

## Important Dates for 2011

Spring Seminar Weston-super-Mare	<b>Thursday 10th February</b>
Closing Date for S W in Bloom Entry	<b>Wednesday 1st June</b>
Closing Date for N Awards Entry	<b>Wednesday 1st June</b>
Regional Judging	<b>Wed 6th July to Wed 20th July</b>
National Judging	<b>Mon 1st to Friday 13th August</b>
Presentation at Newquay	<b>Thursday 15th September</b>
Spring Seminar 2012	<b>Truro</b>

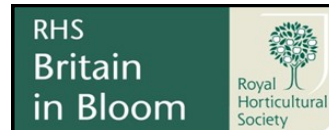
## **It's your Neighbourhood**

### **Ilfracombe– Community resources**



Congratulations to the over **200** South West entrants in the 2010 "It's Your Neighbourhood Awards."

The winner of the Best "Its Your Neighbourhood award" entry in 2010 was Ilfracombe - Community resources and they will represent the South West at next years National award presentations.



Web Site [WWW.southwestinbloom.org.uk](http://WWW.southwestinbloom.org.uk)  
**Watch out for the new Forum**

# **South West in Bloom Autumn Newsletter 2010**



### **South West entrants results in National Competition**

**Cricklade** Winner of Gold Medal and National Small Town Entry for 2010



**Wedmore** Gold Medalist in the National Large Village Entry for 2010



**Portishead** Silver Gilt Winner in the Urban Community Entry for 2010



**St Ives** Silver Gilt Medalist in the National small Coastal Entry for 2010



**Bristol**  
Silver Gilt Medal in the  
National City Entry for 2010



**Plymouth** Gold Medalist in the  
South West Tourism Cup 2010  
National entry in Large Coastal 2011



**Thornbury** - Gold Medalist & Winner of  
the Sargent Cup in 2010  
National small town entry for 2011



**National entries for 2011**

**Bristol** Gold Medalist and Winner in the  
South West Tourism Cup 2010.  
National Large City entry for 2011



**Berrynarbour** Gold Medalist & Winner  
in the Mary Mortimer cup 2010  
National Village Entry for 2011



**Bath** Gold Medalist and Winner in the  
TescoCup 2010.  
National Small City entry for 2011



**Chairman's Greetings**

Can I congratulate you all on an excellent year in 2010 and at the same time wish you all well for 2011. With the many budget pressures on Local Authorities it would be easy for people to question on going involvement in the Bloom. However I believe the contrary to be the case where community led bloom groups can meet the challenge by taking the lead and indicating new partnerships to Local Authorities, to promote Community development and Tourism here in the South West.

Can I take this opportunity of thanking all the committee and groups throughout the South West. As a member of the National judging panel & Development Steering Group I do get to see many other groups within Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and can I tell you that we have much to be proud of here in the South West. Finally please feel free to contact me at any time over any issue, and I will do my best to address them in the interests of promoting and furthering the wonderful initiative that is South West in Bloom.

I propose we hold a short meeting of all Chairs of Bloom groups with a view to forming a clear view as to the way forward for the South West which may involve contacting MP's at the Weston Seminar.

We are again indebted to **Kevin Bishop & Colin Drummond of Viridor "Revive"** for their continuing support and partnership.  
**Jon Wheatley**

**Spring Seminar**

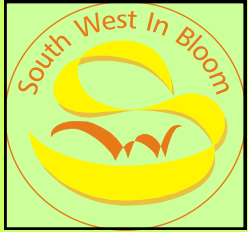
**Thursday 10th February 2011**

**The Royal Hotel  
1 South Parade  
Weston-super-Mare  
BS23 1JP**

10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.



**Weston-super-Mare  
Town Council**



**Speakers**

**RAY BECKWITH** National Judge from Northumbria  
**The judging tour**

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**TOM SHARPLES** Sutton Seeds  
**New plants for Bloom situations**

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**TRACY WILSON** Radio Cornwall  
**Publicity & Raising Community Awareness**

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**P.M. Conference and Workshop on selected items identified at the  
2010 Seminar at Rosemoor & from the feedback Sheets**

**Book early as places are limited**

**BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED  
Closing Date Friday 28th January**

**Seminar £15 Per Delegate.  
Including Lunch**

## Pupils dig for victory in compost competition



Budding young gardeners and cooks from across Devon and Somerset were celebrated at a prize giving event today for Taunton-based recycling company Viridor's

**Dig It, Grow It, Cook It, Eat It** competition.

**Toby Buckland**, from BBC2's Gardeners' World, presented awards to schools from across the two counties, who entered the competition to grow their own vegetables and show how they feasted on their tasty crops.

**Colin Drummond**, Viridor Chief Executive, said: "What's great about the competition is it not only encourages children to get out into the garden, but also shows them how easy it is to eat healthily.

"To give the schools a head start we gave them packets of seeds and one tonne of our Revive compost, a soil conditioner produced from Somerset's garden waste that has been used in gold medal winning gardens at the Chelsea and Hampton court flower shows.

Around 60 primary and secondary schools took part in the competition, which was run in partnership with Devon County Council and Somerset Waste Action Programme (SWAP). The schools all entered diaries showing the progress of their digging, growing, cooking and eating.

**Toby Buckland**, said: "What the children have grown is spectacular! It shows they've fully understood the importance of recycling and that being a good gardener is as much about what you put in to your soil as what you take out. The Dig it, Grow it, Eat it, Cook it campaign is more though as so many children from across Devon and Somerset have learnt values and skills that will be of use for the rest of their lives and I'm thrilled to be involved."



### Winning Schools

Okehampton Primary School, West Devon  
St Luke's Science and Sports College, Exeter  
Baltonsborough Primary School, Glastonbury  
Sedgemoor Manor Community Infant Sch, Bridgwater  
King Arthur's Community School, Wincanton

Kevin Bishop, Toby Buckland, Jon Wheatley and Colin Drummond at the presentation.

### Viridor Children's Painting Competition

Many excellent paintings were received in the "South West in Blooms" 2010 Children's painting competition. The winning paintings were framed and returned to those who painted them, together with their certificate. The winners in the three classes were

*Up to six years old:* **Phoenix Wilson, Age 4, St Just Nursery**

*7 - 11 years:* **Mandy Ellis, Age 11, Chumleigh Primary School**

*12 - 16 years:* **Catherine Graham, Age 12, St Gregory Catholic College, Bath**



**Phoenix Wilson,  
Age 4**

For more information contact Tessa Taylor, Regional Communications Manager (South West) on 07769 744 417 or email [ttaylor@viridor.co.uk](mailto:ttaylor@viridor.co.uk)

## Cricklade

Gold Medal & Winner of the Ayre Cup in 2010  
**National Champion of Champions** Entry for 2011



### 2010 Bath Presentation event.



Bath hosted a very successful Southwest in Bloom presentation in September, over 400 "In Bloomers attended" the event which was held at Bath's famous Assembly rooms, Guests included Bob Flowerdew, Jekka Mcvicar, RHS Council Member and Roger Burnett, Chairman of Britain in Bloom. On the evening before the presentation a Civic reception was held in the Roman Baths for Mayors and Chairman of councils and other VIP's,

Chairman of Bath and Northeast Somerset Council Cllr Sarah Bevan said " The Presentation was the most enjoyable event I have attended in my role as Chairman " Barry Cruse, Chairman of the Bath in Bloom Committee said "It was worth all the hard work put in by so many people, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves" SW in Bloom wish to congratulate Bath & B&NES for their on going support, and extend a very special thanks to all the Bath staff involved.

# Kingsbridge in Devon – Growing Pride in our Town

## From nowhere to GOLD in 3 years



It all started 3 years ago when a new Council was elected in Kingsbridge, under the banner “ A Better Kingsbridge for All”, but how to achieve it?

In Bloom seemed the ideal vehicle with its emphasis on improving the environment via not only flowers, but also a high level of community involvement, and a meeting was called to gauge interest and support.

This resulted in the formation of a core group – of local people, rather than councillors, although even the Mayor has regularly lent a hand.

A photo audit of the town confirmed that Kingsbridge was looking rather down at heel, but it also revealed some hidden gems, such as the old hanging baskets languishing at the local bus depot, rusty but intact – first project identified!

Others followed, as we spotted areas of the town in need of a face-lift. The Young Farmers were called in for some heavy clearance on one of the town’s lovely but neglected back-ways. The change was like magic and resulted in lots of favourable comment.

In the main areas, Flower Power was brought to bear with baskets and tubs, but at the same time work parties set to, removing weeds and rubbish from the Town Square. The initial core group of about 8 people gradually expanded to about double that number, with rotas in place for watering and clearing.

Alongside gardening endeavours, there were competitions and fund-raising events to get as many as possible interested and involved. Local businesses provided sponsorship and we worked alongside the local council maintenance team. Our wonderful Community Garden decided to join in. The rewards were swift and encouraging – A silver Gilt for the Town and an Award of Outstanding Achievement for the Community Garden!

In Year 2 we focussed on our Heritage, and chose projects which show-cased the local history, including the railway and the lime industry. As in the first year, strategically placed boat planters emphasised the town’s links to the sea. We also held a Flower Festival, bringing in support from local clubs and societies and attracting many visitors. The Town map which served as a programme for this then evolved into postcards and tea-towels.

The judges clearly liked our approach and it was Silver Gilt again!

Year 3 has majored on sustainability – with water-saving planters and careful choice of plants, and a stunning new display on the Town Square. For the third year, we have held a local garden competition and we have also supported neighbourhood self-help projects, both of which have increased local pride. The Primary School was involved from the start, designing logos, and developing their own eco-garden, but this year the Secondary School students took an active part in projects, so it is truly an all-age project.

### South West in Bloom News from Mullion

In 2000 and following regeneration work carried out in Mullion, a small group decide to take overall responsibility for the care of an area which had, in recent years, become very overgrown and neglected. With the support of the Parish Council the area began to evolve. We now have a beautiful village garden which is enjoyed by locals and visitors to the area.



It is cared for and supported by our community. Further funds were raised which enabled us to purchase and plant containers throughout the village. These hanging baskets and containers are planted with both summer and winter bedding and are watered and tended entirely by volunteers. Additionally two roadside areas were created, bulbs planted and flowering trees, donated by individuals were planted where possible.

Following a visit to our village by South West in Blooms Michael Foy and with encouragement from him, it was decided in 2010 to enter Mullion into the S.W. in Bloom competition. At first the whole thing seemed very daunting but with the guidance of Brian Hosken who had been connected with S.W. in Bloom for a number of years we set about bringing the whole thing to fruition.

Volunteers came forward to adopt various areas of the village. The Primary School, which had a Garden Club jointly run by Mullion Garden Club, the Horticultural Club and the National Trust, grew in numbers and enthusiasm. The Comprehensive School offered the services of a student to compile the necessary portfolio and a resident offered to build and maintain the website.

Judging day dawned accompanied by very inauspicious weather, high winds and heavy rain, but the sun soon appeared and the judges were able to view the village in pleasant conditions and we were left to continue our work and await the judges results. We were overjoyed to receive a Silver Gilt award for our first entry with the judges saying in their remarks that:

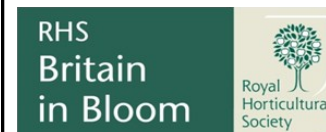
**“Mullion had a keen and active team whose hard work and commitment was an example to the ethos of Britain in Bloom and was well supported by schools, commerce and the parish council. Pride of place had shone through and as financial support from public bodies dried up, Mullion was an excellent example of a community prepared to be self sustaining and viable during difficult financial times”**

High praise indeed and great encouragement for us to go forward in the years to come.

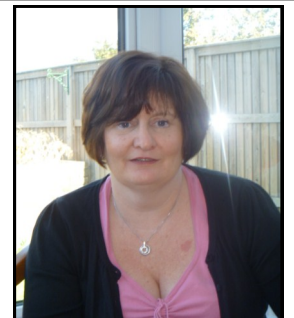
Mary Kemp - Vice Chair - Mullion in Bloom

*Need To Contact us* **Jo Jukes** The South West in Bloom Secretary can be contacted by the following.

**E Mail** [southwestinbloom@aol.com](mailto:southwestinbloom@aol.com)



**Stonebarn  
Moorledge  
Chew Magna  
BRISTOL  
Tel No 01275 333007**



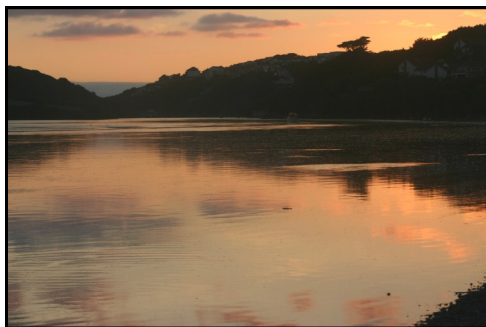
## Presentation Day at Newquay Thursday 15th September 2011



Preparation is already well under way for next years SW in Bloom Presentation Event in Newquay and it promises to be a very exciting few days with guest speakers and exhibits to entertain over lunch and specialist garden visits.

If you wish to stay a little longer in Newquay the weekend before, 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September, is the renowned annual Fish Festival being held at harbour

The weekend after, 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September, is the International Mens' Gig Championship. Discounted accommodation will be available through [visitnewquay.com](http://visitnewquay.com), together with other information about the event.



### The Viridor Sponsors Award 2010

Congratulations to Portishead for a splendid entry in this years competition winning this years sponsors award for the best entry in South West in Bloom.



## DON WATERHOUSE



Vic Verrier with Don Waterhouse

At the end of July 2010 Don Waterhouse took the decision to resign from the committee and Judging after some 28yrs, of dedicated service to South West in Bloom.

Don has been in Horticulture all his life apart from a spell in the RAF as part of his National Service. He started with Preston Parks department in the 1950's. He became a student at Wisley 1958/1960 gaining his diploma with credit and the Inter NDH, which he later turned into a full NDH along with a Master of Science degree at Bath University.

Don worked with the Min of Agriculture at both Fairfield and Stockbridge before joining staff at Pershore College for two years. The Parks life then came back into play with posts in Belfast, Sheffield, Lichfield, and finally down to Plymouth where he stayed until retirement. It was while employed with Plymouth that Don joined the "Bloom" campaign back in 1982 and has been here ever since.

Don is a family man married for 50 yrs next year, with three children and five grandchildren. His love of football saw him referee for twenty years, many at first division level, later relaxing to the more gentlemanly sport of Croquet at Plymouth and Sidmouth.

Don is very involved with Rotary International both here and Brazil on various projects, where he and Ruth reside for six months each year.

Every year of late Don has meticulously planned the judge's rota that comes to visit you. Himself a regular judge he has visited most of your communities over the years and made many friends. He is a quiet unassuming man who got on with the task in hand with no credit required; he did it because he loved it.

On behalf of South West in Bloom we wish Don and his wife Ruth a happy retirement from our organisation, and thank him for all his hard work over many years.

Vic Verrier , President .

# Revive

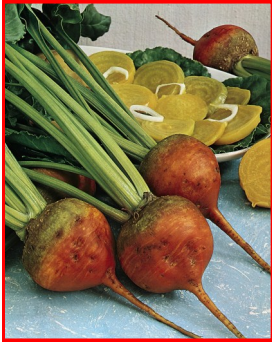


## ORGANIC SOIL CONDITIONER

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

a Viridor product

## South West Schools -Fun Vegetables For You To Grow !!!!



We at **Suttons Seeds** are so excited about our new and very unusual beetroot 'Golden Detroit' and carrot 'Rondo', they would like everyone to try growing them !!

### Fun Facts About Beetroot

Beetroots can come in all sorts of colours red, pink and yellow. You can also get round or long cylindrical types !! Since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, beet juice has been used as a natural dye, the Victorians used beetroot to dye their hair.

### How To Grow Your Beetroot 'Golden Detroit'

#### *Sow seeds from April – June*

Find a sunny place in the garden with forked over, weed free soil.

Make a channel in the soil about 13mm (1/2") deep and sprinkle your beetroot seeds thinly along the base of the channel.

Lightly cover with soil and water well.

#### *Care of your beetroot*

Beetroots do not need much looking after, but make sure you remove any weeds and keep plants well watered.

Your beetroot should be ready to eat 12 weeks from sowing your seeds.

### Fun Facts About Carrots

People used to grow yellow and purple carrots, now we are all growing orange ones ! They are full of Vitamin A, which helps to keep us fit and healthy. Some say carrots can even help you see in the dark ! that's why rabbits eat carrots !

### How To Grow Your Carrot 'Rondo'

#### *Sow seeds from March - July*

Find a sunny place in the garden with forked over, weed free soil.

Make a channel in the soil about 13mm (1/2") deep and sprinkle your beetroot seeds thinly along the base of the channel.

Lightly cover with soil and water well.

#### *Care of your carrots*

Carrots do not need much looking after, but make sure you remove any weeds and keep plants well watered.

Your carrots should be ready to eat 12 weeks from sowing your seeds

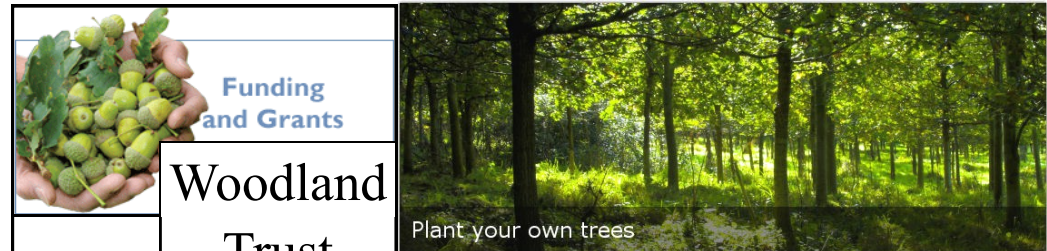
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Contact Francijn Suermond on 01803 696364 or  
francijn.suermond@suttons.co.uk

for your free seeds to try and you could win a prize !

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**If you take pictures of your pupils venture in growing these two exciting vegetables and send them to South West in Bloom or show them to the judges when they visit your school in 2011. Your pupils will have the opportunity of winning a prize.**



## More Trees, More Good is an exciting new campaign that aims to encourage everyone to plant more trees.

The UK is one of the least wooded countries in Europe with only 4% native woodland cover. But we need at least twice as many native trees and woods for the sake of wildlife and people, to combat climate change and improve our environment. Though ambitious, this aim is ultimately achievable – but only if we work together. From farmers and communities to schools and companies, we all have a role to play.

If you have land, we can help you plant trees on it. If you'd prefer to support our cause financially, we'll make sure your money goes towards creating more places rich in woods and trees. Let's form a vast nationwide tree-planting movement that everyone can join – and work alongside each other to create a well-wooded and greener UK.

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



Exchange House supporting all your business requirements and proudly supports

**South West in Bloom**

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**Exchange House**

**12-14 The Crescent**

**Taunton**

**TA1 4EB**

**Tel: 01823 273100**

**info@exchange-house.com**