

Important Dates for 2016

Spring Seminar Exeter	Thursday 25th February
Closing Date for S W in Bloom Entry	Saturday 12th March
Closing Date for IYN Awards Entry	Saturday 12th March
Regional Judging	Wed 6th July to Wed 20th July
IYN Assessments	Fri 1st July to Sunday 31st July
National Judging	Mon 1st Aug to Friday 12th August
Presentation Taunton County Cricket Ground	Thursday 6th October



Britain in Bloom - South west Autumn Newsletter 2015

Best results ever for South west in Bloom entries in National Competitions



Falmouth **Gold Award** and Nation Winners in Large Town and the Tourism trophy

Truro **Gold Award** in Champion of Champions

Bath **Gold Award** in Champion of Champions

Kingsbridge **Gold Award** in Small Town Class

Tresco **Gold Award** in Village Class

Dartmouth **Gold Award** in Seaside Category

Weston-super-Mare **Silver Gilt** Winner in Small City Class

Greater Fishponds **Silver** in Urban Communities Category



Please Note the Closing date for both Main and IYN's Entry

SATURDAY 12th MARCH

You can enter these on line from 1st January.



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

Need To Contact us - The Secretary,
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Glendale



Glendale



National results in 2015(With Judges comments)



Champion of Champions—Truro

Gold Medal

Truro a beautiful Cornish City where the Council and the Community combine to create one of the highest standard Bloom entries. Flowers were abundant and reflect the combined works of all involved Special mention is made of Richard Budge for his leadership of the Parks department whose role in the campaign is excellent.

Champion of Champions - Bath

Gold Medal

Bath A true Champion of Champions. Bath was at its best on the visit and the teamwork shown and led by Barry Cruise M B E was of the highest standard.



Small City –Weston - super-Mare

Silver Gilt Medal

Weston have worked so hard to transform this lovely west country seaside resort. Special awards were received by Bert & Cynthia Filer and the town will in the words of the judges go from strength to strength.

South West in Bloom Winners of the Children's Painting Competition 2015

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



Up To 6 Years Old
Amber Clewley-Smith
Penpont School
Hayle



7 to 11 years Old
Brandon Hall
Age 10
Bodniggy academy
Hayle

12 to 15 years Old
Ashleigh Whitear
Age 13
Cape Cornwall School
St Just



Pride in Park Award - South West

There was a very good response this year to the Pride in Parks awards with a total of 43 parks taking part.

The announcement and presentation of the awards will be made at the Spring Seminar to be held at Exeter University on Thursday 25th February.



Blackmore Gardens & Sports field



Connaught gardens



St Andrews Park



Bicclescombe Park



Village Tresco

Gold Medal

Tresco Gold again for this beautiful Island entry. Congratulations on the excellent Horticulture, the superb Environmental management as well as the role that you play in destination tourism in the region.

Small Town - Kingsbridge

Gold Medal

Kingsbridge get a well deserved first gold in their entry. The judges were impressed with the all round community effort and the way in which the I Y N scheme was effectively used and evidenced. Very well done.



Seaside Dartmouth

Gold Medal

When visiting the beautiful town of Dartmouth one can only be impressed by its Horticulture. The Green partnership is one of the inspirational and creative initiatives. The commitment of the whole team is sincerely congratulated and you can be proud of achieving a solid Gold award again.



South West in Bloom 2016 Schools Painting Competition The theme for this year is “Queens Birthday Celebrations”

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 will be sent out with the Spring Newsletter
Closing date for entries is Friday 22nd July

**Large Town - Falmouth
Gold Medal & Group Winners
Tourism trophy**

Gold Medal

Wonderful entry encompassing all attributes of the Bloom Community. Group winners and winners of the Tourism Category. What a venue for tourism.



**Urban Community -
Greater Fishponds**

Silver Medal

HEFS the Urban community is a tough category where teamwork is essential. This new group in a very short period of time have succeeded in achieving regional success and a National Silver medal. Well done to all involved.

You as a group, signal the way for the future!



RHS Theme for 2016

The theme will this year again focus on the importance of green spaces for wild-life and our own health and well-being and what we can do to transform unloved spaces – however large or small – into great green spaces.

The benefits of greening urban areas include:

- * Improved air cooling, making it more bearable in towns and cities in hot weather
- * Insulation of buildings by garden vegetation
- * Improved air quality
- * Storm water mitigation which helps to reduce garden flooding
- * A source of habitats for wildlife
- * Improved health for plants and people who garden more



Four ways to 'green up' your garden

Plant climbers and wall shrubs

You can even go up the wall with plants by installing planting systems. Using these leafy coverings helps insulate homes in winter (reducing heating bills) and keeps them cooler in summer.

You can even go up the wall with plants by installing green-wall planting systems.

Grow plants for wildlife

When it comes to encouraging wildlife, it's a case of the more plants the better. Aim to grow as many different types of plant as you can, including natives, and provide as much cover as possible. This should help ensure that you provide food and shelter at most times of year.

Use permeable paving

Think carefully before you pave over your front garden. Where paving is necessary, keep the area as small as possible and use permeable materials (planning permission is required for non-permeable materials). These measures allow the rainwater to soak into the soil, rather than causing flooding.

Plant a tree

Trees are amazing when it comes to providing benefits. They provide homes and food for wildlife; help cool the air on hot summer days; and reduce the risk of flooding by capturing rain on their leaves; some will even help clean the air. To get the maximum benefits, go for the biggest tree you can manage in your garden.

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Spring Seminar
Thursday 25th February 2016
10.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.
Exeter University
The Great Hall, Stocker Road
EX4 4PZ, EXETER

We have had requests to cover some of the basic requirements for groups entering the main and Pennant competitions. So this year the seminar will focus on many of these areas.

Provisional Programme

- 10:00 Coffee, Welcome & introductions
- 10:15 **Preparing for your entry**
- 11.00 **Route Planning**
- 11.45 **Portfolio & Presentation**
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13.30 **RHS Campaign in School Gardening Sarah Cathcart RHS**
- 13.45 **The Value of Parks Roger Burnett Chairman of Britain in Bloom**
- 14.30 **Presentation of Parks Awards**
- 15.15 Closing remarks
- 15:30 Close

This year the Seminar includes the presentation of the 2015 Parks awards.

Costs are being held the same as in 2015, **£12.50 per delegate.**

Pay & Display parking is available at the University. The cost is £6 per day

You can book the Spring Seminar on Line from Jan 1st.

BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED
Closing Date Monday 1st February

Seminar £12.50 Per Delegate.
Including Lunch



VIRIDOR

River Cottage endorse Revive

Made from 100% natural, organic materials from the homes and gardens of the general public, Viridor's soil conditioners and composts, Revive, have proved popular with farmers, professional horticulturists, landscapers, allotment holders and gardeners across the South West.

A local advocate of Revive is Head Gardener at River Cottage, HQ in Axminster, who wrote this glowing endorsement.

River Cottage



“The ground at River Cottage HQ is a continuous challenge, being a marginal farm it doesn't lend itself easily to growing vegetables. Flints, pernicious weeds and encroaching gorse are some of our many battles we deal with day to day. So as head gardener it is my job to improve the life source of our food, the soil. I discovered Revive compost in 2011 and I haven't looked back.

“Not only is it a fantastic soil conditioner but my number one choice for mulch. I use it liberally, spreading at least two inches on the soil surface in early winter. It suppresses weeds completely while enabling water to drain away freely. In spring, the dark colour warms up quickly giving young seedlings a good head start. Nowhere gets left out, I use it in our pots and poly-tunnels as well as on our larger growing areas. The quality of our soil has increased dramatically since using Revive and I would highly recommend it to large or small growers.”

Will Livingstone, Head Gardener, River Cottage HQ

Revive is available in a variety of bag sizes, depending on location, including 20L, 40L, 60L and 1m3 bags as well as loose in bulk. When purchased in bulk, Revive can be provided in different grades and delivered.

For more information contact your local Revive representative, Richard Griffith on telephone 07736 374009 or via email rgriffith@viridor.co.uk



Its Your Neighbourhood

Once again we have over 500 entries in our South West Region an achievement which reflects the dedication and commitment of the hundreds of volunteers caring for their environment and community.

I was recently talking to a number of groups who were interested in joining this number by entering the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood campaign and wanted to know more about the process and what it entailed.

I began by explaining the process and outlining the benefits which came from entries and it struck me that I seldom thought of these and wanted to share them to remind myself of the great work all the volunteers do in the South West.

These benefits include:-

- * The great personal satisfaction of all those involved and the benefits to mental and physical health which should not be ignored.
- * Never forget that as well as your enjoyment, the work being done brings pleasure and can lift the spirits of those passing by.
- * If the area is in a public position it is inevitable that passers-by will stop and talk increasing the sense of community in the area.
- * The awareness of the need to preserve our precious resources including water and peat is increased
- * There is the opportunity to create wildlife habitats including for those for bees and other pollinators.
- * As rubbish attracts rubbish so looking after an area well can be infectious and spread to other parts
- * Then there is the pleasure of producing, cropping, eating and sharing fresh fruit and vegetables especially if youngsters can be involved. Remember, many garden flowers can be used in salads etc. (if in doubt don't forget to check!)
- * The IYN campaign encourages the community coming together and can lead to entries into the Pennant and main competitions
- * The achievement of an award is a reason for bringing the community together and celebrating either at the presentation or at your own event (or even both!).

For containers, you could try **Bacopa Bluetonia** (Dobies) which has the distinction of being the first Bacopa available from seed as they are normally produced from cuttings. Trailing with lavender blue flowers.

Another choice for containers or maybe for borders is **Begonia semperflorens Spacemaster** (Dobies). Well named this new type has been bred to spread across an area reducing the number of plants required by 40%! Ht. 30-40cms (12-16").



Finally, another award winner and a real star is **Petunia Tidal Wave Red Velour** (Dobies). Apart from a very long name, the other claim to fame for this petunia is its versatility. Plant them at 30cm (12") and you get a distinctive mounded habit and a plant spread of around 1metre. However, plant at 60cms apart on a dry bank or border and they will rapidly spread to fill a wide area. Either way a great way to fill a wide area with bright red, velvety flowers.

Reminiscent mix (Dobies) is a different type of antirrhinum with tubular, bi-coloured flowers and a highly unusual 'citrus-like' fragrance. Really special at the front of a display. Ht. 30cms (12").

So there you are, just a few ideas to get the Yuletide pulses racing and impress those judges next summer!



Exciting New Flowers for your 2016 Colour Schemes!

Christmas approaches with perhaps a little leisure time to start planning a flowering extravaganza for your 2016 entries!

Here then are just a few ideas of what's new from seed firms Suttons and Dobies to help you in your choice:

Cosmos are currently the subject of intensive breeding work and producing as they do, big, bushy plants, they are the ideal choice for large borders or containers. There are two exciting newcomers for 2016.



Cosmos Xanthos (Suttons/Dobies) has the distinction of being the first truly yellow cosmos. An award winning variety, it produces soft yellow flowers throughout the summer on 60cms (2ft) tall, bushy plants.

Try growing with blue flowers e.g. **Ageratum**. **Capriola** (Dobies) has flowers best described as rose picotee on a white background, with a purplish/red centre to the blooms. Whatever the description, they make a stunning display. Ht. 60cms (2').



For something a little less formal, try **Lupin Avalune Lilac** (Dobies), the first in a series of annual lupins with summer-long flowering. The flowers produced are deep purple/lilac/white in colour and very showy! Ht. 40cms (16").

Some points to remember-

Firstly it is not a competition – entries are assessed against criteria and not judged against each other. This means that there is no limit to the number awards given to each level of achievement and all entries can aspire to and ultimately reach the outstanding level.

Secondly, the entry will be visited by an assessor. The term assessor has been chosen in preference to a judge to indicate the supportive role he or she provides.

The assessors realise the work which has gone into each entry, want you to enjoy the assessing experience and will do everything possible to put you at ease.

They will be looking at three areas, Community Participation, Environmental Responsibility and Gardening Achievement. It is the intention to make the assessment as enjoyable day as possible for both you and the assessor.



Gordon Ford Trophy

Best Neighbourhood Award Entry
Bristol,
Golden Hill Community Garden

Some simple tips (that granny probably knows already!)

Water, weed, feed, deadhead

Explain the choice of plants

Check early on the day

Edge formal lawns

Have information signs and leaflets available if possible

Keep notice boards tidy and up to date

Show and explain any fund raising especially in the community

Point out any local heritage features

Show other support, for example local authorities and organisations

Let the assessors meet as many people as possible especially the young

And finally may I wish you every success in your entry.

John Goulden

National nominations for 2016



Small City Class
Exeter



Large Town
Portishead



Village
Beer



Urban Community
St George in Bloom, Bristol



Seaside
Exmouth



Small Town
Midsomer Norton

railings, tiered planters, hanging baskets and ‘up the pole’ style containers brighten up uninspiring areas and enable plants to grow in places other than at street level where space may be at a premium. It’s also easier to create optimal growing conditions, controlling soil type and environment.

Sustainable practice

However, sustainability is a must. Increased planting and green areas can create higher water consumption levels, as well as increasing the potential for pollution through pesticides. Fortunately, there are ways of minimising these issues - such as using self-watering containers. These need only be watered once a week, reducing maintenance and meaning that plants take up only as much water as they need.

The choice of plants is also important: some plants are naturally more ‘thirsty’ and require higher levels of maintenance, so unless you have self-watering containers, certain varieties are probably best avoided. If in doubt, choose locally sourced plants which will be best suited to the habitat in which they are being grown, and perennials which can be planted in the spring or autumn when water conservation and maintenance is less of an issue.

Anyone involved in Britain in Bloom understands the importance of our green spaces, so let’s preserve them by the most effective means possible.

About the author

Patience Atkinson-Gregory is MD of horticultural manufacturer Amberol, who supply self-watering containers, benches and litter bins (including speaking ones) to a range of public and private organizations. For more information, visit www.amberol.co.uk, email sales@amberol.co.uk or call 01773 830 930.



Going from grey to green

Patience Atkinson-Gregory of horticultural suppliers Amberol

(www.amberol.co.uk) discusses the RHS campaign to Green Grey Britain

I believe that Britain in Bloom, with its army of committed community groups, enthusiastic volunteers and extensive local authority support, has done more to change the landscape of the UK than any other initiative. Every year, I marvel at the beautiful floral displays that transform both public and private spaces, drawing people together in the common desire to make where they live a better place to be.

However, with a growing population creating the need for more housing and all the commercial infrastructure that goes with it, our green spaces are coming under threat of erosion. The latest RHS campaign specifically addresses this



issue. The 'Greening Grey Britain' initiative is looking to regenerate over 6,000 neglected spaces by 2017, developing and maintaining green spaces in suburban and urban areas by encouraging planting in domestic and community gardens, as well as parks and public spaces.

As long term supporters of Britain in Bloom, we have seen first-hand the many social, economic and ecological benefits of creating green spaces – particularly for the 85% of the UK population who live in urban environments.

Creating your own little piece of green

As part of their campaign, the RHS is urging people to create more green space, or to green existing grey areas. As digging up paved areas isn't always a viable option, many organisations and individuals are using containers to create green spaces in places where hardstanding prevails. In fact, one of the most significant benefits of container gardening is the facility it offers to grow a wide variety of plants anywhere.

Containers can be used to break up concrete areas from pavements to playgrounds, in shopping centres, car parks, leisure centres – pretty much anywhere. They can be placed at different heights – barrier baskets for roadside

Presidents Message

This newsletter gives me the opportunity to officially welcome Lord and Lady Fellowes who have kindly agreed to become RHS South West in Bloom Patrons. This is indeed a great honour for us and we look forward in 2016 to working with them. Due to a long standing engagement they were unable to join you in Dartmouth this year, for our annual presentation.

Likewise as many of you will I know I also was not available, as my wife and I celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 25th September and were out of the country on holiday and to celebrate?

Feedback from my judges this year shows the fantastic work you are all carrying out with total commitment once again, brightening up other people's lives in so many ways, a very big thank you to you all.

Our new category, Art in the Landscape, suggested and sponsored by Denise James our secretary certainly created a lot of interest, and challenge for us choosing a winner on our assessment day.

What a wealth of talented people/ artist we have in the south west. The art forms came in many guises, from stone, metal, stained glass, ceramic, willow to name but a few, well done to this year's winner Portishead with its large numbers of granite obelisk stretching out across the landscape., awe inspiring indeed.

My personnel thanks go to our loyal sponsors Amberol, Viridor, Exchange House, and a very warm welcome to our new main sponsors Glendale/ Meridiths. We could not operate without their sponsorship, so please support them in any way you can, you will not be disappointed with superb products and services on offer.

From my energetic Chairman who brings so much to South West in Bloom, my devoted, committee, judges/assessors, certainly keeps us as one of the best regions in the country. Thank you all. Well done to all our National finalists in Sunderland .

Finally my thanks to the Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth for allowing us to host our 2015 event in such prestigious surroundings.

Best wishes for the festive season
Vic Verrier MBE Hon President RHS South West in Bloom

Please Note New Closing date for both Main and IYN's Entry

SATURDAY 12th MARCH

You can enter these on line from 1st January.

GLENDALE

Glendale is one of the UK's leading green service specialists offering innovative solutions for the total management and maintenance of the green environment. Delivering exceptional quality and striving for complete customer satisfaction, Glendale offers an unparalleled portfolio of nine specialist green services.



Glendale is delighted to be supporting this year's South West in Bloom. As a leading provider of grounds management services in the UK, we understand the importance of including

Grove Park, Weston-super-Mare volunteer and community groups in the management of the green environment and the contribution that green spaces make to the pride, wellbeing and success of local communities.

We pride ourselves on the professionalism and precision of every aspect of our duties and work tirelessly to put the people we employ and the people we work with, first.

Our clients include local authorities, private estates, utility companies, corporations, businesses, conservation charities, housing associations and the communities they serve.



Barnstable Floral Displays

Glendale

Horticulture



Countess Ann feeding results
Edible Nasturtiums

We have prepared two new experiments for all school pupils to carry out. One involves growing carrots in bags of soil and in bags of compost. The idea is to see if modern composts that are environmentally friendly and contain no peat, can grow carrots as well as one that contains lots of peat.

We will also be able to compare both against carrots grown in bags of your school's local soil.

We have also created a new growing experiment that involves growing cabbages in the school's local soil that has had a modern continuous release fertilizer added so we can compare the growth against your local soil with added Growmore fertilizer and no fertilizer at all.



Starting sowing carrots

Miracle Growers also have a Facebook page where you can keep up to date with this year's progress and post your own pictures and stories.

South West in Bloom Web Site

Keep up to date with news of Britain in Bloom on our web site at
www.southwestinbloom.org.uk

You can book the Spring Seminar on Line from Jan 1st.

If you have an E mail address then this will make booking easy and we can also E mail you details of events.

If your contact details change, please notify us.

Provide us with links to your own web sites if you have one.

Free seeds and compost to encourage more schools to take up gardening

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company is Britain's biggest producer of garden care products and composts. As part of their outreach programme they encourage schools to use horticulture in class and garden clubs to stimulate interest in gardening. Each year at least 100 schools from around the country grow selected plants to discover the science of plant growth and the benefits of home grown, seasonal food.



Charlton Manor School mixing Compost

They have found, not surprisingly, that school gardening, especially in urban areas, brings multiple benefits to pupils, families and their whole community by improving learning, health and happiness. Sowing seeds, having fun getting dirty and nurturing food plants to harvest inspires many children to expand the range of foods they enjoy and hopefully influence their parents and other friends to eat more healthy vegetables.

By supply seeds, composts and plant foods (Miracle-Gro ones, of course) school pupils also learn the science of growing, the influences of growing media and feeding on plant growth and the scientific skills needed to carry out 'meaningful tests' on growing plants. It's valuable science learnt in a fun way.

Already more than 80 schools around the country have registered to get involved in growing carrots and cabbages under experimental conditions. But this year the Miracle-Gro'wers Academy is asking for even more primary, junior and senior schools to get involved in their Schools' Growing Initiative. So come on schools, let's show Miracle-Gro that the south-west can learn horticultural skills and provide lots of meaningful results that can be pooled with other schools from around the country.

So if your school pupils (ages 5+) want to get involved simply register the school on the website www.miraclegrowers.com.

There's a 'How to Get Involved' button at the bottom of the page that takes you immediately to the page for completion. The sooner you register the sooner you will get some composts and seeds to sow along with detailed guidelines on how to set up your own growing experiments.

From the same site you can also find below the 'Love Your Community' tab a 'Garden Fun & Facts' learning centre, some 'Ideas for Kids' and a new 'Ideas and Inspiration' section where you can find fun and engaging project ideas for parents and teachers.



Glendale would be delighted to assist you in any grounds maintenance, landscaping or tree management requirements for your 2016 campaign. With 13 offices across the South-west our local teams are available across the region to

support your 2016 campaigns. For advice, assistance and quotations please call 0345 838 6619.

glendale-services.co.uk

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Glendale



At the Presentation in Dartmouth, Terry Doyle, Regional Director - Southwest & South Wales for Glendale Managed Services presented the Sponsor's trophy this year to Truro.



Bert & Cynthia Filer

Winners of the Alf Crouch award & a National award for services to "The Bloom".

Bert & Cynthia have both been members of Weston in Bloom Committee since it was formed in 2007 and have given countless hours of service growing plants at home, planting out and caring for the beds and containers around the town.

After many years of service, they have decided to step down this autumn. Weston in Bloom will be poorer without them.

Presentation at Dartmouth

The presentation in September was held in the spectacular venue of the Britannia Naval College at Dartmouth. Being an active Naval College it proved quite challenging due to the security, but they proved very helpful and all went well in the end. We did have difficulties as the car access was reduced from 100 to only 50 cars, but we managed to provide transport to make use of the Park & Ride facility.

We were restricted to 320 delegates which in the end proved just adequate.



The It's your neighbourhood awards were made in the morning, with the main entries receiving theirs in the afternoon.

The Neighbourhood awards were presented by Cllr Rob Lyon, Mayor of Dartmouth, Terry Doyle Director of Glendale and Kay Clark from the RHS.

The afternoon awards were presented by Jonathan Dimbleby, who agreed to present all of these awards. Quite a task, but one he said he enjoyed, congratulating all the winners.

We must thank the Dartmouth in Bloom team for their help with the event, proving some excellent Goody bags for the delegates, and the floral decorations in the hall.

We have to also thank Simon & Jade from Bigimage photography who did an excellent job on the day. Pictures of the event can still be purchased from their web site.



www.bigimage.co.uk



Chairman's address

2015 has been an excellent year here in the South West. We are once again grateful for the outstanding efforts of the volunteers in the Communities within the region for their outstanding contribution in supporting Horticulture, the environment and Community development.

Congratulations and well done to you all. Thank you to the I Y N groups, the Judges the assessors and the mentors who make up Team South West ! Our sponsors Glendale, Merediths, Amberol, Viridor AND OTHERS who all contribute to making South West in Bloom possible. Thanks to the Royal Horticultural Society for its ongoing support and commitment the staff team who strive to support us all in our schemes designs and projects in pursuit of promoting the Campaign well done to you all.

At National level the South West has achieved its best ever results and many thanks to those involved particularly those supportive Councils who in these difficult times appreciate the values and potential of involving the vast army of volunteers that make up RHS Britain in Bloom South West.

Finally may I thank Dartmouth again for hosting the Awards at the excellent Royal Naval College and congratulations on your National Gold award. Good luck to all involved in 2016 lets try to get more involved in this initiative which can only result in a sustainable resilient and wonderful region of the U K "The Golden South West".

Jon Wheatley
Chairman
Britain in Bloom - South West

