



SOUTH WEST



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RHS South West in Bloom Autumn Newsletter 2016



Important Dates for 2017

Regional Judging **Wed 5th July to Wed 19th July**
 IYN Assessments **Mon 3rd July to Monday 31st July**
 National Judging **Mon 7th August to Friday 18th Aug**
 Pride in Park Award judging **June 2017 to December 2017**
 Presentation The Palace Hotel, Torquay **Date to be confirmed**
 Spring Seminar The Palace Hotel, Torquay **Thursday 2nd March**

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



The Secretary,
 Denise James, 150 Charlton Road,
 Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2JZ.
 E Mail southwestinbloom@aol.com .
 Tel No 0117 9865830

Our new Patrons at the Presentation event



Lady Emma Fellowes



Lord Julian Fellowes



Web Site www.southwestinbloom.org.uk

Glendale



South West In Bloom are very proud to have Lord and Lady Fellowes as our Bloom Patrons and extend our thanks, appreciation and very best wishes to you both.

“Our presentation event in Taunton was made very special by your joint attendance and everyone really enjoyed and valued your company.”

Bloom is such an undervalued campaign given its many outcomes but it has changed to recognise the value of people involvement in the environment, volunteering, as well as quality horticulture.

We are very proud to have two Patrons who clearly share and recognise such values and we look forward to your further involvement in our activities.

Jon Wheatley



Lord Fellowes of West Stafford, DL. Julian started work as an actor but is best known as a writer. His first film script was “Gosford Park”, directed by Robert Altman, which won him the Oscar. He wrote the scripts for “Vanity Fair,” “Young Victoria” and he worked on “The Tourist”.

He is responsible for the “book” of the Broadway musicals, “Mary Poppins” and “School of Rock” and he has just been nominated for a Tony for the latter. He has also written two Sunday Times Best Sellers, “Snobs” and “Past Imperfect.” He wrote and directed “Separate Lies” and “From Time to Time” both of which won several awards.

He is the creator, writer and executive producer of “Downton Abbey” for which he has won three Emmys, a Golden Globe, a Special BAFTA, and many other industry awards. Julian is involved in various charitable organisations with his wife, Emma, as well as being head of the Talking Books Appeal for the RNIB.



Lady Emma Fellowes of West Stafford, LVO. Emma, as Lady Emma Kitchener, is the President of The Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund and the Kitchener Holiday Home in Lowestoft. She is heavily involved in The Stroke Association, chairing the Life After Stroke Awards, co-chairing a gala dinner at Buckingham Palace in March and taking part in an annual sponsored bicycle ride.

She is Vice President of Flora and Fauna International and Patron of the North Dorset Home Start. Emma and Julian together are Patrons, Vice Patrons or Ambassadors of the following: Breast Cancer Haven, Cinemagic Belfast, Dorset

Blind Association, Families for Children, Pan Pals (pancreatic cancer), The Rainbow Trust, and they are both involved in a new appeal for Alzheimer's. She is a lady-in-waiting to HRH Princess Michael of Kent.

Presentation Day at Taunton Thursday 6th October 2016

South West in Bloom had a very successful presentation day at the Taunton County Cricket Ground.

We were made welcome by the Mayor of Taunton Deane, Cllr Vivienne Stock-Williams and the local nurseries did an excellent job in providing floral displays for the event. We were also pleased to see our sponsors Glendale and Amberol were present.

We were honoured to see that our recent Patrons, Lord & Lady Fellowes were able to attend the event and present the awards. This proved to be a real bonus to all those who attended, and if they are available on the date next year then I am sure they will look forward to attending again.

The venue was challenging due to the height of the room, with large television screens throughout the room everyone was able to follow the proceedings.



If anyone still needs photographs of the day they can be obtained from the Big Image web site.



Web Site
www.southwestinbloom.org.uk

www.bigimage.co.uk

Presidents Message

As I write my message to you we are experiencing the end of our first winter storm "ANGUS" who came with a vengeance with anything between 50/100mm rain falling within a few hours. More rain than most areas had in the whole of the autumn months. Many of our groups will be busy planting their trees and shrubs along with perennials for creative sustainable planting. It's always good to complete while the ground is still relatively warm. I noticed our Portishead group all very busy planting on our face book page, well done.

October the 6th saw many of you gather at the Somerset County Cricket ground in Taunton for our regional presentation. And what an occasion it was as we were graced by the presence of our patrons Lord and Lady Fellowes of West Stafford along with the Mayor of Taunton Deane Vivienne Stock Williams and her Consort Ian Stock Williams.

With their engaging enthusiasm with the recipients it certainly made their day. Sharing our passion for the environment was very evident, and I thank them all for making it so memorable. It was a long day with again over 400 IYNs to present awards for, as well as our other competitions. It was good to see Sherborn and St Just share the honours in the Champion of Champions this year.

Moving onto the Nationals a week later to Edgbaston Stadium in Birmingham where gardening expert Chris Beardshaw was guest of honour and presented the awards. We in the South West did very well, Beer (large village), Exeter (small city), Exmouth (coastal over 12k), Midsomer Norton (town), all collected Silver Gilt medals, St George in Bristol urban community a Silver medal, an RHS Community champion awards went to Patricia Flag and Paul Myers of Midsomer Norton. Well done both of you. And finally our ever reliable Portishead group (large town) a Gold medal.

Pride in Parks competition 2016 was well represented again, showcasing the best in the West. These awards will be presented at our spring seminar in Torquay in March.

Our regional awards ceremony will also take place there in October. Finally this gives me the chance to thank our hardworking Chairman, Jon, along with Secretary Denise and Treasurer/ IT Terry and of course all my committee and judges...

Have a wonderful festive season, see you all in 2017

Vic Verrier MBE President RHS South West in Bloom

National results in 2016

Large City Class Exeter Silver Gilt



Exeter were awarded a Silver Gilt medal for their 2016 entry. This was an excellent result given the time they had to put the entry together and the very short period of their recent return to Bloom.

Many thanks to The Exeter team particularly the excellent IYN and Pennant groups that through very hard work and commitment made this entry possible. Please have confidence as you are making such a difference to Exeter and the South West

Large Town Portishead GOLD

Portishead won Gold in their category. Many congratulations on an all round entry following which an invitation has been sent to Portishead to participate in the 2017 National Champion of Champions. We all wish them every success in representing SWIB in this very special competition.



Village Class Beer Silver gilt



Beer won a Silver Gilt Many thanks to Ursula and her team The judges were very impressed with the Pecorama and the very strong community involvement through the numerous IYNs along the route. Well done to all involved.

National results in 2016

Urban Community St George in Bloom, Bristol



St George were awarded a Silver Medal, a fantastic result! Urban Communities have far greater challenges than the typical bloom group, but they are an area where we in the Bloom world are targeting so as to involve the many new communities developing within the British Isles, particularly in the bigger conurbations.



St George did start at a lower base than most but it is just a matter of time before people like Grenville Johnson and his brilliant team transform these areas to the benefit of all concerned. Certainly a gem in a large City where the values and outcomes of Bloom seem undervalued at present!

Seaside Exmouth Silver Gilt



Exmouth received a Silver Gilt award in the Coastal Category and maintained their normal high standards. The Judges were very impressed with the wide range of plants on display as well as the strong teamwork approach to the entry. Congratulations to all involved and many thanks to you all.

Glendale

 **MEREDITHS**
QUALITY NURSERIES FOR OVER 40 YEARS

Leisure, Tourism & Commercial Award

A very successful first year for this new award with over 20 entries. Establishments from all over the region participated and really pulled out the stops to raise the quality of premises and visitor experience. We will be charging £20 per entry to cover assessment and feedback costs but this environmental benchmarking award has much to commend itself for as a measure of quality.

Congratulations to all involved.

Jon

Judges will be looking at areas around entrances, public facilities, signage, standard of maintenance and general appearance. As well as interesting and original floral displays, general landscaping and general maintenance of grassed areas. They will also be looking at the environmental side of the business and community involvement.

The awards take on the traditional format of Gold, Silver Gilt, Silver and Bronze

Accreditation of Judges and Assessors

Acting in parallel with Yorkshire in Bloom your Executive have decided to progress this important initiative. This follows strong representation from many Judges and entry's to create a standard and a clear pathway for everyone involved. There is much to do in this area but we will follow the principles adopted in other similar areas in Horticulture and Environmental assessment and will safeguard the process which we would hope would be recognised by other areas. It is intended that this process will be open and training will be given where appropriate.

Jon Wheatley

South West in Bloom 2017 Schools Painting Competition

The theme for this year is

“ My Favourite Season ”

The age groups are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

Entry Forms are enclosed

Closing date for entries is Friday 21st July

South West in Bloom Winners of the Children's Painting Competition 2016

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

Up to 6yrs Old Winner
Shaye Mc Gregor age 5
Longleaze Primary School
Royal Wootton Bassett



7 to 11 years Old Winner
Isabella Evans age 10
St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
Corsham



12 to 15 years Old Winner
Elland Chalvington age 12
Cape Cornwall Comprehensive School
St Just

Small Town

Midsomer Norton Silver Gilt



Midsomer Norton received a Silver Gilt as well as two Community Champion awards. Congratulations to Pat and Paul. A highlight of this entry was the involvement of Children and young persons which does indicate that even in the mid summer holiday such involvement can be achieved. Roger Burnett stood in for me on this entry so as to avoid any regional conflict of interest and with Bill Ronald a new judge from Scotland sampled great Community hospitality from this former mining Town.

Congratulations to you all and many thanks.
Jon Wheatley. Vice Chair National Judges

The New Town Centre category

A Category where a defined area can be separated out from the Whole Town or City and submitted for assessment. Some of the thinking behind this relates to the current concerns relating to the condition of our Town Centres and High Streets.

SWIB would be happy to pilot such a competition in 2017 but not at the expense of any main entry. For example we would accept any Main entry submitting in addition a Central part of that entry an area for consideration.

In addition we would welcome any new entry's with just a Town Centre. Cities such as Wells, Towns such as Street. Perhaps Bristol Town Centre, and maybe Plymouth. Please be aware it's just not about Flowers!

Jon Wheatley

Planters in Kingsbridge win Amberol's annual photo competition

The spring edition of the South West in Bloom newsletter explained how over £2000 worth of Amberol products were up for grabs by entering the company's annual photograph competition.



So, we are delighted to announce that the results have just been announced - and that the winner comes from the South West region.

Gill Matthews of Kingsbridge in Bloom in South Devon submitted the winning entry which was entitled 'Jack Pot'. The photograph included figures made from flower pots in front of one of Amberol's self-watering beehive planters, overflowing with a beautiful cascade of flowers

Gill had some stiff competition from councils and In Bloom groups across the UK and as far afield as Belgium, but the judges felt that her image combined humour and imagination, as well as showing Amberol's self-watering planters at their very best.

Amberol's MD Patience Atkinson-Gregory was impressed with the quality and range of entries saying: "Judging the photos is fun but it's always a difficult task as there are so many beautiful images to choose from. However, Gill's photo made the judges smile as well as showcasing how our self-watering containers can really help flowers flourish in all kinds of weather and in any location."

Gill wins Amberol goods to the value of £1000.

Amberol's top tips for planting spring bulbs

While most of the photo competition entries showed flowers in full summer bloom, it's hard to beat a floral display of colourful spring flowers after a grey winter. Year round displays are also looked on favourably by Britain in Bloom judges. So, if you want stunning spring displays, now is the time to start planting your spring bulbs.



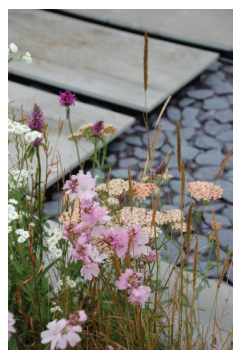
Glendale Horticulture is proud to supply gold award winning 'A Dog's Life' garden at RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show.

The garden, which is the first dog friendly garden to be shown at Hampton Court, marks 125 years of Dogs Trust.

With production from seed and young plant material undertaken as early as October last year for the garden, the project developed over time producing a wide range of herbaceous perennials, annuals and shrubs in shade of blue, white, yellow and flashes of purple.

Lewis Normand, Glendale Horticulture's Head of Garden Design, worked closely with garden designer Paul Hervey-Brookes on plant production to ensure that the garden achieved 'the wow-factor'.

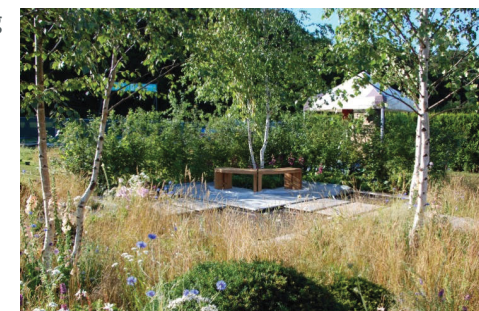
Paul Hervey-Brookes was understandably delighted with his gold medal and added "I was delighted to work with Lewis and Glendale Horticulture on our 2016 Hampton Court Garden after the success we had enjoyed at RHS Tatton last year". For the past few years Lewis has sourced and grown plants for shows and private gardens for us and we have built a solid relationship, which allows me to use Glendale as a one stop point for all of our plant needs, safe in the knowledge that the skills and quality are second to none!"



Following on from the success at RHS Chelsea Flower Show and RHS Hampton Court Palace Show, Glendale Horticulture have increased the number of award winning gardens supplied with the addition of RHS Chelsea RHS Tatton Park Flower Shows.

Lewis Normand once again worked with the RHS Young Garden Designer of the year contestants in supplying their gardens at the Tatton show with UK grown plants. Glendale were delighted to once again supply the winner Caitlin McLaughlin in her Gold medal winning garden entitled 'Nature and Nurture'.

Lewis said of the competition, "The RHS Young Designer of the Year competition continues to grow and is an excellent example of the depth of talent in garden design across the UK".



GLENDALE

The trend for umbeliferous plants is still strong with *Cenolophium* and *Selinum* being favourites in the perennial offering and *Ammi* and *Orlaya* in the annuals.

Shrub interest is on the increase and people are returning to use woody plants in their schemes with greater focus, not just to provide structure in otherwise herbaceous schemes, but for their own floral and foliar merits.



Silver-grey foliage is starting to feature more and more heavily in planting combinations and stronger use of colour becoming more popular, with less emphasis on pastel shades and the recent trends towards heavy use of orange and purple.



Anxieties over Box Blight don't seem to have slowed down the market for sales of *Buxus*, especially as many substitutes are less impressive alternatives.

For more information about Glendale Horticulture visit www.glendale-horticulture.co.uk



Find the right place to plant your bulbs - containers are ideal, offering a sheltered space for spring flowers to grow.



This place also needs to be cool – if it is too hot the bulbs will flower too soon, before enough roots have been formed to support growth. You can stimulate the effect of winter by placing containers in a cool, dark place or sheltered spot.

After keeping your bulbs in a cool place for around two months, most hardy bulbs such as tulips and daffodils are ready for a warm, sunny site with good drainage. Because Amberol's [self-watering planters](#) are double walled, they offer great insulation and protection from extremes of heat and cold.

To root well, bulbs need the right amount of water. Too wet and the bulbs will rot; too dry and they will not root properly. It's also advisable to soak the bulbs before planting. If using Amberol's self-watering planters, you can be confident that your bulbs will get the optimal amount of water to ensure optimal growth.

Because all Amberol's self-watering planters have a built in water reservoir, plants take in water as and when they need it. Amberol have a range of self-watering planters in many styles and sizes, from hogshead style barrels to tiered planters to stone effect troughs, all made from robust recyclable polyethylene. Perfect for everything from fresh spring displays to stunning summer cascades.



For more information about Amberol's products, email sales@amberol.co.uk or call 01773 830 930.

Important Dates for 2017

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| Presentation, The Palace Hotel Torquay | Date to be confirmed |
| Spring Seminar The Palace Hotel, Torquay | Thursday 2nd March |

National nominations for 2016

**Small Town
Sherborne**



**Large Town
Truro**



**Village Class
Cannington**



**Champion of Champions
Portishead**



**Urban Community
Clifton, Bristol**



**Seaside Entry
Sidmouth**



Chairman's address

2016 has been yet another great year for SWIB my thanks go to you all for your dedication and hard work throughout the many communities participating within the region

Thanks to the Committee and the R H S staff who assist us now more than ever with the National Competition and our regional activities. Particular thanks to those staff from the RHS who promote and manage the Campaign for School Gardening scheme which is now looking to link and involve with Secondary Education more. Hopefully we can get this initiative to also link more with the Bloom groups in your area as eventually those Children involved will leave School and most likely wish to continue their environmental social and horticultural interests.

This year saw the continuation of the successful Parks award with the presentation of awards at the Spring Seminar. You may be aware that The Government, Communities and Local Government commission are collecting evidence on the Value and future Management of Parks. If you have a view or concern re your local park now is the time to write to your MP and raise concern.

For me personally the real concern is the de professionalising of Parks horticulture (not in all areas of the region but we can all clearly see those Towns where skills are still present and Parks thrive all at relatively low costs to budgets). Another great success is the Leisure, Tourism & Commercial award which raises the profile of the Commercial sector in the Region. Congratulations to those entrants involved.

Finally and once again for all your help in promoting and sustaining RHS South West in Bloom, something you can all take particular personal pride in knowing that in so doing you are making a difference to the quality of life here in the South West of England.

Best wishes.

Jon Wheatley
Chairman, RHS South West in Bloom



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Spring Seminar 2017

Thursday 2nd March

10.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

The Palace Hotel, Babbacombe Road Torquay TQ1 3TQ

Provisional Programme

- 10:00 Coffee, Welcome & introductions
- 10:15 'Updates and trends in bedding' **Stuart Lowen** of Ball Colgrave
- 11:00 More about "Its your Neighbourhood"
- 11:45 Community Horticulture, Bloom Developments and Campaign for Schools. **RHS Speaker** (Name to be announced).
- 12:30 Lunch Bar Available
- 13:30 **Guest Speaker**
- 14:15 "Parks and Chelsea Exhibits illustrated". **Darren Share MBE**
- 15:00 Presentation of Parks Awards **Darren Share MBE**
- 15:30 Closing Remarks

Cost **£15.00 per delegate.** FREE parking

Darren Share MBE is a National Bloom Judge and is one of the Country's prominent Parks and Cleansing Officers being in charge of Birmingham City Councils Services

We are hoping for a special guest speaker, but this cannot be confirmed at the time of printing. Watch out for details on our web site.

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

BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED
Closing Date Monday 13th February

Seminar £15.00 Per Delegate.
Including Lunch

Large City Exeter



These representatives are currently the subject of endorsement by the RHS for the 2017 National Competition

All have won Gold in 2016 and subject to final ratification are SWIB representatives with our full support. Congratulations to Truro, Sherborne, Sidmouth, Clifton, Cannington and Portishead in the Champion of Champions. There is a possibility of Exeter being asked to represent us in the Large City Category.

RHS South West in Bloom Pride in Park award.

Following the success of the Parks award, it will continue in 2017, with judging again being any time from June to December. This allows for the park to be judged at "Its Best". Closing date for entries Monday June 12th. As before the presentation for the 2016 awards will be held as part of the Spring Seminar in Torquay on 2nd March 2017.



Cannington Walled Garden



Sidmouth, Connaught Gardens



Yeovil Country Park

**Parks entry form to be sent
to The Secretary
Denise James,
150 Charlton Road,
Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2JZ
by Monday 12th June
Tel No 0117 9865830
Download from Web site after 1st
January 2017**

Purple4Polio Campaign

The RHS recently promoted the 'Purple4Polio' campaign and encouraged bloom groups to join forces and work with Rotary Clubs across the UK, as part of their national 'Purple4Polio' campaign. It is estimated that over 5 million crocus tommasinianus are being planted out as part of this year's campaign. Bloom groups were encouraged to work with their local Rotary clubs to identify suitable locations and help to co-ordinate the planting.



Keynsham in Bloom Community Group were approached by their local Rotary Club and asked to suggest a suitable location. The Rotarians asked that the agreed location should be in a high profile area for everyone to see and enjoy, as well as promoting the Purple4Polio campaign.

The group suggested Queens Road Shopping Precinct, which had already seen a major bloom makeover earlier in the year as part of the Greening Grey Britain initiative.

Over 30 volunteers from Community at 67, Keynsham in Bloom, St Kenya Green Team joined forces with Rotarians and gave up their Saturday morning to plant up 5000 corms. It was a fantastic community event. Community at 67 treated the volunteers to some well-earned tea and cake.

Everyone involved all commented on how wonderful it was to partner up with Keynsham Rotary Club on such an important campaign. It was great to see so many volunteers on a sunny Autumn morning working together and greening up their local neighbourhood.



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

SATURDAY 11th MARCH

You can enter these on line from 1st January.

Greening Grey Britain for Health and Happiness - Keynsham - Queens Road Makeover

Queens Road was positively alive and buzzing, when members from St Kenya Green Team, Community at 67 and local residents joined forces as part of the Queens Road "Makeover Project", under the banner of Greening Grey Britain for Health and Happiness.



Once the tubs had been delivered the group couldn't wait to get planting and brightening up the area outside the estate shops. Children from the Green Team also planted up the wooden trough that had been donated by a local resident with an edible theme. One local resident Margaret Davies and user of Community @67 said "in all the 57 years she has lived around Queens Road, we have never seen anything like this in our Community, it is absolutely wonderful, Margaret was a little overwhelmed when she saw the floral planters.

The planters are now pride of place and so many local residents and shoppers stop and admire them, they have really enhanced and raised the profile of Queens Road.

The project is still ongoing, Keynsham Rotary Club have now joined forces and along with other volunteers 5000 Crocus bulbs were planted up as part of the Rotary International Purple4Polio Campaign.

Volunteers also planted up the tubs with winter seasonal bedding. The event drew in quite a crowd and was a great success. The local traders have seen the benefits of this project and it is hoped that they will sponsor future planting schemes.

Greening Grey Britain has certainly transformed the shopping area, so much so that Keynsham in Bloom are now looking to expand this initiative to the remaining two other estate shopping areas and are currently looking for potential sponsors. Keynsham in Bloom spokesperson said this initiative is all about Health, Wellbeing and Happiness and the feedback and comments received definitely suggest that we are ticking all three boxes.

