

Important Dates for 2014

Spring Seminar Bath	Thursday 20th February
Spring Seminar Tavistock	Thursday 27th February
Closing Date for S W in Bloom Entry	Saturday 15th March
Closing Date for IYN Awards Entry	Saturday 15th March
Regional Judging	Wed 2nd July to Wed 16th July
IYN Assessments	Wed 2nd July to Thursday 31st July
National Judging	Mon 28th July to Friday 8th August
Presentation at Trowbridge	Thursday 18th September

New Discretionary Awards in 2014

We are introducing a number of new discretionary awards for 2014. These are for the **Best Park** and one for the **Best Allotment site**. These will be judged as part of the normal judging tour.

Especially for 2014 we are introducing a special award from the **Best Display using Field Poppy**. This is to recognise the many towns, villages and communities that are sowing special poppy fields and displays to mark the start of World war I in August 1914



To help Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Britain in Bloom, we are keeping the entry fees to the Pennant competition Free for another year.



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

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Tel 01275 333007
E mail - southwestinbloom@aol.com**

Web Site www.southwestinbloom.org.uk

Britain in Bloom - South west Autumn Newsletter 2013



Chelsea Flower Show 2014

We will be exhibiting in the floral marquee a 12m x 12m exhibit, to show the Best in SW Horticulture. It will reflect our six counties; Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire and the wonderful horticulture on show.

The Garden reflecting "Plantmanship, People & Partnerships" will then move to Gardening Scotland. Sutton Seeds, Viridor and Fife Council will be among our sponsors.

Regular updates can be seen as they are available on our website and facebook page. [facebook.com/pages/South-West-In-Bloom/193263914018665?ref=hl](https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-West-In-Bloom/193263914018665?ref=hl)



ATTENTION ALL SCHOOLS

The 'Really Giant' Sunflower Competition!

2015 is designated the year of the Sunflower?

Suttons Seeds from Paignton in Devon are introducing a new sunflower "Giraffe" that really will grow the tallest!

Full Details Inside.

50 Years of Bloom



This is a very important year for Bloom, with celebrating it's 50th Anniversary.

We would like you and your community to design a new Britain in Bloom - South West badge to celebrate the 50th anniversary.

The competition will close on 31st January and if possible we hope to have the badges available for the spring seminars.

Please send your designs to southwestinbloom@aol.com

We had 14 new groups join last year in the main or Pennant competition. This year we hope to welcome more new or previous entrants to celebrate the 50 years. We realise the first steps are often the hardest so to celebrate this Anniversary we are offering **£100 sponsorship** for the first three new entrants, to the Main or Pennant Competition, from each of our six Counties.

National results for 2013

Dartmouth - Joint Winner Seaside & Gold Medal



Newquay - National Small Town Gold Medal



Bristol - National City Silver Gilt



Bath - National small City Gold



Clifton - National Urban Entry Silver



Falmouth - National entry Silver Gilt



South West in Bloom

Winners of the Children's Painting Competition 2013

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

Up To 6 Years Old
Joint Winners
Amelia Hill
Corsham Primary School



Up To 6 Years Old
Joint Winners
Jimmy Richards
St Patricks Corsham



7 to 11 Years Old
Isabella Syneb Herb
Seaton Primary School



12 to 15 Years Old
Emily Fitzgerald
Woodrofe School, Lyme Regis



Special Award
Liam Arthur
Cape Cornwall Comprehensive
St Just



NEW - South West Open Space Award

I would like to introduce you to a new South West in Bloom award and quality kite mark. A kite mark that you will be able to receive with pride and promote and publicise. This initiative is intended as one of our main new features in celebration of South West in Bloom's 50 years of bloom culminating in 2014.

Awards will be based on the assessment by trained assessors following a site visit and the kite mark will take the form of a plaque or flag, the colour of which will be gold with tree markings reflective of attainment. i.e. one, two or three trees. Maximum publicity will be given to the award which will be criteria based and outlined at the Spring Seminars and in the Spring Bulletin.

South West in Bloom 2014 Schools Painting Competition

The theme for this year is

“Poppies”

The age groups are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

Entry Forms will be sent out with the Spring Newsletter
Closing date for entries is Friday 25th July

ADULT COMPETITION

It has been decided to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Britain in Bloom by holding an Adult painting Competition. The theme is the same, “Poppies” and max size is A3, but the picture can be in any medium.

Full Details in the Spring Bulletin.

National nominations for 2014

Large Town Truro



Small Town Thornbury



Village Tresco



City Class Bath



Urban Community Portishead



Seaside Sidmouth



Chairman's address

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you all on the last 50 years of bloom. Some of you will have been in the competition from the beginning but in recent years all of you have participated well and represented your communities to the highest standards.

2014 is the start of a new era with the formation of an R.H.S. led federation with an appointed independent RHS Chair **Prunella Scarlett LVO** an ex council member with many contacts and an excellent track record in chairing, negotiating and developing campaigns. Each Chair of the seventeen regions, the South West being one, will meet three times a year to formulate policy and develop and refine the Bloom. The RHS has also agreed to maintain existing funding levels for a minimum of three years which for us in the South West is excellent news and entirely due to your collective efforts.

Horticulture and the involvement of the widest community will be a continuing theme here in the South West along with enhancing our beautiful landscape and many tourist venues. I know that I can count on your continued support and participation. However, I am keen to receive your ideas, views and feedback on how we can all have fun celebrating all of our collective efforts.

I would like to wish you all well for a bumper bloom year in 2014 in developing Plantmanship, People and Partnerships throughout our wonderful region.

Finally a very special thanks to our continuing sponsor, Viridor, who without their support Britain in Bloom South West would be far less effective. I would also like to mention the RHS staff team of Ruth Evans, Andrea Van Sittart, Stephanie Eynon, Sophie Dawson, Candy Elton and their colleagues, for all the support now and in the future.

Jon Wheatley
Chairman
Britain in Bloom - South West



“Growing for Gold” for Pollinators

Is the RHS theme for 2014. Many seed companies are offering non native meadow seeds for golden yellow displays that attract wildlife but perhaps you can come up with your own ideas For more details of how your community can be involved visit www.rhs.org.uk/Gardening/Community in January

SPRING SEMINAR

Following the success of holding two Spring seminars in 2013, then we are going to do the same this year. Again one in the Northern part of the area, and the other in the South.

We realise budgets are very tight, and so we have put together a similar package to last year with lunch included.

Tickets for the seminar have been kept at **£12.50 per delegate.**

Bath Thursday 20th February

Provisional Programme Bath

- 10:00 Coffee
- 10:30 Welcome & introductions
- 11:00 **National Judge.** Judging and Accreditation, Mentoring
- 11.45 **Grenville Johnson,** It's Your Neighbourhood, A way forward
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13.30 **Jon Wheatley.** Planting Schemes for successful bloom entries
- 14.30 Open Forum, Bloom, The next 50 years. With panel of speakers
- 15:30 Close

plantSCAPE
perfect plants in public places

Tavistock Thursday 27th February

Provisional Programme Tavistock

- 10:00 Coffee
- 10:30 Welcome & introductions
- 11:00 **National Judge.** Judging and Accreditation, Mentoring
- 11.45 **Grenville Johnson,** It's Your Neighbourhood, A way forward
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13.30 **Jon Wheatley.** Live Exercise in Tavistock
- 14:30 Review & Questions and Answers.
- 15.30 Close

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Kensington Road, St George Bristol

Congratulations to the 500 South West entrants in the 2013

“It's Your Neighbourhood Awards.”

The winner of the Best “Its Your Neighbourhood award” entry in 2013 was Kensington Road, St George Bristol.

They will represent the South West at

next year's National award presentations.

Spring Seminars

Thursday 20th February 2014
10.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

The Banqueting Rooms, Guild Hall, Bath.

Speakers

National Britain in Bloom Judge

GRENVILLE JOHNSON

Chairman Kensington Road, Bristol IYN

JON WHEATLEY AH RHS

RHS Council Member



Thursday 27th February 2014
Bedford Hotel, Plymouth Road, Tavistock
Devon. PL19 8BB

10.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Speakers

Speakers

National Britain in Bloom Judge

GRENVILLE JOHNSON

Chairman Kensington Road, Bristol IYN

JON WHEATLEY AH RHS

RHS Council Member

**All main & Pennant entries that are received
before 31st January will receive one free ticket
to one of the Spring seminars**

BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED
Closing Date Friday 1st February

Seminar £12.50 Per Delegate.
Including Lunch



The garden at number 28 Kensington Road, St George, Bristol is due to appear in a new series of gardening programmes: 'The Great British Garden Revival' that started on Monday 9th December on B.B.C 2 at 7pm.

Grenville Johnson's garden is due to appear in the programme about 'stumperies & ferneries' to be screened on January 9th 2014, but this may still be changed.

You can also view photos of the stumpery & fern collection at
www.victorianhousegarden.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk



Britain in Bloom - South West



Welcome to the Britain in Bloom - South West website!

Entry forms and the payment of entry fees for the Main Competition and entry forms for It's your Neighbourhood will be available to all entrants **on line in 2014.**

You can book for the Spring Seminars on Line.

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

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

Advice on many Britain in bloom areas.

Details of entries in the competitions together with details of Judges and Britain in Bloom South West Committee members. Results of competitions.

The site will be continuing to develop during 2014. Any suggestions would be welcome.

www.southwestinbloom.org.uk

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

SATURDAY 15th MARCH

Provisionally in 2015 Kingsbridge will be representing the South West in the Coastal Category, and Greater Fishponds, Bristol in the Urban Communities class.



WWW.Viridor.co.uk



VIRIDOR

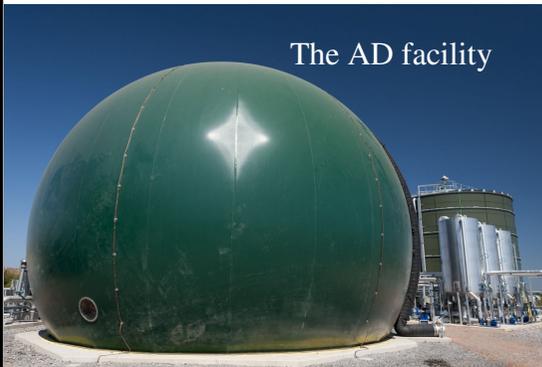
Viridor was proud to sponsor SWIB for a fifth year in 2013, through its compost and soil conditioner, Revive.



Reuse shop at Priorswood

Made by recycling the organic waste that Viridor receives, Revive is purchased by peat and soil blenders, landscapers, estate managers, golf course managers and horticulturists for a variety of uses. It was nominated in the best recycled product category at the National Recycling Awards in July this year and sales have now expanded into the Manchester area, following its launch at the Tatton Park Garden Show this summer.

Viridor, is the largest recycling company in the UK offering highly specialised recycling for electronic and electrical products, glass, paper and card. It is also the leading reprocessor of domestic plastics in the UK. In the South West, Viridor has recently broadened its recycling facilities to include an Anaerobic Digestion plant that will be taking all the household food waste collected at the kerbside by the Somerset Waste Partnership. It will also offer a cost effective, environmentally-friendly option of food recycling to restaurants, schools and other commercial organisations.



The AD facility

The AD facility can process up to 30,000 tonnes of food waste a year, generating more than 1.6Mwe of renewable power, enough to power 3,000 homes. In another aspect of recycling, Viridor is trialling a Reuse Shop at its Priorswood, Taunton Household Waste Recycling Centre. The Reuse Shop takes items discarded at the HWRC and sells them on to the public

so that instead of being landfilled or broken down for recycling, they are reused and given a new lease of life. The trial will run until April 2014 to see if it can be successfully continued and possibly repeated elsewhere. You'll be amazed how waste can be transformed.

Visit <http://www.viridor.co.uk/about-us/viridor-tv/> to see some inspiring videos of Viridor's recycling in action.



It's Your Neighbourhood

With around 500 Its Your Neighbourhood Award (IYN) entries from the South West 2013 was a highly successful year for us. There were many new entries and the enthusiasm shown throughout was one of the greatest joys for the assessors as they were welcomed by the entrants.

With such an increase in numbers we realised we need develop our systems to ensure that in 2014 we could cope with a similar increase. Much work has been going on behind the scenes to develop these.

Our most major development is introducing an early entry cut-off date, **15th March 2014**. This will enable us to process the entries and get back to you much quicker, giving you greater notice when our assessors will be visiting. The involvement of youth is an important aspect of the scheme and schools play an invaluable part in the process. To be eligible schools must be able to demonstrate outreach into the community (the community supporting the school or the school working with the community).

In 2014 the criteria remain the same based on the core pillars of Community, Gardening and the Environment.

More information may be found on our website www.southwestinbloom.org.uk and also the RHS In Bloom www.rhs.org.uk site and advice is always readily available from the Britain in Bloom South West Judges and assessors.

Need To Contact us

**The Secretary, Stonebarn, Moorledge,
Chew Magna, BS 40 8TL.**

Tel 01275 333007

E Mail ;- southwestinbloom@aol.com

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WWW.Viridor.co.uk

Champion of Champions

It has been decided to follow a similar format to the national Britain in Bloom Competition and invite a number of group winners from the previous year to take part in a Champion of Champions class.

Following their success in winning their groups last year, then **Bristol, Bath, Thornbury, Kingsbridge, Radstock & Truro**, have been invited to compete in the 2014 South West Champion of Champions class.

Presidents Message

What a difference a year makes, with the summer of 2013 the warmest for many years. It was off with the “wellies” and in with the cold drinks and ice creams for the judging team this year.

Temperatures increased and pushed judges and entrants to the limit in the dry conditions. But quality entries were seen right across our region, well done to all.

This September saw an added “wow” factor to our calendar, by holding our regional presentation in the wonderful setting of Truro Cathedral.

The Cornwall experience is something I think you will cherish for many years to come. We were graced with the presence of the Mayor of Truro Councillor C J Tambling, along with our sponsors whose support we greatly value, and guest presenter Robert (Bob) Sweet from the RHS. I had the pleasure of presenting Bob with a South West in Bloom life time achievement award, for his help over many years.

Again our thanks to all at Truro City Council, for making their facilities available to us, the Cathedral authorities for allowing its use, and for our committee member/judge/friend Richard Budge Truro Parks Manager for his enormous contribution to the event. Congratulations to all our 2013 entries.

Cleethorpes was the venue of the National presentations in October with Bob Flowerdew doing the honours, South West flying the flag again (see newsletter) special mention from me to Barrie Cruse MBE Bath, Mike Crook Bristol, and Stevie Rogers Dartmouth who all received RHS Community Champion Awards, well done.

With more financial restraints in 2014 forecast, community gardening is definitely the way forward, and I encourage everyone to take part. With over 500 IYNs this year proof enough.

2014 sees Britain in Bloom reach an important milestone with its 50th anniversary; watch out for special things to be doing next year.

Finally from 2014 we will all officially be part of the RHS and will see our name change to **Britain in Bloom South West**, which will help us raise our profile.

Season's greetings

Vic Verrier MBE Honorary President



Amberol's tribute to Britain in Bloom's volunteers



Britain in Bloom has probably done more than any other initiative to raise the profile of horticulture, at the same time as bringing communities together in a bid to make our cities, towns and villages better places to live.

At a time when floral displays and green spaces are under threat due to reduced public funding, the volunteers who find the time to take part in this and similar projects are more deserving than ever of our thanks and appreciation.

Working with community groups from across the country, we at Amberol have long been impressed by their dedication and have been involved in many successful entries. One main aim of Britain in Bloom is to create community participation, so whether an entry is professionally or volunteer led, aim to involve a wide section of the community. Include local businesses, charities and volunteers by issuing regular appeals. The competition has significant benefits for businesses as well as residents: successful initiatives often have improved footfall and commercial advantages, so ensure that this is communicated to bring sponsorship and support on board.

Budget is always a consideration. The most cost effective plants are those that last the season and don't need replacing, so it's worthwhile investing in high quality plants and suitable compost. Pick plants that naturally thrive in the environment: a plant local to the region will be looked on favourably in judging.

Be inventive in the selection of plants and designs; consider using containers to add variety and depth to displays. Promenade planters will enhance walkways and frontages, whilst fountain planters create stunning displays. Hanging baskets and window boxes draw the eye up and add another level of interest.

Build sustainability into design, planting and maintenance schemes. Judges will be looking for evidence of conservation and biodiversity as well as management of resources and local heritage, so ensure that your entry addresses these issues. Self watering containers are always well received by the judges as they require less maintenance and also conserve water by releasing continual moisture to plants, reducing the likelihood of overwatering.

Britain in Bloom may be hard work, but those who take part understand its worth and the importance of its social and visual impact on our communities.

Established in 1969, **Amberol** is a family run company which makes and supplies a range of horticultural products including self-watering containers, benches and talking rubbish bins.

For more information, visit www.amberol.co.uk, email info@amberol.co.uk or call **01773 830 930**.





ITV 'Love Your Garden'

ITV have commissioned a major one hour special version of the hit gardening TV series "Love Your Garden" starring Alan Titchmarsh. In this special, Alan and his team will build a state of

the art wildlife garden to help a deserving cause such as a school, charity or organisation. The idea is that a beautiful and idyllic outdoor space that is a home for surrounding wildlife will be of huge therapeutic benefit to those who use it. We are currently looking for a suitable location and an organisation that would be keen to work with us on bringing this garden to life. Naturally it goes without saying that the work of the organisation involved would be heavily featured in the programme. We are looking to build in 2014 and the programme would transmit in 2015.

If you feel that this something that may be able to help us with by suggesting some needy projects you're aware of, then let our secretary know.



Pictures of Bloom / community gardeners in the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s

The RHS will be running a 50th Bloom photo competition to gather photos early next year but it would be good to have as many as possible upfront for use in the media (please ensure you have permission to share any photographs, and the permission of those photographed). We'd encourage you to also add these

to the photo competition for your chance to win one of the great prizes that will be on offer.

Characters / community champions who have been there from the beginning and driven whole campaigns / new Bloom stars – emerging characters in the Bloom community – just a few bullet-points and a pic would be ideal

Local celebs that support your campaigns and might be happy to talk to the media about what a difference your group makes

Any success stories / interesting quirky stories (with pix)

Any local stats that demonstrate the difference Bloom is making in your area – sometimes it's hard selling-in stories as evidence tends to be anecdotal. We will be launching some UK-wide stats next year, but we're always interested in hearing group's own local stats too.

Would welcome any ideas you might have to help promote Bloom in 2014.

Contact our Secretary, at southwestinbloom@aol.com



ATTENTION ALL SCHOOLS!

The 'Really Giant' Sunflower Competition! Did you know that 2015 is designated the year of the Sunflower? Well in preparation, Suttons Seeds from Paignton in Devon are introducing a new sunflower that really will grow the tallest!

The new variety 'Giraffe' is the result of one lady's work involving years of selection in our conditions to produce the tallest possible plants.

This exciting variety will not be available for gardeners to grow until 2015, but Suttons are offering children in the West Country the opportunity to get in first and achieve a growing record for their school in the Britain in Bloom - South West area.

The competition also marks the launch by Suttons of a new fund raising opportunity for schools called 'Green Sprouts' and competition prizes will relate to this scheme.

For further details and your Sunflower Giraffe seed, contact 'Sunflower Giraffe' Suttons Marketing Dept, Suttons Seeds, Woodview Road, Paignton, Devon TQ4 7NG



DISCOUNT SEEDS & PLANTS

Are you a **Britain in Bloom - South West** Committee or perhaps a neighbourhood scheme with more than ten members?

Then you may qualify for one of the Suttons great group discount schemes.

For further information, contact **Wayne** at Wayne.Coley@suttons.co.uk or for his attention at the above Sutton Seeds address.

