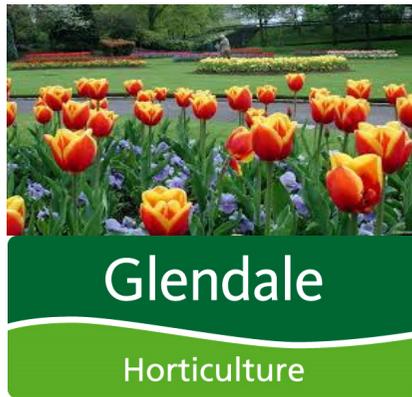




SOUTH WEST



SOUTH WEST

RHS South West in Bloom Autumn Newsletter 2018



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
Spring Seminar	Thursday 28th March 2019
Presentation Newquay	Thursday 3rd 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>

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



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

National Champion of Champions Truro GOLD & Winner of Class

Cornwall's capital Truro has been crowned best of the best at the RHS Britain In Bloom National finals. Truro was crowned Champion of Champions at the presentation event held in Belfast in October for the first time in their history and in the 54 years that the competition has been running.



Truro was up against some very stiff competition, including their local counterparts from the Southwest Sidmouth, who also put up a valiant effort also achieving Gold and made the Southwest proud. It's the first time we believe a region has had two entries in the championship category and the Southwest only ever having one representative winning the category before with Cricklade achieving this feat.

Truro In Bloom chair Leslie Lawson-Kinross was delighted with the win stating "it's a whole Truro effort and we are over the moon. We didn't expect to win this category and went just for the fun really, last year we're in the large town category which is our regular category but because we did so well over a number of years they asked us to step up and we ended up champion of Champions we are all really delighted".



(continued on page 1)

Web Site www.southwestinbloom.org.uk



Richard Budge, Parks manager for Truro City Council Parks department said “this win is a testament to the Cities dedication an effort to the In Bloom campaign, our assets really are our community and parks and gardens team, we have numerous friends groups that are achieving wonderful things within our city. We owe this work and dedication to the In Bloom campaign, as this have driven more community engagement, the dividends are all around the city to be seen”.

Darren Share the chair of the RHS Britain In Bloom competition said “Congratulations to Truro who are not far off to turning the City into one big garden, to create such an outstanding entry in the searing heat and drought conditions is a testament to the hard work and commitment of the whole community. Representing the South west Truro fought off stiff competition from Sidmouth also from the South west, Didsbury, Market Bosworth, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Usk for the top prize”.



National results in 2018



Sidmouth in Bloom
Discretionary Award
Gardening in a Changing Climate



Lynette Talbot
Community Champion Award

Keynsham in Bloom – Knit to Remember Poppy Cascade

Over 14,000 knitted and crochet poppies have over the last few months been made by Keynsham in Bloom volunteers and local community groups. The Knit to Remember campaign was launched in February 2018, inviting local residents and community groups to make poppies for the Poppy Cascade which would form the focal point for the 2019 Remembrance Parade and a lasting tribute for the WW1 Fallen.



Workshops were held throughout the summer months, where ladies came along to help hand stitch the poppies to netting, which was draped on the outside of St Johns Baptist Church in Keynsham. In addition 89 large wooden poppies were made, one for each of the 89 men from Keynsham who lost their lives during WW1. A commemorate concert was also held on the Friday before remembrance Sunday, where local school children came along and sang WW1 songs with the Keynsham Afternoon Choir. The poppy cascade also attracted a large amount of media interest, with local TV & Radio channels.

Denise James, Chair of Keynsham in Bloom said “this was a truly inspirational project, bringing together residents and communities from across Keynsham and surrounding areas. It has really strengthened our Bloom campaign, and as a result we now have a number of volunteers keen to work with us on future gardening and art projects. We had poppies sent in to us from Ireland and also one of our poppies was taken over to the Falklands, by a Falklands Veteran and laid in memory of his former comrades. This project has helped to demonstrate that Bloom is not just about Horticulture.



Portishead in Bloom – Poppy Project



At the start of the year Portishead in Bloom decided to make wooden poppies to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War 1.

The project soon took off and from initially only planning a few poppies, we ended up with over 3000! They were cut out last winter and then distributed to all 5 primary schools and 3 children’s nurseries. Several were also made by individuals.

The children painted them and stuck on red and black bottle tops. Collecting enough tops was quite a task, but as usual in Portishead, the community came together and several collecting points were set up around the town.

On the weekend before Remembrance Day they were planted to form a ‘river’ in Jubilee Park near the Marina.



This was a real community event with many people joining in, followed by the exhortation given by the local branch of the British Legion. At 11am on November 11th, around 200 people gathered at the ‘river’.

Also the youth club made 64 larger poppies to commemorate those from Portishead who lost their lives in the war. They were planted on the roundabout at the entrance to the town. This has been a very memorable project with all ages involved and has really united the town.

National results in 2018

Champion of Champions Sidmouth GOLD



Innovative planting schemes are of the highest standard in Sidmouth

The creative design growing and themes undertaken under the leadership of Lynette Talbot shine .

IYN projects are used effectively to enhance bloom

Village Clovelly GOLD



What a brilliant walled garden with its Heritage Tomatoes and great plans for the future

From start to finish the Community show how heritage and Horticulture can blend to create a wonderful and unique living experience for the residents and visitors to this very special North Devon Village

Clovelly features in the Feb 2019 edition of the Bloom TV programme we wait with baited breath for something very special!

Small Town Kingsbridge GOLD & Class Winner



What a Community team !

Everyone has a role in this very special Devon Town

Creative designs proliferate and an all year round effort transform many spaces to great effect

National results in 2018

Town Category Thornbury **GOLD**



Excellent Horticultural features are seen in this lovely south Gloucestershire Town.

Bloom is the theme here in Thornbury where all members of the community get involved including many businesses.

What a superb place to live!

Coastal Falmouth **GOLD**

Some of the best Parks and Coastal planting's are undertaken in Falmouth

The visionary Town Council co-ordinate one of the Finest Bloom Groups in the U K



BID Category St Austell **SILVER GILT**



First time entry in the Bid Category St Austell achieved a very good outcome for all involved.

Teamwork was evident throughout and everyone can be very proud of the difference being made in the community.

Well done

In summary a excellent year congratulations to all of you.

Jon Wheatley.

South West in Bloom Winners of the Children's Painting Competition 2018

This year we were again pleased with the response to the Schools Children's painting competition. The theme this year was "A Bugs Life".

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 Isla Sutherland Age 6 St Patricks Primary School Corsham in Bloom



Children's Picture Competition 7 to 11 years Old Winner Winner George Lynett Age 7 Old Sodbury Primary School Sodbury in Bloom



Children's Picture Competition 12 to 15 years Old Winner Winner Ruby Glasson Age 12 Cape Cornwall School St Just in Bloom

**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 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 available in the Spring Newsletter.
Closing date for entries is Friday 19th July

**RHS South West in Bloom
Pride in Park award.**



Following the success of the Parks award, we will continue with this award in 2019. Judging will take place anytime between June and December.

This will allow for the park to be judged at “Its Best”. Closing date for entries Monday June 10th.

As in previous years the presentation for the 2018 awards will be held as part of the Spring Seminar on 28th March 2019.

**Parks entry form to be sent
to The Secretary
Denise James,
150 Charlton Road,
Keynsham, Bristol BS31 2JZ
by Monday 10th June
Tel No 0117 9865830
Download from Web site after
7th January 2019**



Chairman’s Report

2018 has been the most successful year ever in the Nationals. St Austell in their first time entry achieved a very good Silver Gilt award and is showing great potential for the future. All of our other entries Kingsbridge, Falmouth, Thornbury, Clovelly, Sidmouth and Truro achieved excellence in attaining Gold Medal Status.

Many congratulations to Lynette Talbot acclaimed as a National Community Champion and also Sidmouth receiving a Discretionary Award for Gardening in a Climate Change.

Truro in their 2nd ever entry into Champion of Champions are to be congratulated in achieving the overall Champion of Champions award for 2018.

The regional competition proved to be successful to most parties and we especially welcome new entries from Hazlesbury Plucknett, Crediton and Seaton.

The sustained effort of all communities throughout the South West is achieving major changes in the environment and communities across the region. Can I express my sincere thanks to everyone involved in an initiative from which we can all draw so much pride in our communities from.

Our sponsors have been excellent, but above all our thanks and appreciation to the RHS and its staff for their continued support and assistance.

I was able to speak to all the National Judges and without exception, they all enjoyed coming to the South West and assessing and assisting in mentoring our entries, our thanks to them.

Jon Wheatley
Chairman

Get tips and advice from the RHS

If you are not already signed-up to the RHS Community Gardening e-newsletter, you can at www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/community-gardening/grass-roots, to get monthly news and tips, opportunities to get involved and grant offers, along with a link to *Grass Roots* magazine each quarter.

You can also access current and all back issues of *Grass Roots* online, along with the growing online resources section for community gardeners. The RHS is open to your feedback on this web section – if there is a tool you would love to see on the site that would help you grow more and better with others, do let them know by contacting communities@rhs.org.uk with the subject line: Online resource request.

50 golden years with Amberol

As a manufacturer of self-watering planters of all shapes, colours and sizes Amberol is a name known to many In Bloomers across the south west. In fact, Amberol's products can be seen all across the region, helping to create beautiful displays of both floral and edible plants in village, town and city centres as well as anywhere and everywhere - from play parks to car parks.

With 2019 marking Amberol's 50th birthday, the company is almost as old as the Britain in Bloom competition that they have been involved with for so many decades. Furthermore, Truro and Kingsbridge, the two category winners from the south west in the 2018 national finals are both Amberol customers who used the company's self-watering planters as part of their entry.

However, just as Britain in Bloom has evolved as a competition during its 54 year history, so Amberol's self-watering planters have developed to meet the changing needs of customers in the south west and beyond.

Innovation through the decades



The 1960s - Amberol was set up in 1969 by founding fathers Jack Williamson and Phil Atkinson. 50 years later, the company is still run by members of Jack and Phil's families. The values that Amberol was founded on are still in evidence today: an honest service with robust, high quality products; treating customers as individuals - and even friends.

The 1970s - Originally making fluid absorbent matting which was sold across the UK, this product has been enhanced and improved over the decades and has evolved into the trademarked Aquafeed™ matting that is such an important part of the self-watering planter design today. Aquafeed in its original form first went on sale in 1979 and since that time, advances in materials and technology have enabled Amberol to develop possibly the most effective self-watering matting on the market today.

The 1980s - Saw Amberol relocate to a larger site at the same time as enhancing its environmental credentials by becoming one of the early adopters of manufacturing using recyclable materials in their products, introducing recyclable plastics into the supply chain.

Commercial. Leisure & Tourism Award

It was again a very successful year for these awards almost doubling the previous entry to a total of 31 entries in the Commercial. Leisure & Tourism Category.

TOWN/VILLAGE	ENTRY NAME	AWARD
WILTSHIRE		
Trowbridge	Trowbridge Rugby Football Club	Silver Gilt
Trowbridge	Castle Place Shopping Centre	Silver Gilt
Melksham	Brookside Care Home, Melksham	Gold
Bradford on Avon	Cross Guns, Avoncliff	Gold
SOUTH GLOS		
Almondsbury, Bristol	Bodywise (UK) Ltd - Natracare	Gold
Yate	Yate Shopping Centre	Gold
Thornbury	The Anchor Inn, Thornbury	Gold
B&NES		
Radstock	Radstock Co-operative Society	Gold
Radstock	The Radstock Hotel	Silver Gilt
Bath	Milsom Place	Gold
Kelston	The Old Crown Inn	Gold
Freshford	The Inn at Freshford	Gold
DEVON		
Exeter	The Imperial	Gold
Exmouth	The Powder Monkey	Silver Gilt
Buckfastleigh	The Kings Arms	Silver Gilt
Buckfastleigh	Salmon's Leap	Silver Gilt
Buckfast	Buckfast Abbey Gardens	Gold
Ivybridge	Staverton Station	Silver Gilt
Ilfracombe	Hele Valley Holiday Park	Gold
Modbury	Moor View, Modbury	Gold
Babbacombe	Babbacombe Model Village	Gold
Babbacombe	Cary Arms & Spa	Gold
Torrington	Dartington Crystal	Gold
Torrington	Great Torrington Conservative Club	Gold
Plymouth	Royal William Yard	Gold
SOMERSET		
Highbridge	Salt Express	Gold
Chard, Somerset	Warner Leisure Hotels, Cricket St Thomas	Gold
CORNWALL		
Liskeard	Liskeard Traders Association	Gold
St Just	The Commercial, St Just	Gold
Pendeen	Geevor Tin Mine	Gold
Newquay	Hendra Holiday Park	Gold

Business, Leisure & Community entries is

SATURDAY 9th MARCH

You can enter on line from 7th January.

Presentation Day at Westland's Yeovil On Thursday 4th October 2018



This year's presentation event at the Westland's Yeovil, turned out a super event in a wonderful venue. Delegates were sat at tables throughout the event, and the day went smoothly.

The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor David Recardo welcomed everyone to enjoy the day.

Lady Emma Fellows attended the first part of the ceremony, but had to leave before lunch to join her husband at the filming of a new production.

We presented nearly 500 IYN's in the morning, with Jon Wheatley finishing before lunch with a slide show of his visit to Polenco in Mexico.

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



www.bigimage.co.uk

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



The Direct address is below

<https://4487402.tifmember.com/v/photos/99854bwg/rhs-yeovil-awards-2018>

The 1990s – Bins are born as the company diversified into making bins – a logical extension for an organisation that is all about making Britain's public spaces, cleaner and more beautiful. And so, the outdoor Westminster Bin was launched.

The 2000s - The turn of the millennium saw the unveiling of one of Amberol's most iconic products – the Percy Penguin bin, instantly recognisable in theme parks, playgrounds, zoos and public parks across the UK.

The 2010s – Amberol goes global selling products in Asia, Australia and Europe. They develop new exciting products including wood effect hogshead-style barrels and stone effect troughs.



The future?

“We are delighted to have a heritage that dates back 50 years, at the same time as introducing new products using different production techniques – and occasionally even different materials,” comments MD Patience Atkinson Gregory, daughter of one of the original founders Phil Atkinson. “We are a perfect example of how experience and innovation can combine together to create something special. We are always looking to improve our products as technology enables ever greater things. In fact, we are working on some exciting ideas to celebrate our 50th birthday – top secret for now but watch this space!”

For more information about Amberol's range of self-watering planters, litter bins, seating or planterware, call 01773 830 930 or email sales@amberol.co.uk.



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

SATURDAY 9th MARCH

You can enter on line from 7th January.

FOCUS ON PORTBURY WHARF NATURE RESERVE

Both nature conservation and social value are increasingly being used in parks and open spaces to support services needed to keep community spaces thriving and headline sponsor Glendale has embraced the goodwill, enthusiasm and commitment of local people wanting to make a real change to their community.

Glendale took on the management of the 150 acre Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve in January 2016, recruiting a nature conservation ranger to provide the expertise and experience required to help manage such an environmentally sensitive site.



Quickly realising that social value is the key to the success of the site, the conservation volunteer group, now known as the Portbury Wharf Volunteer Community, was set up from scratch in February 2016 to assist in the numerous practical environmental conservation tasks required to make the reserve a safe and welcoming

site for flora, fauna and visitors alike. Recent works the group have carried out include clearing a nesting island of vegetation to restore habitat for overwintering birds and ground nesting species, reed management to create a mosaic of reed bed ages around the breeding pools, and coppicing to provide quality woodland habitat with increased biodiversity. The work parties take place on average four times a month with additional sessions outside of the bird nesting season when more vegetation clearance can take place. Wildlife surveying including birds, butterflies and dragonflies tend to take preference during the summer months and are always well attended by experts and novices alike.

In 2017, Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve won the Sutton Seeds Cup for Outstanding Contribution to Nature Conservation at the South West in Bloom Awards, a recognition of the work the volunteers do which is proving more and more popular with the number of volunteer hours at Portbury Wharf exceeding 700 so far this year, a 21% increase in 2017.



If you're in the North Somerset area over the next few months here is a run through of what Glendale and the local community will be up to at Portbury Wharf.

Britain in Bloom New Marking Criteria 2019

Following feedback from hundreds of Bloom groups, the Britain in Bloom marking criteria is being updated to reflect the changing nature of Bloom. The most important change is the redistribution of marks. From 2019 - 40% of the marks will be awarded for horticulture, 30% for environment and 30% for community, instead of the previous 50% horticulture, 25% environment and 25% community.

This additional emphasis on the environment reflects the fact that Bloom groups are working in increasingly challenging environmental conditions. The 2018 summer drought really highlighted the important frontline work all Bloom groups are doing to mitigate environmental challenges.

Today Britain in Bloom is predominantly managed by volunteers, with fewer Councils able to support their local Bloom projects. By increasing the marks available for community we can recognise the efforts of these hard working groups and help celebrate the community spirit that is at the heart of Bloom.

Protecting the environment and improving the local community are often highly motivating factors, particularly for young people; in the long term we hope that the increased emphasis on them could help to encourage more and a wider range of volunteers to support Bloom.

The other changes for 2019 include simplifying the marking sheet with the aim of making it easier for groups and assessors to use, making the total score out of 100 and having a separate marking sheet for urban locations.

The new marking criteria will be implemented in 2019 - in the UK National Finals and across some Regions and Nations, including South West in Bloom. The new marking sheets and full guidelines will be made available in January 2019.

If you have any comments or questions please do not hesitate to contact the RHS Communities Team: communities@rhs.org.uk or 0207 8213122.



Pictures courtesy of RHS

The City of Exeter Partnership awarded The South West Tourism Cup!

Exeter celebrated the success of the City partnership* and all the community groups with their Awards presented by The Lord Mayor, Cllr Rob Hannaford, in the city's ancient Guildhall.



This was just the third time in more than two decades that Exeter City had re-joined RHS Britain in Bloom SW in the SW Tourism Cup group and now the trophy sits proudly in the Lord Mayor's Parlour.

And what better excuse for a celebration with Prosecco and canapes than to toast the community groups, now acknowledged as the city's 'Ambassadors of Place', from right across this expanding city achieving high accolades for 20 It's Your Neighbourhood entries, two Pennant 'Urban Village' villages, and our first-time entrants in the Business, Leisure & Tourism category, The Imperial Hotel, achieving Gold.

It was particularly exciting to welcome two new IYNs from Exeter's oldest housing association, Cornerstone, who have plans for more resident groups to join in 2019. There is lots to look forward to.

Christine & Paul
Exeter in Bloom Campaign
2018



(Exeter City partnership: Exeter City Council, The University of Exeter, In Exeter (BID), Academy of Floral Art, Devon Wildlife Trust, Princesshay Shopping Precinct, Devonshire Orchard Regeneration, Stoke Hill Infants & Nursery School Bury Meadow volunteers, The Imperial (Wetherspoon))



Wynstream Primary School,
Wonford Pennant,

It has taken some time, but slowly but surely the water is returning to the pools and ponds on the reserve. Entirely fed by rainwater, the North and South Pools have been very low following this year's dry summer and it is good to see the water levels rising again. As the rain returns, so do the numbers and variety of bird species frequenting the pools. Over the last month, numbers of Wigeon, Teal and Shoveler have soared as they migrate south from their summer breeding grounds. Lapwing and Snipe are also seen more regularly at this time of year as they congregate in larger numbers. The Kingfisher is also back on the rhyne, moving to coastal habitat for the winter.



In early December the annual clearance of vegetation from the banks of the rhynes will be carried out, ensuring damaging woody vegetation is kept at bay and creating good habitat for species such as the endangered Water Vole.

Following a number of sessions clearing the vegetation from the North Pools Nesting Island, this month the Portbury Wharf Volunteer Community returns to the annual rotational reed clearance on their morning volunteer sessions. If you would like to join the group, we shall be meeting at 09:30 at the Wharf Lane car park (BS20 7TD) on each task day. We aim to finish at 12:30 on each session. Wear sensible clothing please, probably including wellington boots at this time of year, but gloves and tools for the task will be provided. More information can be found on the reserve's notice boards and online at www.facebook.com/PWNRvolunteers.

Glendale

Horticulture

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 9th MARCH

You can enter on line from 7th January.

Haselbury Plucknett - Our Journey

From a seed given to us in November, a village meeting in February decided that we would grow into a village in bloom.

Monthly meetings followed of enthusiastic villagers as plans were set out to involve as many groups as possible.



The Primary School started a Gardening Club, the WI, who by tradition gardened around the War Memorial, embraced yarn bombing cantered around the Village Green. A plant stall was started to sell, or exchange, plants. The Village Orchard Group was an inclusion welcomed by the judges, with a wee sample of their cider! The Village Pub and Almshouses showcased their gardens.

As a predominately agricultural village, we had no public areas to plant up, but old concrete cattle troughs had been sourced from village farmers and filled with bulbs and Summer bedding. Many people accepted the Door-step challenge with fine individual displays of tubs, troughs and hanging baskets.

Slowly it all came together as judging day approached, so many villagers turned out to sweep pavements, gutters and even the road. A truly community spirit was audible.

On judging day, we were so proud of our first time entry and never doubted our abilities.



The results, Small Villages Silver Gilt and The Vic Verrier Cup The Best New Comer.

We have some helpful judges comments, which we will be embracing in 2019.



South West in Bloom presentation 2019

Thursday 3rd October 2019

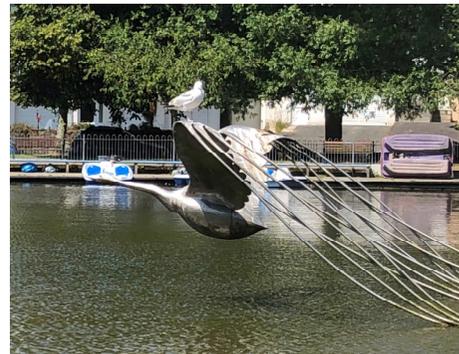


Newquay is looking forward to hosting the Britain in Bloom South West presentation awards 2019.

We hope that you will visit us to see why we have gone from being rank outsiders to winning 9 consecutive gold awards.

Newquay is a town of many parts from the amazing natural beauty of the 9 beaches edging the shores of Newquay Bay to the award winning accommodation of the hotels, holiday cottages, camp sites and guest houses.

Whatever your budget or your interests, you will find something in Newquay to please from walking the cliff paths to taking the tree walk through the stunning Trenance gardens or following the Discovery Trail and learning about the history of the town. For the more adventurous, there are boat trips to watch the local wildlife, surf lessons, coasteering and much more to capture your interest.



Why not consider making your visit to the awards into a long weekend.

Full details and booking forms will be available the Spring Bulletin including accommodation that is available.



Presidents Message

Looking back at this year's weather you have certainly had to cope with all aspects of it. Late frost, Snow in March, lots of rain early spring and then the summer, brought its problems for gardeners with exceptionally high temperatures during July.

This coincided with the Regional judging, so pushed many of you to the limit, but Rise to the Challenge you all did, with superb entries for the judges to mark. Much more use of imaginative planting using many of our easily grown colourful vegetables was evident in this year's entries.

The BBC2 programmes on Britain in Bloom earlier in the year hosted by Chris Bavin certainly helped to raise our profiles, taking in groups from across the country, made for interesting viewing. Well done to Christine Frazer and John Goulden two of our judges who featured in an episode. Watch this space as more programmes planned for 2019 I'm told.

On to October where we met in Yeovil for the South West in Bloom award ceremony. Held on the 4th October at the newly refurbished Westland's Centre it was an excellent venue. My thanks go to the Mayor Cllr David Ricardo and his team for all their assistance in organising the event. The Mayor kindly held a Civic reception evening the night before for my committee and judges, for which we are most grateful

Presentation day saw over 300 people assemble to pick up their awards, with our Patron Lady Emma Fellowes as always playing an enthusiastic role, along with the Mayor of Yeovil Cllr David Ricardo, CEO John Turner from Visit Somerset, and Terry Doyle, Regional Director from Glendale. So well done to everyone on what you all achieved this year.

The RHS National Britain in Bloom awards presentation was held at the Belfast Waterside on the 19th October where over 500 attended.

The South West certainly did us proud. First my congratulations to Richard Budge a long serving member of my committee and Head of Parks in the City of Truro, in the Champion of Champion awards this year along with Lynette at Sidmouth both picked up GOLD awards, but Truro crowned overall champion of champions, a wonderful achievement. Darren Share chairman of the National judging team congratulated the whole city on their imaginative use of drought tolerant plants (cacti, palms, herbs etc) and their solar powered rainwater harvesting scheme.

Other awards went to Coastal towns 12,000 GOLD to Falmouth Village GOLD to Clovelly
BIDS SILVER GILT to St Austell
Small town Kingsbridge GOLD and Category winner
Town Thornbury GOLD
Lynette Talbot, Sidmouth in Bloom Community Champion
Discretionary award gardening in a changing climate Sidmouth
So well done to you all.

Finally thank you to the RHS, our Sponsors and all of you for taking part.
Enjoy the Festive season my best wishes

Vic Verrier MBE
President
RHS South West in Bloom

Spring Seminar 2019

Thursday 28th March

Neeld Hall, High Street, Chippenham. SN15 3ER

10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Provisional Programme

- 10:00 Coffee, Welcome & introductions
- 10:15 **The BLUE Campaign** - Rewilding Britain Fergus Beeley
- 11.20 Comfort break
- 11.30 Guest Speaker (Still to be announced)
- 12:30 Lunch Bar Available
- 13.45 New judging Criteria
- 14.15 Workshop How to max benefit from this change
- 15.15 Feedback on ideas
- 15.30 Presentation of Parks Awards
- 16.00 Closing Remarks

Cost £18.00 per delegate.



We have a very good programme for this years Spring Seminar. With the change in Judging criteria there will be a presentation on the change followed by a workshop when delegates can share ideas of the best way to make the most of these changes in next years entry.

The Guest Speaker will be announced on the web site.

Booking form enclosed or you can book for the Spring Seminar on Line from 7th January.



BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED
Closing Date Monday 5th March

Seminar £18.00 Per Delegate.
Including Lunch

Shekinah Grow

Shekinah Grow is a Community based project based in Torbay, South Devon situated in a secluded rural site between the south coast and open countryside. We are currently waiting this year's results of the Britain in Bloom 'In Your Neighbourhood' awards as we have been awarded Outstanding for the past eight consecutive years .



Our project aim is to provide a safe and positive community within which members on any journey of recovery might find space and the support to make positive changes in their lifestyles. We provide accredited courses and training for those who wish to participate and enhance employment prospects, in many aspects of horticulture; including chainsaw, brush cutter, plant management and propagation (amongst many other unrelated courses) and

our organic-practice produce is used mainly to make healthy wholesome lunches for community members on site each day- cooked by members.



The site boasts two large polytunnels, a wildlife pond, many quiet areas, numerous raised beds and fruit beds along with several flower beds, used to take cuttings to generate some income for the project and to help support our two working on site bee hives. We work in partnership with The Sustainable Plant Project, providing long bloomer flowers to plant in public spaces in the local area and amenities.

Community members work to their own limitations and experience under the auspices of Jo and Terry the Project Managers; weeding, picking, planting etc; seasonal gardening tasks. We also have woodworking and craft facilities on site and unlimited opportunity to suggest any projects which come to mind (if practicable!).

Grow is an oasis of respite from a sometimes overwhelming world. Everything about growing plants and gardening is gentle, therapeutic and incredibly unpressured. It is a friendly, quiet community driven haven of green peacewith delicious tomatoes.

Shekinah Grow



HRH Prince Edward made an official visit last year.

Glendale Horticulture

DOUBLE INDUSTRY AWARD SHORTLIST FOR GLENDALE

Headline sponsors Glendale are celebrating being shortlisted for two awards which recognise the accomplishments of businesses operating within the horticulture and landscaping industry.

They have been nominated in the Apprenticeship Scheme and Grounds Maintenance categories of industry magazine Pro Landscaper's inaugural Business Awards.

Mike Brunskill, managing director for the north at Glendale, said: "We're thrilled to have been shortlisted for these awards, particularly in acknowledgement of our work in relation to apprenticeships, as we're committed to being at the forefront of creating opportunities for apprentices in the industry.

"We ended last year on a positive note when we collected a British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) National Landscape Award, in addition to a number of Pro Landscaper's 30 Under 30 accolades. We're hoping to continue this success at the Business Awards for our investment in the next generation of ardeners and tree surgeons and our overall quality in horticultural maintenance." Glendale will find out if it has been successful at an awards ceremony which will be held in London in the New Year.

Glendale currently employ 22 apprentices in the southwest and are really keen to hear from young people looking to start a career in horticulture and arboriculture. For more information visit <https://www.glendale-services.co.uk/apprenticeships/>



For more details about Glendale Horticulture call 01452 740216 or visit www.glendale-horticulture.co.uk