



SOUTH WEST



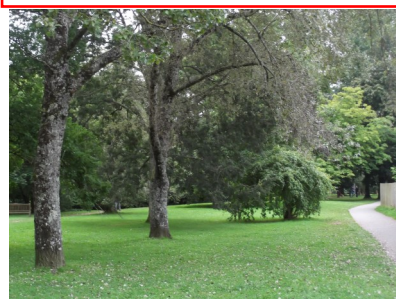
### Important Dates for 2020

Regional Judging	<b>Wed 1st July to Wed 15th July</b>
IYN Assessments	<b>Wed 1st July to Friday 31st July</b>
National Judging	<b>Mon 3rd Aug to Friday 14th Aug</b>
Pride in Park Award judging	<b>June 2020 to December 2020</b>
Spring Seminar	<b>Thursday 19th March 2020 Beer</b>
Presentation	<b>October 2020</b>

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>

If anyone would like to be considered as a RHS It's Your Neighbourhood" assessor please contact us for an application form.



Contact  
Terry Porter  
15a Moorcroft Road  
Hutton, Weston super Mare  
North Somerset. BS24 9RW  
E Mail [southwestinbloom@aol.com](mailto:southwestinbloom@aol.com) .

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



SOUTH WEST

## RHS South West in Bloom Autumn Newsletter 2019



### Denise James

You will all know by now of the passing of Denise James our committed dedicated and enthusiastic Secretary

Denise worked with us here at Chew Magna and was so important to our show team at Chelsea, Chatsworth and Birmingham.

Denise was also Chair of Keynsham in Bloom and dedicated to ensuring that her team achieved Gold in all areas

Denise was also a National Judge and quickly promoted. She understood the values that Volunteers and Communities can bring to where they live.

I have spoken to many friends colleagues and family members of Denise who are all so grateful of her commitment and efforts. Denise never stopped working on Bloom and its value "A true Champion" who we all thank for such an all consuming effort .

Thank you Denise RIP





## National results in 2019

### **Large Town Yeovil SILVER GILT**



Thank you In these difficult times for Local Authority led projects you achieved a well deserved Silver Gilt In talking to Rae I understand he gave you some great pointers for the future.

Certainly you represented us well, many thanks and plan for your future Gold which I am sure you will achieve.

Will you please pass on SWIB sincere thanks to your team and Council for an outstanding result.

An excellent Silver Gilt Medal was awarded by the Late Denise and Geraldine King. Both National Judges enjoyed their time in this small Village.

Everyone seemed to be involved and having seen it two weeks before I can fully understand why they were impressed with the total community approach.

Most impressive was the work undertaken in the excellent Community Allotment by the Young People of the Village.

Floral features and the War Memorial as well as the excellent private Gardens were exceptional. True Community spirit in this lovely Village.

### **Large Village Currey Rivel SILVER GILT**



### **Bids & Town Centres Bath Bid GOLD**



Bath won a gold for an excellent BID entry .Edibles in Milsom Street with Nasturtiums .

Sustainable in Southgate Street with super Stipa and Herb Carts from Devon.

Excellent Bloom Committee plantings outside Lewis House.

Milsom Place full of Butterflies and Bees. Well done Bid Team you have kept up the City of Blooms tradition. Hopefully the City can achieve a repeat success in 2020. Good Luck.

### **South West in Bloom Winners of the Children's Painting Competition 2019**

This year we were again pleased with the response to the Schools Children's painting competition. The theme this year was **"Get rid of Plastic - GO GREEN"**. The winning paintings were framed and returned to those who painted them, together with their certificate.

**Children's Picture Competition  
Up to 6yrs Old Winner  
Winner  
Wanda Crabtree Age 5  
Somerdale Radstock  
Educate Together Primary School**



**Children's Picture Competition  
7 to 11 years Old Winner  
Joint Winner  
Maya Rees –Durham Age 8  
The Grove School, Totnes**



**Children's Picture Competition  
7 to 11 years Old Winner  
Joint Winner  
Iona Finlay Age 9  
St Patrick's Catholic  
primary School. Corsham**





**RHS South West in Bloom  
2020 Schools Painting Competition  
The theme for this year is**

**“ Climate Change and Me “**

**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:**

**Terry Porter**

**15a Moorcroft Road, Hutton.**

**Weston super Mare, North Somerset. BS24 9RW**

**Entry Forms will be available in the Spring Newsletter.**

**Closing date for entries is Friday 17th July**

**South West in Bloom  
Winners of the Children’s Painting Competition 2019**



**Children’s Picture  
Competition  
12 to 15 years Old Winner**

**Carmen Dowling Age 12  
Cape Cornwall School  
St Just**

**Glendale**

**National results in 2019**

**Champion of Champions  
Kingsbridge GOLD**



I was really surprised that Newquay only achieved a Silver Gilt.

This given the SWinB result whereby you achieved one of the highest Gold marks for years. We in SWinB have striven to ensure that our markings are of the same standard as National level.

I visited the Town just before judging and would congratulate you on the Rose Garden, the Zoo, Clean Beaches and wildlife areas.

I understand you had a full feedback session from the National Judges which I hope was constructive and listening to them have pointers towards achieving your part as category winner status!

**Small Town  
St Just GOLD**



Gold in Champions achieved by Volunteers in a Teamwork approach seldom seen .

Some of the best signage and sustainable planting in a Town situation ever seen.

The combination of signage and quality planting is a testament to how Communities can achieve excellence in partnership working.

You are real Champions. A visit is a must for all tourists and Bloom interests.

Kingsbridge for its impressive wildlife-friendly celebration of its 800th market year.

**Large Coastal  
Newquay SILVER GILT**



What a result. I Y Ns. everywhere . Businesses blooming in every respect. Schools of the highest standards.

All of you involved are amazing examples of the ethos of Bloom.

Keith Jackson from Scotland could hardly believe the quality, hospitality and fun he and his co Judge experienced.

As Chairman I am so proud of you, you are an example of sustained effort. Good luck in the future and thank you so very much for representing the South West.

**Calling all South West In Bloomers – share your plant up tips to be in with a chance of winning £1000 of Amberol products**

As self-watering planter manufacturer Amberol comes to the end of celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year in business, the company would like your help in creating a commemorative booklet of *Best Plant Ups*.

Amberol’s managing director, Patience Atkinson-Gregory explains: “As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, we wanted to produce something that could help the In Bloom community continue with their valuable work making a visible difference to our high streets, parks, transport hubs, business parks and public places. So, we are on the lookout for examples of great plant ups using Amberol’s self-watering containers to include in our commemorative booklet. We are asking In Bloomers and gardeners to tell us about their successful planter displays and share the benefit of their experience with others.”

As a thank you to contributors, entries included in the guide will be submitted to the judging panel with prizes of £1000, £500 and £250 awarded to those judged to be the best.

**How to enter**

You can enter via the online form on the Amberol website home page at [www.amberol.co.uk](http://www.amberol.co.uk) or by emailing [info@amberol.co.uk](mailto:info@amberol.co.uk). The closing date for entries is Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

Your submission should include information about:

- What you planted
- When you planted it
- Why you like it
- Any other tips and advice
- A photo of your Amberol planter (ideally a before /after photos )
- Any other information that might be interesting

Patience adds: “The In Bloom community is well-known for being supportive of each other and has so much expertise to share that we thought it would be great to involve them in producing something that can benefit everyone. One thing we have learned after 50 years in business at Amberol is that there is always something new to learn; and that people achieve so much more when they work together.”



**Commercial. Leisure & Tourism Award**

It was again a very successful year for these awards maintaining the previous high level of entries, with a total of 29 entries in the Commercial. Leisure & Tourism Category.

**BRISTOL & SOUTH GLOS**

Bradley Stoke	Bodywise (UK ) Ltd	GOLD
Thornbury	The Anchor Inn,	GOLD
Thornbury	Beech Care(Thornbury) Ltd	SILVER GILT

**B&NES**

Bath	The Griffin Inn	GOLD
Bath	Milsom Place	GOLD
Bath	Southgate Street	GOLD
Freshford	The Inn at Freshford	GOLD
Kelston	The Old Crown Inn	GOLD
Radstock	Radstock Cooperative	GOLD

**SOMERSET**

Burnham on Sea	Kathleen Chambers Blind	GOLD
Cannington	Blackmore Farm	GOLD
Chard, Somerset	Warner Leisure, Cricket St Thomas	GOLD

**DEVON**

Babbacombe	Babbacombe Model Village	GOLD
Babbacombe	Cary Arms & Spa	GOLD
Buckfastleigh	South Devon Railway	GOLD
Buckfastleigh	Salmon’s Leap	GOLD
Buckfastleigh	Buckfast Abbey Gardens	GOLD
Ilfracombe	Hele Valley Holiday Park	GOLD
Modbury	Moor View, Modbury	SILVER GILT
Staverton	Staverton Preservation Group	GOLD
Torrington	Dartington Crystal	GOLD
Torrington	Great Torrington Conservative Club	GOLD
Plymouth	Royal William Yard	GOLD

**CORNWALL**

Liskeard	Liskeard Traders Association	GOLD
Newquay	Hendra Holiday Park	GOLD
Penzance	The North Inn	GOLD
Penzance	Geevor Tin Mine	GOLD
Penzance	he Flower House	GOLD

**Closing Date for Business, Leisure & Community entries is**  
**SATURDAY 14th MARCH**  
**You can enter on line from 10th January.**



**Big Soup Share stories**

Did you help to make this year’s RHS Big Soup Share the Biggest yet? More than 3000 schools and groups took part, whizzing up their home-grown produce to bring people together for a celebratory meal this autumn. And soup was just the start, with groups using it as a chance to host events from garden fundraisers to lunches for care homes, recruit new volunteers and form new partnerships.



We’d love to hear what you got up to. Please help us improve the campaign for next year and celebrate your successes by filling in our short survey. You can also register your interest in next year’s event! [schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/BigSoupShareFeedback](https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/BigSoupShareFeedback)

**Look out for Japanese knotweed**

Flood affected regions should keep an eye out for Japanese knotweed, which favours waterways, its through its living stems, crowns or rhizomes easily spread as waters rise and river banks erode, allowing it to take root elsewhere.

Plants other than Japanese knotweed have roots that look a bit similar, though, so check them against the GB non-native species Secretariat (NNSS) identification sheets.

[www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=47](https://www.nonnativespecies.org/index.cfm?sectionid=47)

The invasive weed is classed as 'controlled waste' under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, meaning it must be disposed at licensed landfill sites and not within household, compost or green waste schemes. The best way to deal with roots is to destroy them on site by allowing them to dry out before burning.



**Celebrating 50 years with Toby Buckland**

Amberol’s other 50<sup>th</sup> celebrations included a recent presentation by TV presenter and professional gardener Toby Buckland at a special lunch held in October.

Toby, who is probably best known for presenting BBC’s *Gardeners’ World* and for being a regular guest on *Gardeners’ Question Time*, demonstrated his own ideas for creating a stunning container display with suggestions for suitable plants and useful planting tips, filling one of Amberol’s planters during the course of his speech.

“Toby’s talk was very informative and interesting with lots of handy container planting tips - which shows how much we can learn from one another,” adds Patience.



Amberol originally supplied paddle mats to prevent slippage on floors. Over the years, the product range has evolved to include litter bins as well as the company’s trademarked Aquafeed™ matting which is found in their self-watering planters. The use of the matting and the built-in water reservoir means that most planters need watering just once a week, conserving water and reducing maintenance.

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

The *Best Plant Ups* guide will be available free on request when published in 2020.





## ***Glendale working in Cornwall***

*At the start of the summer 2019,headline sponsor, Glendale could be seen sowing wildflower meadows, planting up pollinator-friendly flower beds, building bee hotels, planting trees and much more, to create brilliant new sites across mid-Cornwall, working with St Austell Town Council and Wadebridge Town Council*

*Environmental charity, Bug Life's Urban Buzz project has been working in partnership with The Eden Project, Cornwall Council, Falmouth Town Council, St Austell Town Council, Truro City Council and Wadebridge Town Council to encourage even more bees, butterflies, hoverflies and other insect pollinators into these places and create a real buzz in Cornwall*



*'Urban Buzz' is an exciting project using innovative techniques to create 840 'Buzzing Hotspots' in England and Wales for our declining pollinators. By transforming mown and unused areas of land, we are creating more than 210 hectares of rich and vibrant habitat (That's over 35 Wembley Stadiums!).*

*Pollinators are vitally important to landscapes and people but are in serious decline. Urban areas provide enormous opportunities for habitat creation and Urban Buzz is utilising these spaces to help support these remarkable insects.*

## **Presidents Message**

This autumn newsletter has to be one of the saddest I have had to write. As many of you are now aware we lost our most dedicated secretary of South West in Bloom Denise James, after a short illness, a couple of weeks before our presentation. Following her diagnosis of terminal cancer, she fought on with pride and dignity until the end; we were all devastated at her death.

Denise worked tirelessly for the "Bloom" campaign and her own town of Keynsham in Bristol. Always willing to advise any new group setting up and mentoring them. With her keen eye for detail, she was delighted when following training to be elected a RHS National judge for Britain in Bloom, carrying out her duties with pride. Talking on the telephone only a few days before she died, still thinking of bloom, Vic don't forget we are nearly at capacity for Newquay, cups still to be engraved, needs to be sorted. As we all know Terry and Jon picked up the reins in difficult circumstances so the "show" could go on. Moving to the 11<sup>th</sup> October presentation day in Newquay,our patron Lady Emma Fellowes gave a very personnel and moving tribute to Denise.

On a bright autumn day the 25<sup>th</sup> October at Haycombe Crematorium in Bath, Denise's funeral took place. Many of my committee attended including me and local "Bloom" groups many wearing flowers. It was a beautiful family orientated service, with many tributes paid including a one from chairman Jon. This he repeated in London the same evening as the day coincided with the National awards presentation, which prevented some members attending. Our condolences go to partner Peter and her family.

On a happier note I turn my attention to our Presentation day at the Grand Atlantic Hotel Newquay on 11th October. It was another fantastic event with over 380 attending. The highlight for many of you I know was the attendance of our Patrons Lord Julian and Lady Emma Fellowes along with Cllr Rachael Craze Mayor of Newquay, who formed the presentation party.

The morning session being taken up with another bumper number of entries in IYNs awards to be presented. Then followed a judging tour of Marlborough with Chairman Jon accompanied by Lady Emma, who thoroughly enjoyed the experience. After a well received buffet lunch, the afternoon saw the usual friendly banter as the main competition results were announced. My congratulations to you all.

The National Britain in Bloom awards held on the 25<sup>th</sup> October in London saw another good set return to the South West. Gold for Kingsbridge in the Champion of Champions a great achievement for Graham and his team. Golds to Bath and St Just, with Silver Gilt to Newquay, Curry Rival, and Yeovil Well done everyone, more of the same in 2020

Thank you all for taking part and brightening up our public spaces, the RHS and our Sponsors. See you on 19th March at the Spring Seminar in Beer.

All that remains is for me to wish you all best wishes for the Festive season.

**Vic Verrier MBE**  
**President**



## Lady Emma's Judging Tour

Last year Lady Emma expressed a desire to go one on of the judging Tours, to see how the judges assess the entry, but mainly to have the opportunity to meet and talk with the Volunteers. She went with our Chairman Jon Wheatley when he judged Marlborough in the Champions of Champions. She particularly enjoyed the visit to the volunteers at the Stonebridge Wild River Reserve.

The day was successfully ended with a Tea Party.

Jon and Lady Emma discussed the Tour at our presentation in Newquay, and it was clear? that everyone enjoyed the day, including the entrants.



*Here are some examples of the fantastic work already done!*

- *Bee Bank for nesting*
- *Formal beds to increase forage availability*
- *Native meadows for forage*
- *Shrubs*
- *Bee hotels for nesting*
- *Ornamental meadow for forage*
- 

*Sites have been selected to improve habitat connectivity, making pollinators more resilient to changes such as development, climate change and pollution; allowing the movement across a city.*

*The results have been fantastic, with an excellent response from members of the public and are a great example of adding nature/conservation enhancing, flower filled landscape improvements into the public environment.*

*More information on Bugslife's Urban Buzz project can be found here*

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/our-work/pollinator-projects/urban-buzz/>

<https://www.glendale-services.co.uk>

Follow us on Twitter: [@GlendaleUK](https://twitter.com/GlendaleUK)



We thank Glendale  
for being our main  
sponsor

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

**SATURDAY 14th MARCH**

**You can enter on line from 10 th January.**



### RHS Britain in Bloom theme, 2020

In 2020, the RHS will be calling on Bloom groups to *Grow Social* and work to bring communities together through gardening. We'd love to see you making new connections in your community through plants, reaching beyond the garden gate to bring people together.

*Grow Social* will be the Bloom theme in 2020, but all community growers, groups and schools can also join in. The RHS is developing tools to help get you started, which you will be able to register for in January, with printed and digital packs available.

The RHS is also looking for your own ideas and stories on this theme. If you have a great example of where your group has made new connections through plants, or reached out to those that otherwise might feel cut-off, please send a brief summary of your story to [communities@rhs.org.uk](mailto:communities@rhs.org.uk) with the subject line 'Grow Social case study'. Other questions and comments are also welcome.



#### Mike Nelhams

Mike trained at RHS Wisley. Mike currently runs Tresco including the world famous Tresco Abbey Gardens. An Internationally recognised Plantsman and Corresponding member of the RHS Tender Plants Committee

Mike understands the Environment where on Tresco they are totally self sufficient and their Community all take part in making Tresco one of the most Beautiful places in Europe

Mike will be our keynote speaker and will also take part in our Spring seminar question time



#### Nina Acton

Nina Acton is the Inspirational Producer of "All things Floral at the Three Counties RHS Malvern Festival"

Nina is an Internationally recognised person whose design and planning skills make Malvern one of the finest Flower Shows in the World.

Nina will present The Parks Awards and talk about her visions to reality inspirations

### Bleadon Village, North Somerset - Wheatley Trophy Winner Best Re-wilding Entry

Bleadon entered the Bloom competition for the first time this year. The new scoring criterion attracted them as this means that community and environment are almost as important as the actual floral exhibitions. Therefore, as part of the project, participants need to be mindful of the local environment.

The Blue Campaign is a community nature project, started by Fergus Beeley. The idea is that we can each contribute to wild habitats by leaving a piece of our gardens, schools, parks or even road verges and letting it grow wild.



To signify that you are doing that you can put a stake in the ground with a blue heart on it. This tells other people not to cut that area – that area is left to be as nature intended.

Bleadon in Bloom have put Wildflower seeds in many place and particularly along the Rhyne edge. This is to support our Butterflies and Bees.

The first Blue Hearts were made by David Sharman. These have since been accompanied by Blue Hearts made by Children from Lympsham School and Rocks with Blue Hearts on them made by Children from Westhaven School.

A map has been created so that people can walk round a trail to follow them through the village.





**New Youth Awards at Newquay Presentation**

Young people are a key part for the future of Britain in Bloom, and this year South West in Bloom marked the activities of two of our Young Champions.

**Jack Matthews**



Jack is 16 and currently doing a Level 2 Horticulture course at Kingston Maurward College and his ambitions for the future is to investigate the different areas of horticulture before deciding which area he would like to find a career in. At the moment he is interested in gathering seeds ready to grow for next years in bloom competition. He is a keen member of Templcombe in Bloom. Jack sows most of his seeds and carries out his gardening at his Grandmas.

**Zac Powell**



Denise James presented Zac the Curry Rivel in Bloom young Gardener of the year

This was our first year of awarding the title. It was created in memory of Madelaine King-Oakley who was involved in settling up Curry Rivel in Bloom three years ago and who sadly died very suddenly in Oct 2018.

Zac is 11 years old and has his own patch at the allotments in the village which he shares with his parents and brother and sister, he grows runner beans, tomatoes and many other vegetables.

He suppresses weeds and keeps away slugs and snails with sheep's wool that he has collected from nearby fields. He encourages pollinators by growing wild flowers and companion plants. On judging day the judges were invited to taste Elderflower champagne made from flowers from a tree in the allotment and tasted honey from the family beehive.

Zac plays cricket, loves football but always finds time for his gardening where he is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic, with even a Blue Heart area in his allotment.

**Spring Seminar 2020**  
**Thursday 19th March**  
**The Mariners Hall, Beer**  
**10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

**Programme**

- 10:00 Coffee, Welcome & introductions
  - 10:15 “Gardening for the Neuro-Disabled.” A Journey  
**Josephine Spring**
  - 11.00 Comfort break
  - 11.15 **Bloom in Tresco**  
**Mike Nelhams**
  - 12:30 Lunch Bar Available
  - 13.45 **Floral Three Counties**  
**Nina Acton**
  - 14.00 RHS Workshop **Volunteers**  
**Social Media**  
**Susannah Hodge**  
**Emily Braham**
  - 15.00 Presentation of Parks Awards  
**Nina Acton**
  - 15.30 Question Time
  - 16.00 Closing Remarks
- Cost **£20.00 per delegate.**

We have a very good programme for this years Spring Seminar. There will be a workshop when delegates can discuss and share ideas with officers of the Royal Horticultural Society.

**Booking form enclosed or you can book for the Spring Seminar on Line from Friday 10th January.**



**BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED**  
**Closing Date Friday 6th March**

**Seminar £20.00 Per Delegate.**  
**Including Lunch**



## RHS South West in Bloom Pride in Park Awards For 2020

Our park Awards continue to be popular and the 2019 awards will be presented at our Spring Seminar on Thursday 19th March at the Mariners Hall, Beer. We allow entrants to select when they want the Park judged during the Calendar year to always pick it in "It's best season."

Copies of the entry form can be downloaded from our Web site after 10th January and the closing date for 2020 entries is Monday 8th June.



**Parks entry form to be sent Terry Porter,  
15a Moorcroft Road, Hutton. Weston super Mare. BS24 9RW  
by Monday 8th June  
Tel No 07989 855339**

**Please Note :- The closing date for the Main Competition, IYN,  
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## The South West in Bloom Awards 2019

**The Sponsors Award went to Newquay**



**The Champion of Champions winner was Thornbury**



**Vic Verrier Trophy  
The Best New entry Crewkerne**

**The Alf Crouch Winner  
Godfrey Mortimore Truro**





## Presentation Day at Atlantic Hotel on Friday 11th October 2019

**This year's presentation event at the Atlantic Hotel, Newquay, turned out to be a successful event at a very good venue.**

**The Newquay in Bloom committee did an excellent job in ensuring that all went smoothly. The hotel provided a very good lunch, which was served very effectively.**



**The Mayor of Newquay, Councillor Rachael Craze welcomed everyone to enjoy the day.**

**Lord Julian & Lady Emma Fellows attended the presentation ceremony, and together with the Mayor presented the awards.**

**We presented over 400 IYN's in the morning, with Jon Wheatley finishing before lunch with a short presentation of Lady Emma accompanying him on her first judging visit.**

**The main presentation in the afternoon saw our Bloom communities celebrate their achievements.**



**Photos of the event are still available on the Big Image web site.**



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

The Direct address is below.

<https://4487402.tifmember.com/default.asp>

## Chairman's report

Congratulations to our National Representatives. Kingsbridge In Champions of Champions with a Solid Gold Medal . Bath Bid with a Gold and a wonderful result for new time entry St Just with another Gold.

Silver Gilts to Newquay, Curry Rival and Yeovil. An outstanding result to all of you . Well done.

Our own regional competition was an outstanding success with excellent Business Parks and amazing Its Your Neighbourhood Entries totalling over 405 entries including Schools which totalled over 30.

In our main competition standards were of the highest and thank you all so much for making the South West a "Golden " place to live.

Thank you Mentors, Judges, Our Committee, Volunteers and Sponsors.

A very Special thank you to Lord and Lady Fellowes who show such interest and commitment in all our work.

Terry Porter and Jan for stepping into the recent difficult situation associated with Denise short and tragic illness, Terry also undertakes his duties to the highest professional standards and keeps me in control at the presentations.

I wish you all well in 2020 and look forward to your renewed efforts and particularly those of you new to Bloom next year.

RHS Support is crucial to our future and thank you to the Charity, it's Staff and Council for their continued support and interest.

Bloom is changing , but it is still about quality Horticulture gardening and growing.

The Environment, Food Security and Plastic are major concerns we can all address

The Key though ,is the Community, people like yourselves, friends and Colleagues all working together. Good luck and have an excellent Festive season.

Jon Wheatley





**Plymouth Community Gardeners**

Gardening in urban settings can be challenging, but three IYN groups in Plymouth have planted good solutions in diverse locations rebuilt after the blitz.

**Residents of West Hoe Flats** have worked with Plymouth Community Homes (PCH) to enhance their grounds with ground floor plantings and floral displays on their balconies. They grow fruit to eat and the garden houses wild bees. Residents feed visiting ducks from across the Tamar. The front lawn has cherry trees and bright floral displays, pride of place is their floral bicycle. PCH organised a planting day in May and the judge was greeted by residents and locals including the PCSO. The garden



is on the route of the City bus tour.

**Morley Court Flats** (PCH) are in the city centre but a delightful roof garden, above the garages in the centre of the flats, allows the residents to grow ornamentals and edible crops which are picked and distributed to the residents at their monthly meetings. There is a play area, greenhouse and raised beds. The garden hosts visits from city centre schools.

**Pembroke EMB in Devonport** is celebrating its Silver Jubilee after establishing autonomous management to help improve the run down estate which had many problems 25 years ago. Residents are active in a range of projects to enhance the environment from art, mosaic and most importantly gardening. The residents held a planting day in the Spring and planted up tubs and baskets with bright annuals. Meanwhile staff have a programme to target communal areas for improvement with plants. Some residents have small gardens where a wide range of ornamentals, edibles and herbs are grown. The group had a very successful summer meeting to celebrate the Jubilee, congratulations. Plymouth will host many visitors next year. Can these groups put the Flowers into the Mayflower 400 celebrations?



**Golden jubilee gardeners on the South Devon Railway**

The steam railway has attractive station plantings to contrast with the natural beauty of the journey along the River Dart. The line is seven miles long, built in 1872, which runs along the stunning valley of the River Dart between Buckfastleigh and Totnes. The steam trains are run by a charity and so attracting tourists to the station with plantings is important.

**Staverton Station** is the intermediate station on the line. Alison Burgess leads



the group that tend the plantings. The floral displays this year are striking and many reflect the golden jubilee of the line being yellow. The road approach to the station has been replanted with a border of Welsh poppy, lavender and tubs replanted with Nemesia. New raised beds of railway sleepers have been installed on the

platform and planted up with tall perennials including yellow Alcea, Alchillea and contrasting purple lupins which can be seen from the carriages by passengers in transit. Wildlife has been made a feature with a log pile on the platform and, across the permanent way, undisturbed by the public, are bird boxes and feeders, with bored log bug houses. Visitors can eat in the station buffet car, surrounded by baskets and tubs of flowers.



**Buckfastleigh Station** is the northern terminus and railway materials including engine parts and sleepers for raised beds are incorporated, and reflect the activity of the site. There are a good selection of sustainable perennial and self-seeding plants, with interesting colour contrasts and variety of heights on the platforms, picnic areas, museum, by the miniature railway and around the car park. Plantings led by Nicholas Wakeling are planned to peak during the August period, when visitor numbers were greatest, but have seasonal variations. Sustainable hanging baskets have been planted and a special garden was created for the jubilee.