

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF BLOOM



BRITAIN
IN BLOOM
with the RHS

Britain in Bloom - South West Spring Newsletter 2024



Britain in Bloom 60th Anniversary Celebrations



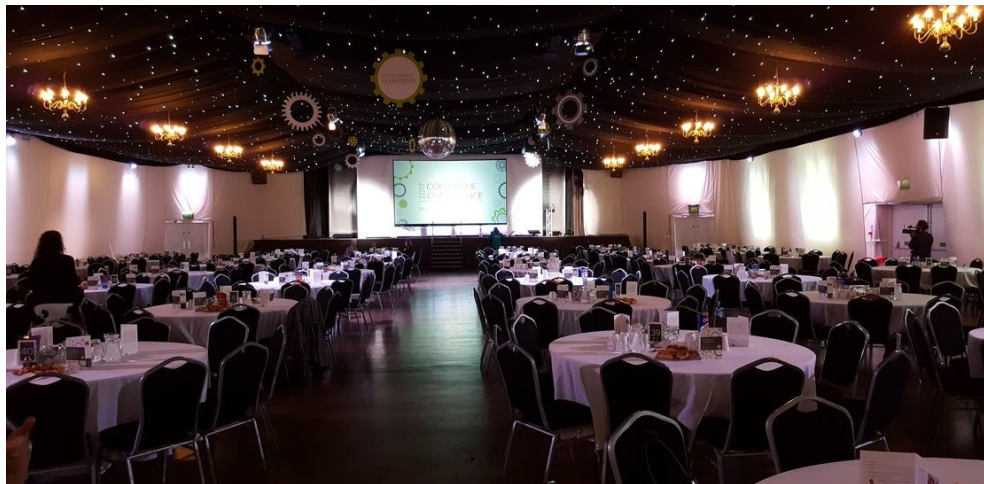
RHS Chelsea Feature

‘The Friendship Garden’
Celebrating the relationships that form when people garden
together in their communities.

Sixty years of Britain in Bloom, and a celebration of all the work by Communities throughout the UK, is to be recognised at the 2024 RHS Shows at Chelsea and Hampton Court Palace.

The South West Team, twice winners of the RHS Lawrence Medal, have been selected to develop two Features, based on the Bloom National Federation of the 16 regions in the UK.

Presentation Awards Event 2024
At The Pavilion in Bath
On Tuesday 8th October
Cabaret seating for both Presentation & Lunch
Cost £30 per Delegate
Closing date for bookings: Friday 20th September



Presentation ITINERARY FOR THE DAY (Preliminary)

- 10.30am *Registration and coffee*
- 11.00 am *Welcome by Lady Emma & the Lord Mayor of Bath*
- 11.15 am *Jim Buttress “**Reminiscence on Bloom**”*
- 11.45 am *Tom Hart Dyke, “**Plant Hunter & Gardener with Passion**”*
- 12.45 pm *Lunch*
- 2.15 pm ***South West in Bloom Awards***
- 4.15pm *Closing by Jon Wheatley*
- 4.30 pm *Judges surgeries for Main Competition entries*

RHS South West in Bloom Awards Presentation Day at Bath.

Tickets are £30 and booking forms are enclosed with this newsletter and also available to download from our website.



Tom Hart Dyke

Tom Hart Dyke is a plant hunter, plantsman & a plant nut who ever since ‘germination’ had been nurtured by his massively influential Granny when she gave him a packet of carrot seeds & a trowel at the age of three! His Grandmother was his best friend, both bonded by a shared passion for the outdoors and in particular Orchids.

And despite 9 months captivity as a hostage during the millennium year whilst on an orchid hunt in Panama & Colombia, Tom hasn't been put off further travels to far flung climes, and still has a crystal clear mission in life: Creating and further developing the World Garden (modelled on maps sketched in his diary during his captivity) which has a worldwide reputation of excellence & will ultimately keep his family home at Lullingstone Castle financially afloat.



Tom Hart Dyke



Jim Buttress will be accompanying Tom, and he will have some very interesting Tales to tell of his time with Britain in Bloom and other escapades.

Jim is one of the UK's leading gardening experts. He was Superintendent of the Royal Parks for 25 years, and his clients have included Her Majesty the Queen and his old friend the Queen Mother.

2023 Pride in Park Awards

NAME OF PARK/OPEN SPACE	TOWN/VILLAGE	AWARD
Bristol , South Gloucs & Wiltshire		
Troopers Hill	Bristol	5 STAR
Victoria Park	Bristol	4 STAR
Mundy Playing Fields	Thornbury	4 STAR
John Coles Park	Chippenham	4 STAR
Stanley Park	Chippenham	5 STAR
Barton Farm Country Park	Bradford on Avon	5 STAR
Poulton Park	Bradford on Avon	5 STAR
Somerset & North Somerset		
Yeovil Recreation Ground	Yeovil	5 STAR
Yeovil Country Park	Yeovil	5 STAR
Collett Park	Shepton Mallett	5 STAR
Rodmoor Gardens	Portishead	5 STAR
Jubilee Park	Portishead	5 STAR
Cornwall		
Truro Road Park	St Austell	4 STAR
Penlee Gardens	Penzance	5 STAR
Trenance Gardens	Newquay	5 STAR
Boscawen Park	Truro	5 STAR
Victoria Gardens	Truro	5 STAR
Devon		
The Glen	Honiton	4 STAR
Blackmore Gardens	Sidmouth	5 STAR
Connaught Gardens	Sidmouth	5 STAR
Glen Goyle	Sidmouth	5 STAR
Mill Marsh Park	Bovey Tracey	5 STAR
Tessier Gardens	Babbacombe	4 STAR
Memorial Recreation Ground	Kingsbridge	5 STAR
Rack Park	Great Torrington	5 STAR
Manor Gardens	Exmouth	5 STAR
Phear Park	Exmouth	5 STAR
Pavilion Gardens	Exmouth	5 STAR
Seafeld Gardens	Seaton	5 STAR

Britain in Bloom South West Pride in Park Awards 2024.

The parks and green spaces in the South West with the Pride in Parks Award continues to be a great success and the 2023 Awards were presented at the South West in Bloom Seminar at RHS Rosemoor on Thursday 21st March.

Closing date for Park Entries 2024: Monday 10th June

The criteria is the same as last year, and full details are available from our Secretary, or on our website. It is important that the entry is community led, and there will need to be a community representative at the judging. The time allocation can depend on the size of the park or green open space, and can be up to 2 hrs.

Please indicate on the entry form the estimated time needed to judge your entry.

Judging can take place from June until the end of the year, as often parks vary on when their displays are at their best, during the seasons. You will be able to indicate your general preference for when judging takes place, and if you have a special event that you would like judging to tie in with, we will do our best to judge it on a specific day if requested, and if sufficient notice is given. Please provide details on your entry form.

Entries are awarded one to five stars, the five star equating to a Gold Award.

Pride In Park Entry Fee is £30 for 2024 entrants.

**Entrants will receive an Award Certificate, together
with a plaque to display in your Park.**

Entry forms are available from the Secretary, or on our website.



Blackmore Gardens, Sidmouth



Trenance Gardens, Newquay

Glendale

Glendale is well known for large tree planting on some truly incredible sites across the UK. This scheme is for one of the UK's largest house builders and is nearing completion on the prestige property.

These stunning pleached trees surrounding the pool are simply stunning. Glendale also sourced, supplied and planted 70 meters of screening, a 6 metre planted height conifer hedgeline. If you require any help with tree movement or planting, please do make contact. Mention SWIB



Glendale are also well on their way to completing 5000 meters of Cornish walling on the A30. Glendale were asked to step in and support when other national builders couldn't support the project. Construction has been ongoing since March 2023 and will continue until October 2024.



The teams on this work have worked tirelessly to produce these stunning walls which will be in place and seen by millions entering Cornwall for many years. Glendale have had up to 14 staff on site over the winter working in the most exposed and challenging weather conditions. Mud rivers and horizontal rain have most certainly been a topic throughout the winter.



Glendale

Working for Glendale on a giving back day is always a wholesome experience appreciated by everyone. The Resident that lives here has a few health problems to say the least! His movement is severely limited.

For many years he loved his garden but his declining health and limited mobility has seen his garden become overrun and neglected.



Livewest and Glendale came out in force to change someone's life.

The garden is now tidy with a new fence and bench installed. There is also a volunteer maintenance solution in place to support future maintenance..

Projects like this mean so much, everyone involved enjoyed the team work. On

completion a few comments:

"Wow so much completed in a day what a team. great to be involved , 100% would do this again. What a satisfying day I feel so proud to have helped massive difference that was made for the customer."

A fantastic day for all involved, the resident in tears of happiness at the end made everything so worthwhile. A really great result, and such a difference made! Appreciate everyone's help, well done all.

I received the following text from Resident. *"A thank you to you, Mel, Keri and the Glendale Team today. A very happy customer. Please pass these thanks to Glendale. I've got to say a massive big thank you to you and your team today for doing a fantastic job on my garden. Such a lovely lot of people, so friendly and happy and hard working. You've made me so happy and grateful, I can't thank you enough for what you've done...thank you so much.*





New Planter Enhancement transformations

Amberol's [New Planter Enhancement range](#) has been designed to help transform old planters, as well as offering a new-look stylish planter and parklet for the community to enjoy.

The [Planter Enhancement range](#) integrates Amberol's popular self-watering [Metre Square planter](#) and [Promenade planter](#).

Since its launch in November 2023, Tim Troman, Amberol's Business Development Manager has been transforming old customer planters with the new contemporary and stylish planter surrounds.

Here is a before and after photo of a 20-year-old Amberol Metre Square Planter transformed with new wood planter surrounds.



Although the Metre Square planter was still in working condition, it was looking a little tired after 20 years. Instead of replacing it with a new planter, the new planter surrounds have integrated the old planter giving it a new lease of life.

The Friends of Ladybarn Park, is a local community group that is run by a group of volunteers that maintain and improve the park. Their commitment was recognised last year when they achieved an outstanding level 5 award for the 6th year running in the RHS and Northwest in Bloom Neighbourhood Awards. They wanted to update some old planters with Amberol's New contemporary [Planter Enhancement](#) surrounds and they are thrilled with the results.



Feature and Benefits of the New Planter Enhancement range...

Easy to install – the range has been designed to ensure it is easy to install for the customer, coming with easy-to-follow instructions to build from flat pack part-built materials.

High quality materials - the seating and planter surrounds are available in wood, recycled wood effect plastic, steel or dibond panels to feature graphics, logos or advertising. The panels are interconnected with a combination of roto moulded curved corners and T posts that can be manufactured from up to 100% recycled materials*.

Flexible solution - the planters and parklets feature self-levelling feet as standard, offering a quick and cost-effective option to improve your area on a permanent or temporary basis.

Bespoke and personalisation – the contemporary panels are easily interchangeable to create a variety of parklet seating and planter design combinations. The range is available in a wide range of standard colours and bespoke colours are available upon request*.

*Subject to availability and MOQs.

Environmental responsibility

Amberol's mission is to make a positive environmental impact by saving water with its [self-watering planter range](#) and the unique self-watering system, Aquafeed™ does exactly that. All Amberol products are made from a long-lasting material that is 100% recyclable at the end of its use. Our black planters are even produced using recycled plastics.

Find out more

For more information on Amberol's New Planter Enhancement range or to arrange a demo with Tim, please call 07795 251390,



South West In Bloom Regional Judging & IYN Assessments
Monday 1st July to Friday 26th July 2024

Britain in Bloom 2024 UK Finalists from the South West

We have five entries representing the South West. Bath In Bloom, Yeovil In Bloom, Glastonbury In Bloom, Cannington In Bloom and Exeter BID.

There is no doubt that they will all do an excellent job representing our region. Blooming Big Good luck to you all!



Large Village Cannington



BID InExeter



Town Glastonbury



Large Town Yeovil



Small City Bath

South West In Bloom
2024 Children's Painting Competition

2024 marks the 60th Anniversary of Britain In Bloom and to celebrate this special milestone year, the RHS have chosen the theme of **'friendship'** so we are delighted to announce our South West In Bloom theme for this year's Children's Painting Competition is:

“60 Years of Bloom – Celebrations and Friendships”

We would like paintings to reflect and celebrate how community gardening in your area brings people together, and for friendships to blossom through Bloom, It's Your Neighbourhood, School Gardens, or any other community gardening projects local to you.

**The competition age group categories are:
Up to 6 years, 7–11 years, and 12–16 years old.**

Art should be a maximum of A3 in size, and on the back of the painting details given to include the name of the entrant, their age, and school, together with the name of area, and/or, Bloom Group they are representing. Only one entry per age group, per School/Bloom Group can enter, and they should be the winners of your own local competition.

Entry forms are available to download from our website.

**Closing date for Painting Competition Entries
Monday 1st July 2024.**



Closing Dates

Pride In Park Entries: Monday 10th June

Award Presentation Bookings: Friday 20th September

RHS Community Awards 2024 Pilot

I am delighted to have been given the opportunity by South West in Bloom to introduce the new RHS Community Awards. These awards have been developed to recognise a wide range of Bloom and It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN) groups who excel in a specific area. They celebrate the work that groups are doing in the context of our changing world, around the most pressing issues, including biodiversity collapse, the increasing importance of a connection to nature for wellbeing and the changing climate. Through these awards we will be able to identify examples of best practice, success and innovation and tell their stories to inspire other people.

It is hoped that by opening these awards to all, both Bloom and IYN groups, that we attract a newer and hopefully younger participation. The intention is that in time these Awards will come to be regarded as being at the same level of significance and merit as the traditional categories of Best Village, Best Town etc. I hope everyone involved in South West in Bloom can take advantage of the opportunity brought by these new Awards.

Mark Porter, Chairman of the Federation of Britain in Bloom

Important Dates for 2024

Regional Judging	Monday 1st July to Friday 26th July
IYN Assessments	Monday 1st July to Friday 26th July
Pride in Park Judging	June 2024 to December 2024
Business Judging	June 2024 to August 2024
Presentation	Tuesday October 8th 2024. The Pavilion, Bath

South West In Bloom Discretionary Special Awards

South West In Bloom are delighted to support the new RHS Community Awards 2024 Pilot. Our Discretionary Award Panel will therefore, in addition to deciding our 2024 South West In Bloom Discretionary Special Award Winners, as nominated by our Judges and Assessors, will also select from our region's nominations, 5 entries to represent the South West for the new RHS Community Awards. These are:

- RHS Community Engagement Award**
- RHS Gardening with Young People Award**
- RHS Gardening for Health & Wellbeing Award**
- RHS Sustainable Gardening Award**
- RHS Gardening for Wildlife Award**

A FAQ's produced by the RHS, covering the most frequently asked questions about the new Awards, to include the criteria, nominations and the assessment process can be found on our website, under the tab **'Special Awards'**. There you will also find the full list of our own current Discretionary Special South West In Bloom Awards.

Please don't forget to encourage your Bloom and Community Groups to make our Judges and Assessors aware when they visit, if you feel your entry, group, individual, and or initiative, merits consideration for nomination for one or more of our Discretionary Special Awards, and of course, for any of the new RHS Community Awards too!

Good luck Everyone!



Remember to #southwestinbloom in your posts, to help us spread the message about all the blooming fantastic projects and schemes, communities and neighbourhoods in the South West are involved in!
@southwestinbloom.





The
countryside
charity

CPRE South West Environmental Award 2024

Judging criteria for discretionary award

We are looking for **NEW** projects for 2024

Projects could be: hedgerow creation, tree planting, establishing a wildflower meadow, wetland creation, creating a pond, wilding a landscape or garden, orchard creation or restoration.

Each **NEW** project needs to demonstrate end to end sustainability, shown by:

- Management plan with details of how it will be maintained to cover:
- Plants that are suitable to the soil
- Use of sustainable plant pots
- Use of natural compost or peat free if purchased.
- Native plants to the area (e.g., hedge that has similar plants to local hedgerows)
- Watering plan using collected rainwater.
- Use of traditional hand tools

Community Involvement with the **NEW** project

Projects which reach out to underrepresented communities or those that have had little access to the countryside and nature are especially welcome.

To find out about CPRE in your area, visit:
www.cpre.org.uk/about-us/who-we-are/local-groups/

How to enter

It's simple!

If your entry for the main competition in 2024 has a NEW project that is covered by the criteria, please let the judges know on your judging day. You can send them a short text with pictures to support your project.

The RHS team will then send a summary of the entries to CPRE who will then judge the entries for the discretionary award in October.

To inspire you, here are the best of the 2023 entries:

Winner

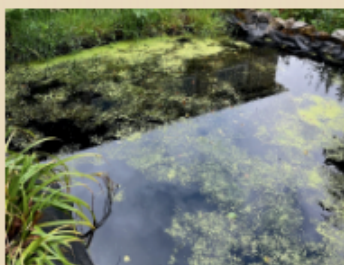
Haselbury Plucknett, Somerset



Volunteers planted 1500 trees on farmland and created a bee highway.

Runner up

Bere Alston, Devon



The group restored a pond at the local primary school, run a community orchard and monitor wildlife.

Based here
in the UK
we have over
150 years
manufacturing
experience.



Legacy Planters



Self-watering



100% recyclable



Long life



Bespoke sizes



Sustainable timber



Low maintenance

Here at geViews we are a specialist British Manufacturer of High Quality, Hardwearing, Low Maintenance Planters and Street Furniture. We combine great looks, with meticulous attention to detail and the best possible build quality.

Based in the Midlands we have over 150 years of manufacturing experience! Our highly skilled designers and engineers can make a product bespoke to your needs in a variety of materials, or you can choose from our extensive range of stocked Planters.

From our Self-Watering Planters, Hanging Baskets and Barrier Baskets to our Pagoda Display Boards, Noticeboards and Benches, ALL of our range has been developed to offer premium quality, long life, great value for money, minimum maintenance... And to be 100% recyclable.

The geViews range has been designed to perfectly suit In Bloom displays, Street Scene projects, Open Space schemes and Public Space programmes.



Oak Newforest Planter



geViews Barrier Basket



Pagoda Tower



Scenic Metre Square



Parish Notice Boards

For Planters and Street Furniture that are great for the environment and fantastic for your budget!

Get in touch with geViews today!

Call 01332 856039
or mail us info@geviews.co.uk



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Glendale & NSC Streetscene Contract Monthly Report

- Grounds teams reinstated the Floral Clock in Alexandra Parade. The clock had recently become a political point of contention following different organisations involvement and decision making. The recently added concrete was broken up and taken for recycling after which the surround was reinstated and a significant amount of topsoil was added.



Bloom in Bristol

My own involvement with Bristol In Bloom started around 15 years ago when I was Allotments Manager for Bristol City Council. Monica Whyte (Secretary of Bristol in Bloom) asked me if I could do a presentation on the Bristol Allotment Strategy for the regional judges. I duly came up with a presentation. After that, I regularly attended Bristol in Bloom Community Association meetings along with other Parks Officers, including the late Dee James who worked in the Council's Clean and Green Team, and was very supportive of getting groups involved in Bloom, especially St George in Bloom, Clifton in Bloom and Fishponds in Bloom. Dee later became Secretary of SW in Bloom of course.



At the time we used to run a school garden competition, and so did Bristol in Bloom. We agreed to combine the two, and a team of judges including myself would spend a whole week going round judging Bristol school gardens, very enjoyable if tiring, the kids were so enthusiastic!

In the main competition, our main competitors were Plymouth, they were the only city of a similar size to Bristol that used to enter. Mike Crook chaired the Bristol in Bloom meetings, while Monica was Secretary. They also ran the Bristol Flower Show, I remember that Jon Wheatley would come round judging along with Ray Davey (Ray sadly passed away in 2023), they would always give our display a gold or a large gold, just to encourage us! People would often say that the Allotment marquee was the best part of the show, we had allotment holders selling produce from their plots, although sometimes the 'produce' was rather less convincing (pottery or artwork!). One year I took some homemade wine along for people to taste, a group of more mature ladies came back several times for tasters and seemed quite tipsy by the end!

Anyway, Bristol went from achieving Gold in the regional competition (see [Bristol wins in South West in Bloom competition - BBC News](#)) to move onto the Nationals, where we also achieved Gold . In 2012 we entered into the Entente Florale, a European version of Bloom. We got a Gold in that as well. The run up to judging was always very hectic, with staff going around the route ensuring that all the grass was cut, and no litter or graffiti visible.

We always had to dress up in our uniforms with blazers and ties for judging day. On the day of the Entente Florale judging, I put up a display on one of our allotment sites at Kennel Lodge Road, near Ashton Court Estate. Luckily it was a beautiful day but rather breezy. The coach with the judges duly turned up. The judges had a few minutes tour around with me and looked at the displays. Just as they were getting back on the coach, a gust of wind came and blew all the display boards over! The Hungarian judge thought it was hilarious!

From then on, sadly things went downhill. Bristol in Bloom relied heavily on the City Council for financial support, and ever tightening local authority budgets combined with other priorities meant that the financial support from the Council was no longer there. The school competition went on for a few more years until the pandemic put an end to it. However we still have many It's Your Neighbourhood entries in Bristol, and we want to encourage more. In 2022 the Ardagh Community Garden won the Gordon Ford Trophy, and we have many other strong IYN entries. I believe that It's Your Neighbourhood is very much the future of Bloom, as it is free to enter, and can be on a small scale, and even with no funding at all you can still enter. All you need is enthusiastic volunteers and a site that they are working on to improve through horticulture and related activities.

I became a Bloom judge in 2012, judging the Cox Cup with Kim Parish. It was an awful summer, and it rained everywhere we went (so at least we saw everyone in the same light so to speak!). We judged in Mullion and Beer on the same day, and East Devon suffered floods, so the drive to Beer was interesting to say the least! I enjoyed it though, and was pleased to be asked back to judge the following year. I have judged most years since then apart from a year out, one for personal reasons and one because of the Covid pandemic. I co-ordinate It's Your Neighbourhoods in the Bristol and surrounding area, and enjoy being part of the Bloom community. It is like a big family, and we all try to support each other. One thing that I have learnt is that we are not just judging but also giving mentoring and support to the groups to help them achieve even better in future.

I have attached a few pictures, one of me on a judging tour, the rest are from entries that I have judged but no longer enter, which is a shame, they were all good entries.

Steve Clampin.

Parks Operational Co-Ordinator (South)
Bristol City Council

Notes from our President

Vic joined South West in Bloom in 1983/84 when Malcolm Bell ran the Region in Exeter.

The Secretary was Murial Preece, who administered the region and made the best “Cakes”

Initially there were no Presentations and we were a much smaller area and Bath, Bristol, Exeter and Plymouth were the Main Entries.

Many notable horticulturalists were members of the committee, Bob Sweet, Fred Daw, Stuart Brockfield and Don Waterhouse, along with many others.

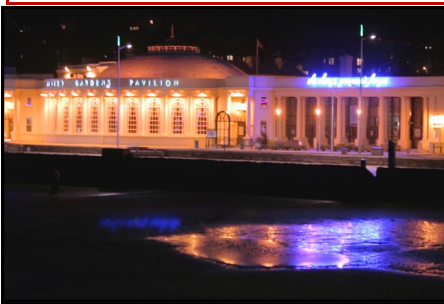
When the RHS took over the competition a stronger Community focus developed with Bob Sweet, who had joined the RHS.

Vic became Chairman and a whole group of new people joined the Region, among them Richard Budge the current Vice Chairman.

We started Regional celebration events for the Main Competition, and latterly “Its Your Neighbourhood” , an idea from Jim Buttress, that has regenerated Britain in Bloom.

Throughout recent years Vic Verrier has ben a stalwart member of the Regional Committee and we are indebted to him for his commitment and dedication.

Vic Verrier MBE President SWIB



Weston-super-Mare 2012



Truro Cathedral 2013

Venues for our Presentations

- 2002 Shepton Mallet Showground
- 2003 Minehead by steam train, the Regal theatre
- 2004 Bristol on the Downs
- 2005 Hestercombe Gardens Cheddon Fitzpaine
- 2006 St Ives, Cornwall
- 2007 Riviera International Centre, Torquay
- 2008 The Guild Hall, Plymouth
- 2009 Westlands Entertainment Centre, Yeovil
- 2010 Assembly Rooms, Bath
- 2011 The Atlantic Hotel, Newquay
- 2012 Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare
- 2013 The Cathedral, Truro
- 2014 Civic Centre Trowbridge
- 2015 Dartmouth Naval College
- 2016 Taunton Cricket Club
- 2017 The Imperial Hotel, Torquay
- 2018 Westlands Entertainment Centre, Yeovil
- 2019 The Atlantic Hotel, Newquay
- 2020 No Presentation, Pandemic
- 2021 Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare
- 2022 Haselbury Mill, Nr Crewkerne
- 2023 The Cathedral, Truro
- 2024 The Pavilion, Bath



Dartmouth Naval College 2015



Haselbury Mill 2022



Westlands Entertainment Centre, Yeovil 2018



Imperial Hotel, Torquay 2017



Kingsbridge – Our Celebrations and Friendship

Like many towns and villages throughout the UK, Kingsbridge had suffered from lack of maintenance in our public open spaces as a result of lack of manpower resources and funding by our local authorities.

This prompted the formation of our group which has completely transformed our town in so many ways over the past few years.

Key to our success is the involvement of our community and the dedication of our group members which has grown year on Year with an added incentive to move forward by being involved with the RHS Britain in Bloom Campaigns.



Old Hay Cart

We are proud of our successes and the fact that horticulture has played such an important part in our community by bringing together members who are lonely, have various medical conditions and would not normally have the opportunity to be able to mix socially and form great friendships.

We have regular weekly working parties throughout the year but always find time to have a break to socialise between working sessions at a local pub with complimentary hot drinks in recognition of what we achieve here in terms of our planting and contribution to keep the town attractive and vibrant.

Although our workload has grown considerably as we now carry out all of the planting and maintenance, we still enjoy a good working relationship with the local authority who cut the grass and hedges.



KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM



We are passionate about involving the children with our horticultural work for what we believe is an essential life skill and also involve people with special needs who make a valuable contribution and gain so much satisfaction by being part of KIB.



Market Square

Our Town Council also recognise the enormous contribution we have made and our success which has prompted a significant investment in greening up our main shopping area with new seating, trees, planters and other street furniture.

We still have work to do but many of our public open spaces and heritage sites in and around our beautiful estuary are just stunning for everyone to enjoy.

This year we will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of Britain in Bloom within our community with a garden party at our Museum garden as well as new sustainable planting in some of our regenerated display areas.

Graham Price
Chairman, Kingsbridge in Bloom

Our sponsor Glendale offers horticulture expertise including, grounds maintenance and tree surgery, landscaping & fencing and countryside contracting services.



Spring Seminar 2024

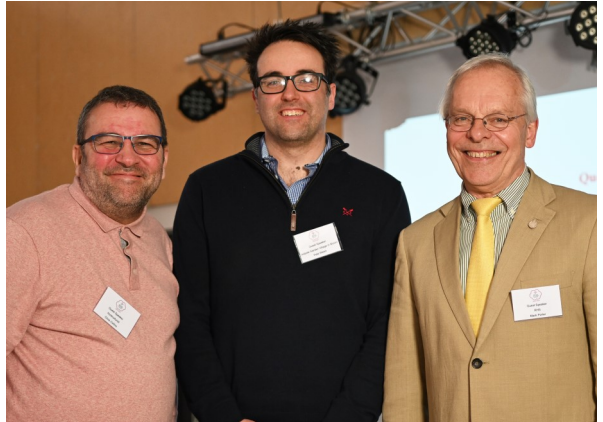


We held a very successful seminar on Thursday 21st March at RHS Rosemoor. We were warmly welcomed by Emma Thompson, Director of Rosemoor.

There was a very interesting presentation by Chris Collins, covering his many adventures in different parts of the world. The morning then finished with guided Tours around Rosemoor with their staff and apprentices as guides.

Mark Porter, Chairman of the Federation, covered his very positive vision for the future of Britain in Bloom, and the proposals that will move it forward.

This included details of the new National Discretionary Community Awards, as detailed on pages 12 and 13 and on our website. Peter Welsh from Tadpole Garden Village In Bloom, also gave a very informative talk, full of advice and guidance on how they've successfully secured funding & grants for their Bloom Group.



Chris Collins, Peter Welsh & Mark Porter



Presentations by Chris Collins and Mark Porter.



Truro Parks 5 Star



Mundy Playing Field, Thornbury 4 Star



Sidmouth Parks 5 Star



Exmouth Parks 5 Star



Yeovil Country Park 5 Star



Rack Park, Torrington 5 Star

Our thanks go to Nigel Bloxham for taking the photos at our Spring Seminar. Photos of the Parks Presentation are available to view and order on Nigel's website: <http://www.ukphotogallery.com>

Joining Exmouth in Bloom

My journey started in the Spring of 2012 when I moved permanently from my London area home and businesses (all horticultural) to Exmouth where we had our getaway residence looking over the sea.

One day my partner Sue sat me down for a chat on the way I was becoming a sort of cabbage in my retirement (though I did paint with Exmouth and London Art groups). Sue told me that in her opinion I was recoiling and that was not good for my well being. She went on to encourage me to now give something back to Exmouth and begin by entering my garden to the Exmouth in Bloom Garden Competition which I ultimately won the first prize for rear gardens.



From the first time of having met this incredibly enthusiastic and multitalented group they invited me to join their committee or at least become a friend. I was immediately drawn towards their committee and have remained so to now.

Working with this great team has allowed me to join them first and foremost to engage in keeping our town looking attractive all year round, which was my motto for all my past landscape projects.

Exmouth in Bloom have since that 2012 summer given me so much in so many ways, too many to mention but having said that here are a few directions and avenues that have opened for me during my “retirement” with my Bloomers.

Working with likeminded people enjoying their goal and getting the towns appreciation.





Making friends and all that goes with friendship
 Giving my expertise to those beginners keen to progress with Bloomers
 Designing a school garden and weekly helping children gardening which is a highlight of my gardening year.

Designing areas in our town and designing and implementing schemes for Devon CC, East Devon DC, Environment Agency, East Devon DC.



Becoming a Britain in Bloom judge.

Painting murals with my Art Group friend in many areas of Exmouth. Twelve years of gardening joy with Exmouth in Bloom, and long may it last.

Graham Bell, Exmouth in Bloom



2024 Regional Judging & IYN Assessments
Monday 1st July to Friday 26th July

South West in Bloom at Chelsea 2024

We will be at Chelsea celebrating international links with New Zealand and Japan. The joint designer James Wheatley is visiting from New Zealand to help design and develop both Features. We will also be presenting a Community Award to Japan on the Tuesday of the Chelsea Show, in recognition of their inaugural foray into Bloom.

RHS Hampton Court Feature Gardening For People & Planet



The main aim of both Chelsea and Hampton Features is to promote friendship and inspire communities and gardeners to continue to develop projects, however small, throughout the UK.

Planting will feature highly, as will biodiversity, sustainability and art in the

landscape. Emphasis will be given to sustainable planting and use of primarily native trees. Herbs and vegetables will be interlaced with herbaceous and annual plantings. Wildflowers will also feature in both projects.

Planting has changed from high performance plants, to more long term herbaceous and native wild flower plantings. Edibles have too become more prevalent, but the key change is the move away from mono cultivars along with the need to diversify, good examples include planting not trees local apples. Turn to the concept of a “weed” as an unwanted plant, research its value first before removing it.

Above all is to have fun gardening. I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved in advance, and as this is written 20 days before Chelsea, my fingers are crossed for a good Feature.

Chairman's Report

2023/4 has been a successful year here in the South West and our Truro and Rosemoor Presentations were successful.

The main impact however, has been the sustained efforts of you all in your local areas. Many congratulations to you all.

To celebrate our efforts in 2024, we intend to hold our Award Presentation at the City of Bath on 8th October. Bath was an inaugural entry in Bloom 60 years ago and has been the most successful overall winner in Bloom, and it is fitting that we celebrate in the City.

Finally, my thanks to you all for your outstanding achievements , our Patrons, President, Executive Committee, Bllom Groups, IYN's, Schools, Businesses and Parks.

You are all excellent, lets continue to develop Bloom.

Best of Luck for 2024.

Jon Wheatley
Chairman RHS South West in Bloom

Gordon Lennox Trophy

South West in Bloom, well actually Terry Porter, again won the Lennox Trophy in 2023 for the best Vegetable Exhibit in RHS Shows, as part of our RHS South West in Bloom last exhibit at Chelsea.

Terry received the trophy from Ruth Willmott, RHS Council Member. Congratulations Terry!



COMPETITION ENTRIES 2024

Champion of Champions 10k +

Rod Pooley & Nick Jones

South Swindon in Bloom Babbacombe Bay in Bloom
Thornbury in Bloom Yeovil in Bloom Bath in Bloom

Champion of Champions less than 10k

Lesley Jelleyman & Jane Pagano

Cannington in Bloom Dartmouth Green Partnerships
Glastonbury in Bloom

Tesco Cup 35,000 -79,999

Jon Wheatley & John Davies

Paignton in Bloom Torquay in Bloom Taunton

St Bridget Cup 19,000 -34,999

Tim Eley & Ian Cawley

Portishead in Bloom Barnstaple in Bloom
Newquay in Bloom Exmouth in Bloom

Portman Cup 14,000 - 18,999

Martin Hambidge & Su Maddocks

Wellington Town Council Tiverton in Bloom Truro in Bloom
Brixham in Bloom Keynsham in Bloom

Sargent Cup 9,000 - 13,999

Camilla Bassett Smith & Richard Beale

Minehead in Bloom Melksham, in Bloom
Sidmouth in Bloom

Preece Cup 7,000 - 8,999

John Yeo & Graham Bell

Bradford on Avon Hayle in Bloom

SWTA Cup 5,500 -6,999

Bob Sweet & John Yeo

Kingsbridge in Bloom Bovey Tracey in Bloom

Ayre Cup 1,500 - 5,499

Richard Beale & Bob Ollier

Radstock in Bloom Westfield in Bloom
Bere Alston in Bloom

Mary Mortimer Under 1,500

Terry Porter & Sean Fletcher

Plympton St Maurice Conservation Area Charmouth Parish Council
Barrington in Bloom Poltimore in Bloom
Chew Stoke Community in Bloom Chew Magna in Bloom

Pennant Entries

Due to the success of the Pennant entries, we are continuing these classes, with the Village section, continuing to be divided into Devon & Cornwall. Also due to numbers, we will continue with the combined Town category.

Pennant Town North & South

Burnham on Sea & District in Bloom
Liskeard in Bloom
Crediton in Bloom

Judges Lesley Jelleyman & John Davis

Pennant Village Cornwall

Illogan in Bloom
Menheniot Green

Judges Richard Budge & Nigel Bloxham

Town Centre

Chippenham Town Council

**Judges Simon Richards
Sean Fletcher**

Pennant Village Devon

Stoke in Bloom
Woolwell in Bloom

Judges Ian Cawley & Richard Budge

Bids

InExeter, Bath
Plymouth Waterfront Partnership

**Judges Jon Wheatley
Graham Bell**

Please note, allocation of Judges at the time of print is provisional

Important Dates for 2024

Regional Judging	Monday 1st July to Friday 26th July
IYN Assessments	Monday 1st July to Friday 26th July
Pride in Park Judging	June 2024 to December 2024
Presentation	Tuesday October 8th 2024 The Pavilion, Bath

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF BLOOM



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your own socials too!

Important Dates for 2024

Regional Judging	Monday 1st July to Friday 26th July
IYN Assessments	Monday 1st July to Friday 26th July
Business Awards	June 2024 to August 2024
Pride in Park Judging	June 2024 to December 2024
Presentation	Tuesday October 8th, at The Pavilion, Bath

Closing Date to book Presentation Tickets
Friday 20th September

Children's Painting Competition
Closing Date For Entries : Monday 1st July

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