co.uk)

Big  
image  
PHOTOGRAPHY



## Sodbury in Bloom's BLUE campaign to promote biodiversity

Sodbury in Bloom, much to its collective amazement, won the Ayre Cup this year and one of the aspects of our entry, which really impressed the judges, was the BLUE campaign.



This initiative is a response to the continuing decline in numbers of species of birds, butterflies, creepy crawlies and plants – what we call biodiversity – all those different species that make up the natural healthy ecosystem of the area. The aim of the campaign is to encourage a change in the mind-set of the way we garden and how we view all the green spaces around us. Chipping Sodbury was the pilot project for 2017 and the intention is to spread the project over the whole of South Gloucestershire in 2018.

Residents were encouraged to leave 10% of their garden to run wild by, for example, just cutting a path through their lawns and not mowing the whole thing, and plant a blue heart to show that they are participating in the campaign. The blue painted hearts on a stick were made from recycled wood were available free of charge from the local Waitrose as part of their It's Your Neighbourhood entry. It's a very simple but effective idea as it means less work in the garden which will result in a better environment for the species we need to keep the garden healthy.



Sodbury Town Council and South Glos Council co-operated fully with the BLUE campaign by agreeing to try a relaxed mowing approach on six areas.

These were all marked by blue hearts and, although it's hard to tell after only one year, there are encouraging signs. The council has agreed to increase the number of areas in 2018.

Local schools were also involved with children listening to talks about BLUE and being given whips of native species trees, which were provided by Waitrose, to take home and plant.



Sarah Ricketts is the new Community Outreach Officer for the South West. Since she started in July she has been supporting schools and youth groups with their gardening projects, as well as delivering the Green Plan It Challenge, which culminated at the Bristol Botanic Gardens on the 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Sarah was originally trained as a Landscape Architect worked in practice for a number of years before focusing on community horticulture projects. She has worked on a number of Heritage lottery and Big Lottery Funded projects

with communities in London and Weston Super Mare.

Sarah- 'I am really looking forward to 2018 and working on a diverse range of projects with community and youth groups in the South West as part of Greening Grey Britain 2018.' If you are working with Schools or Youth groups keep an eye out for the Greening Grey Britain application, which will be opening winter 2017.

\*\*\*\*\*

Is there a grey space in your community that you'd love to transform into a green space for people and the environment?

We are continuing to connect our experienced Bloomers and community gardeners with green thumbs as part of #GreeningGreyBritain.

In 2018, the RHS is offering a number of groups some expert hands-on support, plus up to £500 worth of plants and materials - to help communities bring their green visions to life.

We want to hear your bold plans to 'green the grey' where you live!

**Royal Horticultural Society**  
[rhs.org.uk/communities](https://rhs.org.uk/communities)



Keynsham Railway Station 2017

## The Friends of Page Park Kingswood ( Spring Seminar Presentation)



The Friends of Page Park are a group of park users and local residents who came together in 1999 after concerns of the deterioration of Page Park.

Our aim is to protect and improve the structures and facilities of Page Park for the community today and for the generations to come.

We raise funds for improvements and organise events to bring the community together .

The Friends and South Gloucestershire Council are two thirds way through a Heritage Lottery project to restore the Edwardian park.

In 2016 the Friends were awarded Group of the Year-Outstanding Achievement at the Love Parks Conference and this year 2017 we have been awarded the Queens Award For Voluntary Service.



### RHS South West in Bloom 2018 Schools Painting Competition

The theme for this year is

**“ It’s a Bugs Life”**

The age groups are as follows:

**Up to 6 years old, 7 – 11 years old, 12 – 16 years old**

Art should be a maximum of A3 in size. On the back of each painting, put names, age, and name of school and name of city, town or village.

Only one entry per age group, and they should be the winners of your local competition. Please note submitted works are non-returnable!

The best exhibit in each age category should be sent to:

**Richard Budge, Truro City Council,  
Municipal Building, Boscawen Street,  
Truro, Cornwall, TR1 2NE**

Entry Forms are enclosed

Closing date for entries is Friday 20th July

Part of the campaign involved the River Frome which runs through Chipping Sodbury (SNCI) and is a key feature of the town as well as forming part of the 18 mile Frome valley path. However, habitat is greatly limited by a lack of in-channel structure, bank erosion, a lack of diversity of true marginal plants and excess nutrients within the river. Again, children from local schools were involved in taking samples of the water and checking for signs of ‘beasties’.



To improve biodiversity and habitat for flow-loving species including wild brown trout, two phases of work are proposed over the next two years.

Phase I: Three small habitat enhancement projects through the centre of Chipping Sodbury. Employing natural materials, a variety of habitat features will be introduced that will help diversify habitat. It is hoped a baseline riverfly survey will be undertaken prior to and following restoration work.

Phase II: Investigate sources of excess nutrient into the river. Identifying and eliminating fine sediment from agriculture or household grey-water or sewerage outputs will significantly improve water quality. Priority habitats & species which will benefit from this project are:

- Water crowfoot (*Ranunculus* spp.) community
- Marginal wetland plant communities
- Various freshwater and terrestrial invertebrates
- Habitat for key BAP species bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) and Brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*)



#### Important Dates for 2018

Regional Judging	<b>Wed 4th July to Wed 18th July</b>
IYN Assessments	<b>Mon 2nd July to Monday 30th July</b>
National Judging	<b>Mon 30th July to Friday 10th Aug</b>
Pride in Park Award judging	<b>June 2018 to December 2018</b>
Spring Seminar The Imperial, Torquay	<b>Thursday 15th March</b>
Presentation Westland Community Centre, Yeovil	<b>Thursday 4th October</b>

**Spring Seminar 2018**  
**Thursday 15th March**  
**10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.**  
**The Imperial Torquay,**  
**Park Hill Road, Torquay. TQ1 2DG**

***Provisional Programme***

- 10:00 Coffee, Welcome & introductions  
10:15 Penrith Bid , National Winner (Speaker to be announced)  
11.00 Stephanie Purser Chair of Friends of Page Park  
11.45 Anna Forbes - Stonebridge Wild River Reserve  
12:30 Lunch Bar Available  
13.45 **Guest Speaker (Still to be announced)**  
14.30 Mark Wasilewski **Manager of St James's Park and The Green Park**  
15.15 Presentation of Judges Accreditation certificates  
15.30 Presentation of Parks Awards  
16.00 Closing Remarks

Cost **£18.00 per delegate.** FREE parking

We have a very good programme for this years Spring Seminar, with some very good speakers covering a wide range of topics.

We are still trying to secure our Guest Speaker. Watch out for details on our web site.

**Booking form enclosed or you can book for the Spring Seminar on Line from 1st January.**



**BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED**  
Closing Date Monday 5th March



**Seminar £18.00 Per Delegate.**  
Including Lunch

**Mark Wasilewski – Manager of St James's Park and The Green Park**



Mark's horticultural career commenced in 1978 working for the Somerset Health Authority on ornamental horticulture before joining The Royal Parks in 1989 as propagator and nursery manager in Greenwich Park. Supervisory roles subsequently took him to St James's Park and then The Regent's Park where he looked after the Queen Mary's Rose Garden, before returning to St James's Park in 2002 as Park Manager of St James's Park and the Green Park.

His current position sees him looking after one of Europe's busiest parks attracting some 17 million visitors per year, as well as managing the gardens of Downing Street. His responsibilities include The Mall and Horse Guards Parade, both scenes of annual ceremonial events such as State Visits, the State Opening of Parliament and Trooping the Colour. The park regularly hosts a wide range of participation events such as the finish of the London Marathon and became the venue in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games for several sporting events including Beach Volleyball on Horse Guards Parade. Half a million people are estimated to have visited St James's Park on the day of the wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton in 2011, and in excess of a million visitors took part in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 2012. The Park is known for its displays of spring bulbs, floriferous borders, and intricate summer bedding schemes. The lake is home to many species of waterfowl and has been a home to pelicans since 1664.

In his spare time Mark is a Trustee of London in Bloom and is a judge for several organisations including the London Gardens Society and Guild of Horticultural judges. He served on the RHS Britain in Bloom national judging panel between 2004 and 2016 and is a member of the RHS Herbaceous Plant Committee.

Due to ongoing costs, we have had to increase the cost of our 2018 Spring Seminar tickets. We consider that this event offer value for money given, our programme for the day includes a range of excellent speakers covering various areas of Bloom. We are sure that everyone attending will find this value for money and an excellent networking event

