



SOUTH WEST

# Glendale

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## Important Dates for 2019

Regional Judging	Wed 3rd July to Wed 17th July
IYN Assessments	Mon 1st July to Monday 29th July
National Judging	Mon 29th July to Friday 9th Aug
Pride in Park Award judging	June 2019 to December 2019
Presentation Atlantic Hotel, Newquay	Friday 11th October



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>

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



SOUTH WEST

## Britain in Bloom - South West Spring Newsletter 2019



### SPRING SEMINAR 2019

We held our 2019 Spring Seminar in the Neeld Hall, High Street Chippenham on Thursday 28th February. The day was based around two excellent speakers, and many said the best Seminar we have held to date.



Fergus Beeley gave a very impassioned talk on his "BLUE Campaign" for rewilding Britain. The BLUE heart is recognised nationally as the symbol for re-wilding Britain.

The campaign aims to increase biodiversity and bring wildlife back into our gardens and countryside.



Jekka McVikar VMH was very entertaining as she recapped on the challenges she encountered on her journey from exhibiting and winning Gold Medals at RHS Shows such as Chelsea and Hampton Court to now having a very successful Nursery. Jekka is also very involved in judging at the major RHS shows.



## Glendale awarded maintenance contract with Marston Pubs in the south

Headline sponsor, Glendale Grounds Management have been awarded a two year maintenance contract to maintain over 50 Marston pubs across the south of the UK, with 16 pubs in Somerset, Devon and Cornwall added to their portfolio of maintenance contracts.



The contract includes routine maintenance of all open spaces and car parks including grass cutting, shrub and hedge maintenance, weed control and seasonal bedding displays and will be delivered through Glendale's established offices at Truro, Launceston, Exeter and Weston-super-Mare.

Glendale has been moving into the commercial maintenance market over the last few years with several contracts recently awarded. This contract adds to their portfolio of restaurants, pubs and hotels which include soft landscaping for Premier inn and Gino d'acampo

Terry Doyle, regional director for Glendale in the Southwest commented

"The award of these contracts adds to our already established teams across the region and enhances our reputation in this sector of horticulture. Our teams are already on-site making improvements to the landscape and we will be sure to encourage entry to the RHS southwest in bloom competition in 2019!"



Glendale

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## RHS South West in Bloom Presentation Day at The Atlantic Hotel, Newquay Friday 11th October 2019

Newquay will be hosting this years south west in Bloom presentation day to be held at the Atlantic Hotel which advertises a sea view from every bedroom.

The event has been moved to Friday to encourage entrants to extend their visit into a weekend break. Newquay is a diverse and beautiful place to visit boasting history and heritage, conservation areas, AONB, seven beaches, to name but a few.



There is a wide range of accommodation to suit everyone's pocket and taste from camping, glamping and caravans to 5 star hotels. Our TIC staff are on the end of the phone, 7 days a week to assist in the navigation of the plethora of choices.

We all enjoy the presentation events so why not take a little more time to visit the places that enter the competition and see what helps make them shine.

Newquay is looking forward to meeting and greeting our guests on 11th October 2019

Provisional ITINERARY FOR THE DAY

9.00 am	Registration
10.00 am	Welcome
10.15 am	Neighbourhood Awards
12.30 pm	Lunch
2.30 pm	South West in Bloom Awards
4.00 pm	Closing
4.15 pm	Judges surgeries for main Competition entries



**We will be welcoming Lade Emma Fellowes to our presentation and hope that Lord Fellowes, subject to diary commitments, will also be in attendance.**

**Tickets are £20 and booking forms are enclosed with this newsletter.**

The Last Date for Booking is **Friday 13th September**

Don't forget you will also be able to book on-line on our web site from **August 2019**. Keep a watch on the web site.

## Chairman's Report

2019 promises to be a good year for South West in Bloom. We have some new entries in the return of Taunton and sites in West Somerset, Swindon and lots of Neighbourhoods.

National congratulations to Kingsbridge in the Champion of Champions, a great coup for the S W following the success of Truro and Sidmouth in 2018. I am once again assessing the C of C so look forward to visiting Kingsbridge. Yeovil is also entering for the first time as is Curry Rival, Bath, Newquay and St Just .We wish them every success.

Many congratulations to Marlborough and Clovelly who featured in the TV Britain in Bloom series and thanks to everyone involved.

Our Spring Seminar was the best ever and Chippenham can be really proud to have hosted it so well. Next year we will be at Beer so it's going to be a hard act to follow. So if you have any ideas for the programme will you please contact Denise. Our Presentation this year is at Newquay and I know that they would love to have you all to stay over the weekend.

I am assessing the S W Champions with Lady Emma joining me on one of the entries so someone can expect a very special visit. We are so fortunate to have Lord and Lady Fellowes as our Patrons and my sincere thanks is extended to both Patrons.

Horticulture is so important to the South West and your exceptional volunteering efforts really make a difference to the quality of life and the environment within your own communities.

Many thanks to you all for participating in team RHS South West. It is a real joy to represent you as Chairman, both within the region and at National level.

Thanks also to the RHS and the Staff who work hard to run Bloom as part of the Communities brief.

Good luck in 2019 and a very sincere thank you for all your efforts in making RHS South West in Bloom a wonderful Region of Bloom.

Good luck

**Jon Wheatley**  
**Chairman RHS South West in Bloom**

## More success for Glendale with the award of maintenance contracts for Live West in Cornwall.

Headline sponsor Glendale Grounds Management is celebrating again with the award of a 4 year contract to maintain over 350 sites across Cornwall for social housing provider Live West.

The contract will see 4 teams employed to work throughout the County from Glendale's established offices at Launceston, Bodmin, Truro & Hayle and create 8 jobs in Cornwall.



A total site maintenance contract, the teams will be delivering area based maintenance to neighborhoods including grass cutting, shrub and hedge maintenance, litter collection and weed control with real-time reporting of works completed and photographic capture of quality standards using Glendale's on-line works programme Glendale Live.

Regional Director, Terry Doyle commented

"This is a fantastic award for Glendale in Cornwall where we are re-establishing our horticultural offering. Glendale is known for tree surgery in Cornwall but has had limited opportunity to grow our grounds maintenance teams in recent years. This award demonstrates our ability to offer all our green services including horticultural and tree maintenance, landscaping and fencing services".

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

## Are you making the most of colour?

Colour is an important part of any Britain in Bloom entry. Plants used in displays are carefully chosen for a range of reasons; from hardiness to size and shape. They are also selected for their different colours; to complement or contrast.

However, have you ever thought about changing the colour of the planters themselves? Many organizations opt for traditional colours such as black or dark blue, but by being a little more adventurous in the choice of planter colour, you can add an instant splash of colour and vibrancy to any floral display.



That's why Amberol, who make self-watering planters for Britain in Bloom groups and councils across the UK offer a wide range of colours including Citrus Green, Turquoise, Sunflower Yellow, Fuchsia and Burnt Orange. These sit alongside the more understated classic colours like Standard Green and White Marble.

### Meeting customers' needs

Many of the colours in the Amberol range have been included at the request of customers - and now Amberol would like the views of those involved in South West in Bloom. The company would like to know your views on colour as well as which colours you favour for self-watering planters. So, they are asking people to visit their website and complete a quick online survey to help ensure that their colour range reflects customers' requirements.

As a thank you for taking part, all respondents will be entered into a prize draw to win £200 worth of vouchers to spend on Amberol self-watering planters or litter bins.

## Pennant Entries

Due to the success of the Pennant entries, we are continuing these classes, but with the village section, there will be a combined class for the whole of the area.

### Northern Area Town

Taunton in Bloom  
Burnham on Sea  
South Swindon Parish  
Gillingham

**Judges Graham Price (R) & Bob Ollier**

### Village

Tressilion  
Plympton St Maurice  
Mitchell  
Bleadon Parish Council

**Judges Lesley Jellyman (R)  
John Yeo**

### Southern Area Town

Crediton in Bloom  
St David's, Exeter  
Bere Alston  
Bovey Tracey  
Liskeard  
Totnes Gardens  
Buckfastleigh & Buckfast

**Judges Paul Collier (R)  
Martyn Davis**

### Bids

Tavistock  
St Austell  
Bath  
Weston super Mare

**Judges Alex Botherton  
Jane Pagano**

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## **COMPETITION ENTRIES 2019**

### **Champion of Champions**

<b>Bath</b>	<b>Richard Budge &amp; Jim Collins</b>
<b>Falmouth</b>	“ “
<b>Thornbury</b>	“ “
<b>Exmouth in Bloom</b>	“ “

<b>Tresco</b>	<b>Jon Wheatley &amp; Lynette Talbot</b>
<b>Marlborough</b>	“ “
<b>Ilfracombe</b>	“ “
<b>Curry Rivel</b>	“ “
<b>St Just</b>	“ “

**South West Tourism Cup Over 80,000 ( Alex Brotherton & Christine Fraser)**  
**Weston-super-Mare**

**Tesco Cup 35,000 -79,999 ( John Yoe (R) & Tom Sharples)**  
Paignton Torquay

**St Bridget Cup 19,000 -34,999 ( Derek Beer (R) & Tim Ely)**  
Yeovil in Bloom Newquay

**Portman Cup 14,000 - 18,999 ( Michael Foy (R) & Terry Porter)**  
Portishead Penzance Truro Tiverton in Bloom

**Sargent Cup 9,000 - 13,999 ( Ian Murphy (R) & Tony Moore)**  
Keynsham in Bloom Sidmouth Melksham  
Babbacombe in Bloom Royal Wootton Bassett  
Tavistock Brixham

**Preece Cup 7,000 - 8,999 ( Andy Cole (R) & Rod Pooley)**  
Glastonbury in Bloom Bradford on Avon Hayle

**SWTA Cup 5,500 - 6,999 ( Alex Brotherton & Christine Fraser)**  
Crewkerne

**Ayre Cup 2,500 - 5,499 ( Richard Beale (R) & Steve Clampin)**  
Great Torrington Sodbury Kingsbridge Radstock

**Cox Cup 1,500 - 2,499 ( Richard Taylor (R) & Kim Parish)**  
Milborne Port Templecombe in Bloom Cannington

**Mary Mortimer Under 1,500 ( Bob Sweet (R) & John Goulden)**  
St Issey Haselbury Plunknett Beer  
Clovelly Berrynarbor

**Please note, the Allocation of judges is at this time provisional**

## **Create the colour you want**

Amberol's managing director Patience Atkinson-Gregory comments: "Colour is such an important part of what we do. We aim to ensure that our self-watering planters enhance the plants and flowers that they house, and a more imaginative use of colour is one way of achieving that.

"Celebrating our golden anniversary this year really got us thinking about colour and how important it is to our customers. We always strive to give customers what they want and are happy to create bespoke products if required, including using different colours which is why if a customer wants a specific colour that we don't offer or requires a match to RAL or BS colours, we will do our best to oblige. We also offer the same colour range and bespoke matching service for the litter bins that we make and supply."

To take part in the Amberol colour survey, visit their website at [www.amberol.co.uk](http://www.amberol.co.uk). The closing date for responses is Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May

Amberol also offer on-site demonstrations so customers can see the products first hand rather than relying on a catalogue or a website. If you would like to arrange a no-obligation demonstration with one of Amberol's sales representatives, call 01773 830 930 or email [sales@amberol.co.uk](mailto:sales@amberol.co.uk).



## Leisure, Tourism & Commercial Award

Entries were up on those of 2017 in the Leisure, Tourism & Business awards. The awards were presented at the awards ceremony at the Westland Leisure centre Yeovil on 4th October 2018. Entries again came from all over the region and really pulled out the stops to again raise the quality of premises and visitor experience. The entry fee is again £20 per entry to help cover assessment and feedback costs. This environmental benchmarking award has much to commend itself for as a measure of quality.



**The Crown Inn, Kelston GOLD**

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

**Ilfracombe Hele Valley Holiday Park GOLD**



**Pendeen Geevor Tin Mine GOLD**



**Brookside Care Home Melksham GOLD**

These nine guiding principles all combine to create a place with a range of healthy lifestyle opportunities, characterful designs and a legacy of which to be proud. Tadpole Garden Village will be the perfect embodiment of this timeless way of living.

The Garden Village has been developed to support and encourage local wildlife; which will be evident through the proposed 40 hectare nature reserve and surrounding green space.



The Tadpole Garden Village Community Interest Company (CIC) takes care of all the communal assets on behalf of the community. It employs a managing agent, Preim, to maintain and manage the infrastructure assets.

All residents, retail unit occupiers and any other stakeholders owning property on the site will become members of the CIC.

The public open spaces, open areas of water, Nature Park, some roads, street lights, allotments, the play areas and the website will be transferred to the CIC on a phase-by-phase basis.

The benefit to residents of this type of ownership structure is that in time, the members will be empowered to manage the green spaces and community buildings in a way that suits the community.



It provides total transparency to members on how their annual service charge is spent and allows residents to have a voice in the management and development of their assets in the future.

## Introducing Tadpole Garden Village, The visionary new development in North Swindon, Wiltshire.

This traditionally inspired new community responds to people's desires not only for quality new homes, but for a whole new way of life, one that's sustainable, healthy, convenient and community focused. All of these ideals will work together harmoniously at Tadpole Garden Village.



For, far from being just a new housing development, this is a Garden Village for the 21st Century. As it evolves, it will provide traditional family homes of all sizes, tree-lined avenues, shops, a school, a public house and other amenities, as well as good local transport connections, a 40 hectare nature park, a 10 hectare newly planted woodland and nearly 60 hectares of public spaces for all to enjoy.

Tomorrow's lifestyle is here today, at Tadpole Garden Village.

The Garden City concept was the brain-child of 19th century reformer Ebenezer Howard, successfully realised in Letchworth Garden City, Welwyn Garden City and Hampstead Garden Suburb. All three have stood the test of time and are sought-after places in which to live.



As Howard saw it, the Garden City should combine the very best of town and country living to create beautiful, well planned, healthy and vibrant communities.



In many ways, his ideas were the precursors of today's principles of sustainable development and have a more contemporary application as the Garden Village.

Crest Nicholson has been inspired by Howard's Garden City ideals, which have informed the 'Crest Nicholson Garden Village Principles'.

## RHS South West in Bloom 2019 Schools Painting Competition

The theme for this year is

**“ Get rid of Plastic - GO GREEN”**

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 name, 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 winners in each age category should be sent to:

**Denise James  
Secretary,  
South west in Bloom  
150 Charlton Road,  
Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2JZ.**

Please note the change of address to send your entries.

We are pleased to announce that Lady Emma Fellowes has agreed to judge this years Children's painting Competition.

Entry Forms are now available.

**Closing date for entries is  
Friday 19th July**



## Buckfastleigh Royal British Legion IYN Memorial Garden

Designed by Legion member Emma Distin and project managed by standard bearer Julia Rouncefield, the garden was initially hoped to become a place where those who cannot get to Holy Trinity, high on the hill, can pay their respects - it has already become so much more!

Since acquiring the plot in October 2017, a raised bed has been built using sandbags in a nostalgic nod to a WW1 trench. At the centre of the plot stands our silent soldier silhouette bought to commemorate the 100 years since WW1. It stands next to our cross, much like on the cover of the novel *Birdsong* by Sebastian Faulks.

Planting began with the help of volunteers from neighbouring properties and each plant has been specifically planted to symbolise a significant link to the Royal British Legion.



Poppies are at the centre of the display as the emblem of the Royal British Legion along with Forget Me Nots.

Two red 'Remembrance' roses and hydrangeas urge us to remember and "Think well of" those who gave their freedom so that we could have ours. Fuchsia's named Winston Churchill link to WW2.



## RHS Bloom Theme: 2019

### "Wise Ways with Water"

Water – Too Much & Too Little

Focus on the precious resource of water, and the challenge gardeners face when there is too much (e.g. rainwater or flooding) or too little of it (e.g. drought).

Garden with water in mind in 2019.

The RHS have introduced a change in the allocation of points in the judging criteria. There is a reduction in the points for Horticulture and an increase in points for Environment and Community. The South West in Bloom Executive has agreed to also introduce this change in 2019. The basic changes are as below, but full details of the new judging Criteria is on the Web site or a copy can be obtained from the Secretary.

### RHS New judging Criteria

Horticulture	40%
Environment	30%
Community	30%
Marks out of 100	

### Horticulture

A1	Overall Impression
A2	Maintenance of Planted Areas
A3	Plant Selection
A4	Plant Quality

### Environment

B1	Local Identity
B2	Natural Environment
B3	Hard surfaces & open Grass Areas

### Community

C1	Year Round Activity & Future Commitment
C2	Communications & Awareness
C3	Funding & Support Areas

### Four Standards of Assessment

*	Excellent	GOLD	10 - 9	85 - 100
*	Very Good	SILVER GILT	8	75 - 84
*	Good	SILVER	7 - 6	60 - 74
*	Satisfactory	BRONZE	5 - 0	50 - 59

## Presidents Message

With a drier than average start to the new year for most parts of the South West we have now had the benefit of a rather early Spring, with so many species of trees, shrubs and flowers bursting forth. In my own garden frogs were spawning in the pond early February, followed by a couple of frosts, so await the outcome to see if they survived. Our Parks and Gardens are looking good with the spring bulbs, Polyanthus, Pansy and Bellis giving colour in many of them.

May I offer my congratulations to all who picked up Pride in Parks awards at our recent Seminar in Chippenham, this is such an important category as funding has been reduced and in some extreme cases parks closed altogether.

Many of you have said how you really enjoyed the seminar this year which we are always pleased to hear.

Your groups will be well on with the design and layouts for your entries to this year's competition, a few of you I know are taking a sabbatical for a year, while we welcome some new entries, and some returning.

You never seem to lack in enthusiasm and imaginative ideas to impress the judges, long gone are the days with simply dozens of hanging baskets, now that the sustainable and environmental elements have been included and play such an important part.

Wherever possible try to reuse your plastic pots and boxes, not only helping the environment but your pocket as well, this reminds me to ask you to try and get your local schools to enter this year's children's painting competition. The theme is "Get rid of Plastic – Go Green" Details are in this newsletter, online, and entry forms enclosed.

We are always looking for feedback from the groups, on ways to improve, so any ideas you may have, don't hesitate to contact our secretary Denise James at [southwestinbloom@aol.com](mailto:southwestinbloom@aol.com)

Enjoy your summer and judging tour go all out to impress!!! See you in Newquay on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

# Glendale

Vic Verrier MBE President  
RHS South West in  
Bloom

In the herb garden the smell of Rosemary is thought to strengthen memory, the Hyssop plant symbolizes 'sacrifice' and Lavender 'strength'



The broken bollards cannot be repaired or replaced at present but are used to represent the damage caused by the bombing during the Blitz.

The garden would not have been possible without support from many including Skanska (sandbags), Glendinning (sand), the Garden Department at Buckfast Abbey, John Wicks (fixings for the silhouette).

Also The Abbey Inn and practical help from local residents Mickey Harper and Lynsey Gill, Lee and Michelle Piggott, Andy Rouncefield Enoch Distin.

Without this support it would not have been looking so lovely on judging day.

After the garden had been planted a further connection with the wars was discovered when a gentleman spoke to Emma and Julia telling them that, unbeknown to them, this was the site of an anti-aircraft gun during the second world war.

**Emma Distin  
and Julia Rouncefield**



All concerned in the creation of the garden were thrilled that this first time IYN entry was awarded Level 5 Outstanding.

Emma Distin

## 2018 Pride in park Awards

NAME OF PARK/OPEN SPACE	TOWN/VILLAGE	AWARD
Morrab Gardens	Penzance	3 Star
Des Phippen Park	Hutton	4 Star
Vivory Park	Taunton	4 Star
Poltair Park	St Austell	4 Star
Phear Park	Exmouth	4 Star
Mill Marsh Park	Bovey Tracey	4 Star
Bicclescombe Park	Ilfracombe	4 Star
Tessier Gardens	Torquay	4 Star
Stanley Park Sports Ground	Chippenham	5 Star
John Coles Park	Chippenham	5 Star
Hillworth Park	Devizes	5 Star
Redcatch Park, Knowle	Bristol	5 Star
Troopers Hill, St George	Bristol	5 Star
Horfield Common	Bristol	5 Star
Cliftonwood Town Green	Bristol	5 Star
Page Park, Staple Hill	S Gloucester	5 Star
Kingsgate Park	Yate	5 Star
Rodmoor Gardens	Portishead	5 Star
Yeovil Country Park	Yeovil	5 Star
The Walled Gardens	Cannington	5 Star
Apex Leisure & Wildlife Park	Highbridge	5 Star
Jubilee Fields	Gillingham	5 Star
Upper Lodden	Gillingham	5 Star
Victoria Park	Truro	5 Star
Boscawen Park	Truro	5 star
Trenance Gardens	Newquay	5 Star
Priory Park	Bodmin	5 Star
Torrington Common	Torrington	5 Star
Grand Western canal	Tiverton	5 Star
Manor Gardens	Exmouth	5 Star
Blackmore Gardens	Sidmouth	5 star
Connaught Gardens	Sidmouth	5 Star
Memorial Recreation Ground	Kingsbridge	5 Star

### Inclusive gardening discretionary award

This new discretionary award is for a group including or composed entirely of people with illness or disability. The activities of the group should show the ill or disabled participate in the group and list benefits resulting from gardening observed under the three usual categories:

#### 1 Community



Illustration of the difference gardening has made to these people, e.g. participation in a group, improved communication skills, social inclusion, progress in life skills, community participation, links with local authority or other voluntary groups, progress towards work and any obvious health benefits especially time spent outside.

#### 2 Horticulture



Pride in production, horticulture producing good plants especially edible plants to improve the diet, competence in grounds keeping activities, involvement with plant sales or plant donations. Related activities such as art, crafts and cooking to develop confidence and competence.

#### 3. Environment

Use of composting, litter picking, effective water use and mulching. Interest in wildlife, bee friendly planting, birds e.g. RSPB bird count, making feeders, bug houses or conservation activities such as improving areas as wildlife habitat and learning about local plants and animals.

*Photos Pots from the Plymouth Horticultural Trust and wheelchair gardening from the Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability*

## Inclusive gardening activities for those who are disabled or ill

Gardening is prescribed to benefit those with illness or disability providing exercise outside, social interaction, and to facilitate achievement. Activities may have to be modified to allow participation. Here are some suggestions:



Robust or quick growing plants are best for new gardeners e.g. wallflowers or salad leaves as good results build confidence. Choice is important as it helps give people a feeling of control. People with grip or movement disorders find bulbs and tubers easier to plant. Potatoes in a pot or bag are easy and the harvest is a lucky dip, plant both red and white tubers

for contrast. Paint flower pots, POSCA paints work well on plastic pots and are available from art shops in a large range of colours and three diameters with fine, medium and thick nibs. A plant in a painted pot makes a good gift. Photographs of plants grown may be incorporated into cards, calendars and emails. Art groups can use photos in collage.



Gardening at a table in pots or troughs is easier for those having difficulty in standing or in wheelchairs. A tall planter placed by a chair is better than low raised beds. Table height wooden planters allow a wheelchair or chair underneath them. The v-shaped Suttons vegetable trough or the Forest Garden corner planter work well.

The Forest Garden cascade planter displays three levels of pots or troughs at heights suitable for watering from a wheelchair. For those unable to get outside, grow indoor plants in pots and troughs or create window boxes.

Small, light tools are best for neurological or grip problems. A plastic dibber, potting rake and trowel and a greenhouse small plastic watering can are good. A small plastic flower pot may be helpful in putting compost into pots. Each container should be labelled with the owner's name, plant name and date of planting with an indelible pen.

## Britain in Bloom South West Pride in Park award.

The parks and green spaces in the South West with the Pride in Parks award continues to be a success and the 2018 awards were presented at the South West in Bloom Seminar at The Neeld Hall, Chippenham on Thursday 18th February.

You are able to enter your park for 2019 up to the **closing date of 10th June**. The criteria is the same as last year and full details are available from the secretary or on our Web site. It is again important that the entry is community led, and there will need to be a community representative at the judging. The time allocation will depend on the size of the park or Green open space, and can be up to 2hrs.

You are to indicate on the entry form the estimated time needed to judge the entry.

Judging can take place from June until the end of the year, as often parks are better judged at different times. You will be able to indicate the general date for judging, but if you have a special event, we will try to judge it on a specific day, if sufficient notice is given. Details can be entered on the entry form, which should be returned to the secretary.

The entries are awarded one to five stars, the five star equating to a Gold award.



**There is an entry fee of £20 for 2019.**

**Entrants will receive a certificate showing the award received, but if a plaque is required, this can be ordered from the Secretary.**

**( Price on application)**

Entry forms are available from the Secretary or on our Web site.

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

Closing date for entries  
**Monday 10th June.**



## Spring Seminar 2019



Delegates were welcomed by Cllr Andy Phillips Mayor of Chippenham who then presented the Parks awards.



Kay Clark, RHS Community Development Manager and Roger Burnett, Yorkshire in Bloom, gave a short presentation to delegates on the reasons for introducing a change to the Britain in Bloom judging criteria.

In the afternoon, South West in Bloom Chairman Jon Wheatley held a short workshop on assessing the “Environment” category in your entry and how best this can be presented to the judges during their tour, particularly when considering the new judging criteria.



### Judges Accreditation

Our judges attended an accreditation training day in Chippenham on the 27th February. The training was based on the new judging criteria, to ensure that our judges are all familiar with the changes introduced.

The South West was the first region to introduce judges accreditation.

**Wild About Gardens** is a joint initiative by the RHS and [The Wildlife Trusts](#) to get more People growing for wildlife



### Why should I be concerned?

Over the past 50 years we've seen declines in two thirds of the UK's plant and animal species, for a range of reasons, including loss of habitat. Many of our once regular garden visitors – hedgehogs, house sparrows and common frogs, for example – are becoming much less common.

But together we can make a difference! Our gardens and green spaces have tremendous potential to support wildlife – join our campaign to turn the UK's estimated 24 million gardens into a network of mini nature reserves.

### Make a pond in 2019



Visit the RHS Web site to **Pledge a Pond for Wildlife**. You can also download free a booklet to tell you all about ponds and how to build them.



Each year, we explore a theme that inspires action for an animal or habitat that needs our help. This year, we're asking you to [make a pond!](#)

With a network of ponds across the UK, together we can help tackle the drastic decline in freshwater species. Even a small pond could benefit our threatened amphibians and pond-dwelling insects, and it could also become a feeding ground for birds, hedgehogs and bats – the best natural garden pest controllers.

We will have an extra discretionary award this year for “The Best Wildlife pond” created recently.