



SOUTH WEST

RHS South West in Bloom Autumn Newsletter 2023



2023 Award Presentation at Truro Cathedral.



Jon Wheatley AHRHS, VMH, VP

It is with pleasure that we can let you all know that our Chairman has been appointed a Vice President of the Royal Horticultural Society.

This appointment as well as recognising his past works, is intended to seek ideas and advice promoting the valuable work of the Nation's largest gardening charity.

Jon will certainly support, promote and Champion Bloom, Community Horticulture and the social values of Gardening.



Awards Presentation at Truro Cathedral.

In 2023 we returned to the spectacular venue of Truro Cathedral, where we held our Awards Presentation 10 years before. Things had moved forward a long way in past 10 years, and we had this time an excellent IT set up, with a large screen supported by large TV screens around the venue.



The Cathedral

Putting on the event did prove to be a challenge, with all the equipment and catering and bar services having to be contracted in.

This meant 28 tables, plus 280 chairs and crockery had to be hired, and at the final hour, the programme for the day had to be amended to allow for the Cathedral's daily prayer services to continue.

This meant this year we had to limit our Presentation to just one main speaker and we were delighted this year to welcome Jon Webster, who gave us a very informative view of the splendour of the plants and displays to be found at RHS Rosemoor.



The afternoon saw the Presentation of the Awards, the details of which are to be found in other parts of this Newsletter.



Jon Webster

Our Chairman Jon Wheatley acted as MC for the day, but he also gave in insite into some of the 60th anniversary proposals for Britain in Bloom, and celebrations that we can expect to see during 2024

Thanks to Nigel Bloxham for the photos

We hope that everyone who attended enjoyed the day and are very grateful and would like to express our sincere thanks to both Truro City Council and Truro In Bloom for their invaluable support in sponsoring the event, providing Cornish themed goody bags and beautiful table decorations. Also for all their man power and hard work in helping South West In Bloom during the planning phase and setting up of the event the day before, on the Awards Day itself and the break down.



A special thank you must also go to our Presenters of the Awards this year, our Patron Lady Emma Fellowes, and Truro City Council's Mayor, Cllr Carol Swain.

Carol also hosted a fantastic Mayor's Civic Reception the evening before the Awards, which was very well attended, and which provided a great opportunity to network and catch up with other dignitaries and Bloom Groups across the South West.

Much wine and cheese was consumed and it was wonderful to also be entertained by the very talented City of Truro Male Choir!



Cllr Carol Swain, Mayor of Truro.



Glendale

Presentation 2024 ?



There are strong rumours that we may be going to Bath for the Presentation event in October 2024. Bath was a successful entry in the first competition 60 years ago so to return would be great.

All will be revealed in the Spring Newsletter.

National Results 2023



Large Town, Truro
GOLD



Coastal, Exmouth
GOLD



Follow South West In Bloom on Instagram and Facebook
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Please #southwestinbloom on your own socials too!

RHS South West In Bloom *2024 Children's Painting Competition*

2024 marks the 60th Anniversary of Britain In Bloom and to celebrate this special milestone year, the RHS have chosen the theme of '**friendship**' so we are delighted to announce our theme for next year's Children's Painting Competition is:

“60 Years of Bloom – Celebrations and Friendships”

We would like paintings to reflect and celebrate how community gardening in your area brings people together, and for friendships to blossom through Bloom, It's Your Neighbourhood, School Gardens, or any other community gardening projects local to you. **The competition age group categories are: Up to 6 years, 7–11 years, and 12–16 years old.**

Art should be a maximum of A3 in size, and on the back of the painting details given to include, the name of the entrant, their age, and school, together with the name of area, and/or, Bloom Group they are representing. Only one entry per age group, per School/Bloom Group can enter, and they should be the winners of your own local competition.

Entry forms will be available in our Spring 2024 Newsletter.

Closing date for entries: Monday 1st July 2024.



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

Friday 5th April 2024.

Regional Results 2023

Town & City Centre Award

Chippenham SILVER GILT

Winner CHIPPENHAM

Bids

InExeter SILVER GILT

Plymouth Waterfront Partnership
SILVER GILT

Winner INEXETER

Pennant Village– Devon

Poltimore GOLD

Stoke SILVER GILT

Woolwell SILVER GILT

Winner POLTIMORE

Pennant Village Cornwall

Calstock GOLD

Illogan SILVER

Mitchell GOLD

St Buryan SILVER

Winner MITCHELL

Pennant (Town & City)

Bovey Tracey GOLD

Burham on Sea SILVER

Liskeard GOLD

Winner BOVEY TRACEY

Mary Mortimer Trophy

Charmouth SILVER

Haselbury Plucknett GOLD

Lymsham Inc Eastertown SILVER GILT

Plympton St Maurice GOLD

Tresillian SILVER

Winner HASELBURY PLUCKNETT

Cox Cup

Cannington GOLD

Tadpole Garden Village GOLD

Winner CANNINGTON

Ayre Cup

Cary Castle GOLD

Dartmouth Green Partnership GOLD

Westfield in SILVER GILT

Winner

DARTMOUTH GREEN PARTNERSHIP

Preece Cup

Bradford on Avon SILVER GILT

Glastonbury GOLD

Winner GLASTONBURY

Sargent Cup

Babbacombe Bay GOLD

Minehead SILVER GILT

Winner BABBACOMBE BAY

Portman Cup

Brixham GOLD

Thornbury GOLD

Tiverton GOLD

Wellington SILVER GILT

Winner THORNBURY

St Bridget Cup

Barnstaple GOLD

Keynsham SILVER GILT

Newquay GOLD

Portishead GOLD

Yeovil GOLD

Winner YEOVIL

Tesco Cup

Paignton SILVER GILT

South Swindon GOLD

Taunton SILVER GILT

Winner SOUTH SWINDON

South West Tourism Cup

Bath GOLD

Winner BATH

Regional Results 2023

Champion of Champions

Under 10k

Bere Alston	GOLD
Bleadon in Bloom	SILVER GILT
Hayle in Bloom	GOLD
Kingsbridge in Bloom	GOLD
Radstock in Bloom	GOLD

Winner **KINGSBRIDGE**

Champion of Champions 10k Plus

Exmouth	GOLD
Sidmouth	GOLD
Torquay	GOLD
Truro	GOLD

Winner **EXMOUTH**



**Portman Cup
Thornbury**



**Mary Mortimer Trophy
Haselbury Plucknett**



**South West Tourism Cup
Bath**



**Preece Cup
Galastonbury**



**Sargent Cup
Babbacombe Bay**

2023 It's Your Neighbourhood



Gordon Ford Trophy, Best IYN
Eat Cary, Castle Cary



Gordon Ford Trophy, Runner Up
Bosavern Community Farm, St Just



Gordon Ford Trophy, Third Place
Cricklade Bloomers



Soapbox Theatre Stoke
Outstanding



St Mary's Church, Thornbury
Outstanding



Stanley's Garden, WSM
Outstanding

2023 It's Your Neighbourhood



Treverbyn Allotment Group Truro
Outstanding



Priory Pocket Triangle, Barnstable
Advancing



Old Vicarage Green, Keynsham
Outstanding



Moorings Reach, Brixham
Outstanding



St James Vegetable Garden, Exeter
Outstanding



Farm Wood, Thornbury
Thriving

Presentation of 2023 Awards at Truro Cathedral.



Sponsors Trophy, Best entry
Winner Yeovil.



Best Seaside entry, Winner Newquay.



Viv Verrier Trophy, Best new entry
Poltimore



Alf Crouch Trophy, Service to Bloom
Winner, Ian Cawley, Babbacombe Bay.

Champion of Champions 2023



Village & Small Town
Winner , Kingbridge



Large Town,
Winner, Exmouth

60 Years of Britain in Bloom

2024 is the 60th anniversary of Britain in Bloom, initially developed by The Tidy Britain Group, and Roy Hay, the concept of Floral Towns, Cities and Villages was inspired by the French, where flowers were in abundance.



Roy Hay inspiring Bloom

There will be much more about the history of Bloom in the next newsletter, and I would encourage you all to send Melissa a short history of your own groups involvement.

The RHS National theme for the DIAMOND anniversary is friendship and this will be the theme of a range of exciting initiatives and projects throughout the UK and NI

We hope to endorse the current strong friendship throughout what we all know and treasure as Britain in Bloom, whilst at the same time develop a framework for future years in our existing Bloom competition. In It's Your Neighbourhood as well as local communities particularly in Inner Cities, Towns, Villages and Community Groups of the widest spectrum.

Please Join us in celebrating this important anniversary and tell us what you intend to do, however small the project, across the RHS South West in Bloom Region.



SOUTH WEST



Please Note :- The closing date for the Main Competition, IYN, Town Centre, Bid and Commercial, Leisure & Tourism entries is Friday 5th April 2024.

Presidents report

Hello everyone what a wonderful venue to hold a presentation Truro Cathedral, a simply stunning building.

So can I start by thanking our patron Lady Emma Fellowes for once again presenting our awards, I really appreciate your continued support, and I know all our entries look forward to seeing you, it really does become a highlight of the seasons work

So congratulations to all of the this years winners , I know it has been a challenging year with unpredictable weather. Winners or losers you are all contributing to brightening up your communities and certainly boosting your economy

The BBC's The One sSow has been running an event with the RHS and Britain in Bloom for people who are brightening up their communities. Similar to our Its our Neighbourhood competition.



Any group can get involved, the area could be large or small, the main criteria was that it was neglected and your group would work on it to transform it into a public usable space. Size doesn't matter, it could be simply a small plot by the side of a road where you have added a seat and maybe a tree. It gets a lot of media attention for your group.

So check it out on the BBC web site.

We are all being encouraged to try and work outside for our health and well-being and what better way to do this is by meeting up and owning an allotment.

But in many parts of the South West there are very long waiting lists to obtain one.

Your local authority has a legal responsibility to provide land for allotments especially on new build housing sites. The National Allotment Association will always advise on choosing a site and what grants etc are available.

Bristol was recently revealed by the media as one area with one of the longest waiting list, but location is all important and apparently many are too far out of the city. Allotment holders are people of habit, they like to jump in their car or bike and get to the site within a short space of time. Whatever you do enjoy your gardening and get your seed orders in early as many varieties sell out.



Halloween will have passed by the time you read this article. A lot of us think that the whole event has got out of control which was once simply carving out a Swede or a Turnip and putting a candle in it.

Where am I coming from, it's the fact now that across the country acres and acres of Pumpkins are grown in many varieties, and are

adding huge amounts of money into Horticulture and Agriculture, then you add to this all the merchandise that has been sold across the country and you quickly see how this all adds up to boosting the economy.

Finally I would like to thank my Chairman Jon Wheatley, Jon works tirelessly to promote "Bloom" at every opportunity, and Vice Chair Richard Budge who this year had a big input in this years event at Truro Cathedral, his home town and place of work.

Next Terry Porter, thank you for all the hard work all year round, especially around presentation day sorting out venues and accommodation for judges and guests.

Finally Melissa Poole our SWIB secretary who works along with Terry coordinating the entries and all the other Secretarial duties

All that remains for me to say is keep up all of your sterling work into 2024. Keep well, Keep safe and enjoy the Festive season.

Best wishes.

Vic Verrier. MBE

President South West in Bloom

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Ways to create environmentally friendly floral displays

We understand the growing need for our customers to address environmental issues and implement plant friendly gardening practices in towns and cities and is why we manufacture sustainable self-watering planters to save their time, water and money. Over the last 30 years, we have worked closely with In-Bloom community groups and councils and below are some of their inspirational floral display ideas.

Creating a tranquil space...

Halton in Bloom community group have recently created a *well-being garden* for local residents to come together again after the Covid-19 lockdowns.

They chose *sensory planting* to stimulate the senses using stachys (lamb's ears) for its velvety softness, lavender, rosemary and salvias for their scent and grasses that rustle in the breeze.

Plants and flowers were selected to benefit pollinators and provide food and habitat for wildlife.



Amberol's self-watering [Promenade large floor standing planters](#) and [New Precinct Fountain Tiered Planters](#) created an abundant of standout floral displays in the well-being area for local residents.

In addition, they created a *new 'green' wall* where they adapted their guttering to allow rainwater to fill the self-watering [Amberol window boxes](#) to conserve mains water as well as saving time watering.



Celebrating events...

Whether the event is big or small, creating show-stopping floral displays is always welcomed by residents, visitors and wildlife!

The Abergavenny in Bloom group created vibrant and colourful rainbow themed floral displays this summer to celebrate the *NHS 75th anniversary* using Amberol's [Beehive Tiered Planter](#), traditional [large floor standing self-watering planters](#) and Amberol's [Barrier Baskets](#) were added to railings and signposts.

Liverpool City Council hosted the *67th Eurovision Song Contest* in May and used our self-watering planters to create eye-catching floral displays across the city using our new [Precinct Fountain Tiered Planters](#), [Barrier Baskets](#) and [Promenade planters](#).



Improving on-street space separation

Our [large floor standing planters](#) are not only being used to provide bright and beautiful floral displays, but to offer permanent or temporary on-street space separation between parking and pedestrian walkways in towns and city centres during special events or road safety initiatives.

Environmental responsibility

Amberol's mission is to make a positive environmental impact by saving water with its [self-watering planter range](#) and the unique self-watering system, Aafeed™ does exactly that. All Amberol products are made from a long-lasting material that is 100% recyclable at the end of its use. Our black planters are even produced using recycled plastics.

If you would like to create amazing floral displays, do contact us here at Amberol, we are always happy to help. You could even arrange a personalised no-obligation virtual demo to see our products up close and personal. Call 01773 830 930 or email sales@amberol.co.uk for more information.



Business, Leisure, Tourism & Commercial Awards

NORTH SOMERSET

Portishead	Sarah Tynan Flowers	GOLD
Portishead	The Port-Portishead Brewing Co	SILVER GILT
Portishead	The Ship	GOLD
Portishead	The Posset Cup - Wetherspoons	GOLD
Portishead	Phoenix Bar	SILVER GILT
Weston super Mare	Crematorium, Glendale Countryside	GOLD

WILTSHIRE

Bradford on Avon	Cross Guns, Avoncliff	GOLD
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DORSET

Sherborne	The Eastbury Hotel	SILVER GILT
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BANES

Bath	Milsom Place	GOLD
Bath	The Inn at Freshford	GOLD
Bath	The Old Crown Inn	GOLD

DEVON

Babbacombe	Babbacombe Model Village	GOLD
Babbacombe	The Babbacombe Inn	GOLD
Babbacombe	Cary Arms & Spa	GOLD
Ilfracombe	Storm in a Teacup	GOLD
Barnstaple	Brend Hotel Group, The Imperial Hotel	GOLD
Barnstaple	Brend Hotel Group, The Park Hotel	GOLD
Barnstaple	Station Master's Café	GOLD
Barnstaple	Golden Lion Tap	SILVER GILT
Barnstaple	Queen Anne Café	SILVER GILT
Barnstaple	Electric & Steel	SILVER GILT
Barnstaple	Home Sweet Home	SILVER
Bovey Tracey	Brookside Restaurant	GOLD
Bovey Tracey	The Bell Inn	GOLD
Plymouth	Royal William Yard	GOLD
Buckfastleigh	Buckfast Abbey	GOLD
Torquay	Torre Abbey Garden, Torbay Council	GOLD

CORNWALL

Hayle	Paradise Park	GOLD
Liskeard	The Flowers of Fore Street	GOLD
Mitchell	The Plume of Feathers	GOLD
Newquay	Your Wellbeing Services Ltd	SILVER GILT
Penzance	The North Inn, Pendeen	GOLD
Penzance	The Planted House	GOLD
Penzance	The One & All(Pub)	SILVER GILT
Penzance	The Long Boat Inn	SILVER GILT
Penzance	Florescere	GOLD
Penzance	Sullivans Diner	GOLD

SOMERSET

Glastonbury	Glastonbury Information Centre	GOLD
Glastonbury	Glastonbury Tribunal	GOLD
Glastonbury	White Rabbit	GOLD
Glastonbury	Glastonbury Abbey	GOLD
Glastonbury	Knight's Fish & Chips Shop & Restaurant	SILVER GILT
Glastonbury	Abbey Tea Rooms	GOLD
Glastonbury	Heart of the Tribe Gallery	GOLD
Glastonbury	Glastonbury Galleries	GOLD
Glastonbury	Beckets Inn	GOLD
Glastonbury	The Covenstead	SILVER GILT
Glastonbury	Cavendish Lodge	SILVER GILT
Yeovil	Quedam	GOLD
Cannington	Blackmore Farm	GOLD

Business, Leisure, Tourism & Commercial Award

We were pleased to see a continual interest entering our Business, Leisure and Commercial section with our highest recorded entry of 50 businesses, spread out across the region, with a tremendous response from Devon, Somerset & Cornwall.

Presentation of the awards took place in Truro Cathedral on the 3rd October 2023, and we were pleased to see so many entrants there to collect their Awards.

The entry fee for 2024 will unfortunately increase to £25, to help towards the continually rising costs of judging. We are really pleased to see the very high standard & enthusiasm across the businesses in the South West. Judges will again be looking at areas around entrances, public facilities, the standard of maintenance and general appearance, as well as interesting and original floral displays, general landscaping and general maintenance of grassed areas.

Further details can be found on our website. www.southwestinbloom.org.uk



Bell Inn, Bovey Tracey. GOLD



Glastonbury Abbey GOLD

Enter your Business in 2024 Entry £25
Closing Date: Friday 5th April
Assessing between June to August 2024

Special Awards 2023

Vic Verrier Trophy,	Poltimore in Bloom
Abbiss Cup	Glastonbury in Bloom
City of Bath Trophy	The Sensory Garden, Sidmouth
Michael McGahey Trophy	Dartmouth Green Partnership
Bruford Cup	Hendra Holiday Park, Newquay
Clem Preece Memorial Cup	Sidmouth Schools
Virador, School Composting Trophy	Westfield Primary School
London & Manchester Trophy	Trees for BANES
Sutton Seeds Cup	Bystock Pools, Exmouth
SW Tourism Trophy, Best Portfolio	Yeovil in Bloom
Sargent Trophy	Glastonbury in Bloom
Swin Bloom Youth Award	Brymore academy, Cannington
Barry Cruse Trophy	Poltimore in Bloom
Budge Social Media Trophy	Barnstaple in Bloom
West Country TV Cup	Corston Community Orchard
The Monk Trophy	Abbey Remains, Keynsham
Amberol Trophy	Blackmore Farm, Cannington
Serco Cup	Tadpole Garden Village
Gardening for the Disabled	The Volunteer Network, Glastonbury
Inclusive Gardening Award	Hayle Breezers
Inclusive Gardening Award	Petit Plot, Babbacombe Bay
Inclusive Gardening Award	Swallow Office Garden, Westfield
Inclusive Gardening Award	Horticultural Therapy Trust, Plymouth
Denise James Art Trophy	3rd Walcot Street Bath
	2nd St Benedict's School, C of E VA Junior School, Glastonbury
	Winner Brixton Mural Project
	3rd Cross Guns, Bradford on Avon
	2nd The Inn at Freshford
	Winner The Old Crown, Bath
	3rd Cricklade Bloomers
	2nd Bosvern Community Farm, St Just
	Winner Eat Cary, Castle Cary
	Redcatch Community Garden, Bristol
	Newquay in Bloom
	Ian Cawley, Babbacombe Bay
	Yeovil in Bloom
Shaun Cregan Trophy	
Gordon Ford Trophy Best IYN	
Urban Communities Trophy	
Plantscape Coastal Trophy	
Alf Crouch Memorial Award	
Sponsors Trophy	



The
countryside
charity

CPRE Environmental Award

This was a new award for 2024 in conjunction with our new sponsor the Countryside Charity the CPRE.

Nominations were outstanding with 17 projects put forward by our judges. The results were determined by members of the CPRE across the South West.

We were delighted that Rowena Swallow, Chair of the CPRE Cornwall joined us and presented the CPRE Awards



Rowena Swallow presented the Awards



Third Place Corston Community Orchard



Runner Up, Bere Alston



Winner, Rushywood Farm,
Haselbury Plucknett

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Friday 5th April 2024.

South West in Bloom at Chelsea 2023

GOLD MEDAL

As South West in Bloom we again built a Show garden in the Great Pavillion at Chelsea Show. It was the usual small team building the garden, but with help from a few apprentices. Two of Glendale's apprentices worked very well with the Team, and turned out to be a great asset.



Julie and Emily Glendale Apprentices

The exhibit included flowers, vegetables and a splendid wild flower meadow grown by Jane Wheatley.

Terry grew his normal array of vegetables, this year for the last time, including a selection of Chillies, and Burpee Europe brought in some splendid tomatoes, aubergines and peppers.

The garden was again designed by Jon, and was intended to feature all the aspects of Bloom,

We were pleased that Melissa joined the team this year and her ideas were always welcome.

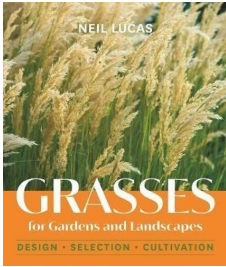


Dame Mary Berry joined Jon on the stand and presented a BBC feature during the Show. She was impressed by the quality of the planting.

The garden was honoured to be selected for a visit by King Charles III as part of the Royal tour. He spent some time at the stand and showed a great interest in the vegetables.



South West in Bloom at Chelsea 2023



We had an area where we featured Knoll Grasses species with allium and bio diverse wild flowers as part of Neil Lucas's book launch.

The book "Grasses for Gardens and Landscapes"

This outstanding book is well worth reading and paves the way for many a superb garden design.

The outstanding sunflower Desire Red, a 50 to 55 cm high compact plant was very popular in the sell off.

Burpees Europe grew the tomatoes and peppers. The tomato Black Moon, a hybrid with outstanding taste with a 70 day from sowing to harvest was exhibited.

The Aubergine Violet Knight with a 55 to 60 day from sowing to harvest was one veg that wowed the public.



On press day Burpee entertained the Press with a selection of vegetable cocktails and cup cakes. The garden was again a great hit with the public.

South West in Bloom can be really proud of this Gold Medal feature, and our thanks go to the team that built the garden to represent our third exhibit featuring the golden South West, with this third Gold Medal success.



Glass sculpture by Carrie Anne Funnell

Chairman's Report

2023 has been an excellent year for RHS South West in Bloom, with a sustained effort from volunteers throughout the region. There were two major events with the Spring Seminar at Glastonbury and the Presentation Awards at Truro. With minor hiccups only, both events proved to be excellent and our thanks must go to all those involved.

We once again represented RHS. South West in Bloom at Chelsea, in partnership with Burpee Europe and Stonebarn. We achieved a Gold Medal and were one of the stronger exhibits in the Floral Pavillion. Thanks to everyone involved, we certainly put RHS & SWIB well into the public realm.

2024 is the 60th Anniversary of Britain In Bloom and thus will provide an excellent opportunity for celebrating with a theme of "Friendship". Something for you all to think about and consider for next year.

Just a few words about our President Vic, who has been unable to attend our events this year for health reasons. We have been in regular contact with our exceptional President, who has shown a real interest in our activities, we thank Vic for that and all of his support over the years.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Melissa, Terry & Jan Porter, the Committee and Judges for their strong support in 2023. Coupled with this would be our sponsors, Glendale, Amberol, Burpee and the CPRE. The RHS, our principal supporter, continues through its Charitable remit to guide the Community Programme and, I strongly advise that this partnership is supported by our volunteers throughout the region with the thousands of hours promoting the benefits of gardening and horticulture throughout the region.

Congratulations to Exmouth and Truro on their GOLD medals in the National Competition. Next year I hope to enter three or four groups in the National Competition and will soon be contacting groups accordingly.

Our thanks and gratitude to our Patrons Lord and Lady Fellowes, for their continued support, enthusiasm and sheer fun.

Finally Bloom ethos, whilst changing, is alive and well and in these challenging times continues to provide stability, consistency and expresses in its many facets a concern for the environment, the value of community and the power of flowers and growing.

Jon Wheatley.

Speakers at the Spring Seminar 2024



Christopher Collins

Chris Collins began life as a gardener with a traditional style apprentice on Brighton Parks back in the mid-eighties. Going on to do his degree in Amenity Horticulture at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. Then went on to spend time working abroad both in Cameroon, at the Limbe Botanic Garden and a five-year stint in Japan, where he also completed a master's degree in Horticultural therapy. Returning home to work at Kew Royal Botanic Garden and then three years as head gardener at Westminster Abbey.

Chris's television career began with the BBC 2 series the Plantsman. Which was followed on by regular appearances on This Morning, BBC breakfast and UK style television Series included Garden Rivals and Digging for Victory .

He served nine years as the Blue Peter gardener which has led him to work closely with schools and children. He has been active in the Royal Horticultural Society's Campaign for school gardening and the Horticultural Trades Association Plant for life campaign, as well as working with charities such as School food Matters and Trees for Cities. Chris was awarded the Prince Phillip City and guild medal for contribution to Horticulture in 2008. In recent years Chris presented the science documentary on BBC4 'The wonder of Weeds' and BBC 3's young gardener of the year.

Chris has run his own business for the past two decades and works closely with Garden Organic as Head of Horticulture. He was recently awarded fellowship of the City & Guilds Institute, voted in the Horticultural Week in the top 50 Gardening influencers and, along with Garden Organic won podcast of the year at the Garden Media Guild Awards.



Spring Seminar 2024
Thursday 21st March
RHS ROSEMOOR.
10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Programme

10:00 Coffee, Welcome & Introductions

10:15 **Chris Collins** “A garden for Everyone”



11.15 Comfort break

11.30 Guided Tours of Rosemoor ‘

12:30 Lunch

14.00 **Mark Porter** “A Vision for Bloom.”

14.45 **Pete Welsh** “Tadpole Garden Village & Lottery Grants”

15.15 Comfort break

15.30 **2023 Pride in Parks Awards**

16.00 Question Time

16.30 Closing Remarks

Cost £25.00 per delegate.

This is another very good programme for the 2024 Seminar.

southwestinbloom@aol.com

Closing date for receipt of booking form and payment
Friday 1st March 2024.



Web Site: www.southwestinbloom.org.uk

Speakers at the Spring Seminar 2024

Mark Porter VP RHS



After a successful 30 year career in IT, in 2010 Mark decided to spend the next phase of his life in the charitable world of horticulture.

He and his wife have opened their garden for the National Garden Scheme (NGS) for the last 14 years and he is the NGS South East England Regional Chairman and Trustee.

He was elected to the Council of the RHS in 2012 where he served as Trustee for 10 years, chairing a number of Committees, always with a focus on community gardening.

In February 2022 he was appointed Chairman of the Federation of Britain in Bloom.

Pete Welsh

Pete Welsh has to date served 22 years in the RAF. Currently employed as a Chinook rearcrew instructor on 28 Sqn at RAF Benson, having flown on three previous tours in Afghanistan.



Chairman and co-founder of 'Tadpole Garden Village In Bloom,' my passion for horticulture allows me to connect with the local community, whilst promoting positive mental health.

TGV In Bloom was created four years ago in a brand-new garden village in North Swindon. The group has recently achieved GOLD in the South West Britain In Bloom 2023 awards. We have a young demographic of between 35-45 years of age and have successfully raised over £30k in the four years to fund our projects.

Our main projects include creating a community greenhouse and allotment, village memorial and communal garden, refurbishing a garden for dementia patients, village hanging baskets & planters and delivering horticultural workshops for residents. We are deeply embedded within our three village schools and run several activities where we look to encourage children into horticulture.

I am delighted to be given the opportunity to speak about TGV In Bloom's journey, how we have encouraged children into horticulture and the various ways in which we have raised funds.

RHS South West in Bloom Pride in Park Awards.

We are pleased with the response for the 2023 Pride in Parks Awards.

The judging is from June and will finish at the end of the year. This allows the parks to decide on the best time of the year they prefer to be judged.

As in previous years the Presentation for the 2023 Parks awards will be held as part of the Spring Seminar at Rosemoor on the 21st March in 2024. Pride in Parks entry forms will be sent with the Spring Newsletter with the closing date not until Monday June 10th.

Closing date for 2024 Park entries is Monday June 10th.



Collett Park, Shepton Mallett



Trenance Gardens, Newquay



Rack Park, Torrington



Jubilee Park, Portishead

Book - Cultivated Therapeutic Landscapes, Gardening for Prevention, Restoration and Equity – Projects in UK and Australia on therapeutic gardening

The book has chapters from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Ireland and the United Kingdom (UK). The editors are medical geographers from Australia and Canada. The book was supported with grants from the Australian Government. Chapters discuss differing outcomes in public and therapeutic gardening. It is on sale as an ebook and in hardback on the website. -

www.routledge.com/9781032409924

Mental health outcomes associated with gardening were reviewed over a ten-year period in Australia. Both structured gardening programmes and unstructured gardening have mainly positive results. Gardening in community settings was found to be more beneficial than gardening in domestic settings, possibly due to more social interaction. Gardening can lead to an enhanced sense of community, life satisfaction and quality, with a reduction of depression and anxiety across a range of age groups and populations. Better methods are needed to measure benefits more closely.



DIGNity supported community gardening session in Tasmania

The green social prescribing (GSP) of work in groups in gardens and green areas by UK is discussed. Public greenspace allows exposure to nature in cities like Manchester where the projects were based. These were hosted by voluntary groups at neighbourhood levels. Would they be sustainable to address chronic illness in the long term and reduce health inequalities? As there is little research evidence

for their effectiveness, funding from the health budget is difficult. An RHS led project showed that structured gardening can have an impact allowing people space to recover, think and connect.

Gardening for neuro-disability clients – a system for gardening

A horticulturist in London developed a system to help design suitable gardens for hands-on therapeutic gardening and garden related activities. The system is the site, the people, the plants, tools and infrastructure (soil and water).



Planting a potato in a pot in London Ceramic totem pole made by clients

The chapter includes practical tips and lists a range of gardening related activities such as ceramics and cooking. It highlights the participation of this neuro-disabled group in the London in Bloom Its Your neighbourhood competition which led to recognition of their achievements. The award connected them to the wider gardening community in London as well as motivating them to do more gardening. Special awards are now available in South West in Bloom for groups of gardeners with disabilities.

Gardens in long term health care settings

The benefits of therapeutic gardens in Australian long term health care settings seeks to mitigate loneliness, social isolation and depression. Wellbeing may be gained by appreciating the beauty of the garden and socialising outside. Research indicates that active care of plants brings additional benefits. The provision of gardens and simple gardening activities need to be embedded into care. Staff need to be aware of the benefits in quality of life of gardens to clients.

Jose Spring

Glendale



As well as our Arboriculture and Horticulture commitments, Glendale also sweep the streets and clean structures for both functional and aesthetic purposes.

A graffiti tag was removed from the side of the footbridge at the Shrubbery. The trailed jet wash was used to carry out the task with Glendale & NSC officers provided to assist with maintaining a safe traffic flow while the work was completed.



Weeds were removed from the steps at Edinburgh Place. Weston super Mare



Glendale retains Arboricultural Association Approval at Bristol

For more information of Arboricultural services available through Glendale, visit <https://www.glendale-services.co.uk/services/tree-management/arboriculture-services/>



At Portishead Marina, an area originally had a Box hedge in situ, but due to Box-tree Moth caterpillar devastation, it was removed. This area has now been replanted with Elaeagnus "Gilt Edge", Fatsia "Spider's Web" and Edgeworthia Chrysantha, These shrubs will give winter and summer colour.

<https://www.glendale-services.co.uk/>



Winter Planting in North Somerset Cemeteries



Glendale works with schools to help create interesting areas for the pupils



At Our Presentation we awarded six Community Champion Awards.



Adam James, Hayle



Adrian Goldring, Yeovil



Vicky Harrison, Penzance



Fiona Stanley, Brymore College



Susan Goode, Sidmouth

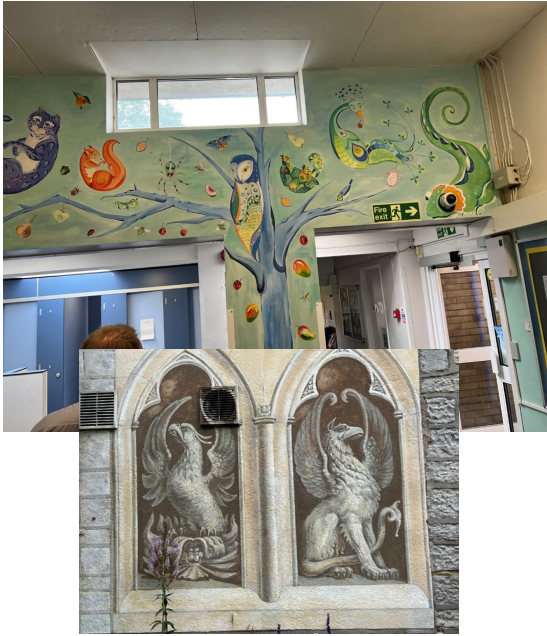


Stevie Rogers, Dartmouth



WINNER Brixham Murals

The **Denise James Trophy** for Art in the Landscape is always a hotly contested class, and this year was no exception as can be seen from the photos.



Runner Up Glastonbury
St Benedict's School C of E VA Junior School



Third Place - Walcot Street, Bath



Poltimore In Bloom

Inspired by the previous year's Jubilee village celebrations, on Saturday 4th February 2023 Poltimore in Bloom was officially launched.



Unbeknownst to us at the time, there were only 164 days until our community efforts would be judged which, as it turned out, would be with remarkable success!

This is our story so far:

Poltimore is a small, beautiful, and peaceful village just north of Exeter with some 120 households and a historic church, but there is a lack of public space and what there is had been unloved in recent times. There are no schools, pubs, or parks, just a small village farm-shop, our village hall and a bus to Exeter once a week.



A team was formed from our eager volunteers and ten areas requiring some Bloom attention were identified.

February saw planting design undertaken to ensure all year-round interest, schemes contained a good mix of plants to attract pollinators and others to reduce the need for annual bedding. During the weekend of 1st April, the bulk of our shrub and perennial planting was completed, just in time for the end of the planting season!

Away from site works, other important activities included the creation of our website and social media plus plenty of fundraising. Together with generous donations from local organizations and businesses, villagers supported fund raising initiatives including craft making sessions, bingo at the village hall and selling loads of logs from a donated ancient fallen Oak tree. £3,800 was raised in those few short weeks, £2,500 was spent, leaving us on a firm footing to launch Bloom into 2024.



The biggest donation of all came from villagers' time – well over 600 hours of litter picking, digging, building, painting, planting, watering... the list goes on but most importantly being able to come together for a common cause.

As the spring turned to summer our works continued to enhance the chosen areas. The addition of an art mural to our bus stop transformed a dreary spot, rainwater catchment tanks, planters, steppingstones and benches made from the Oak tree created visual improvements and much needed seating.

During June, slugs caused significant damage to our wildflower areas, so we decided to create 'replacement flowers' and following a community request villagers of all ages created an amazing array of recycled bottle flowers.

These made a wonderful impact and added a fabulous finishing touch to our Church garden.



Our wild areas were enhanced with bug hotels, Bird boxes and wildlife ponds. Grass areas were left to grow. A survey in July noted a significant increase in insect life to that noted previously in the barren mown areas.





So came the culmination of our efforts!

In mid-July we welcomed Lesley and John to Poltimore for our judging visit, thankfully the weather was on our side, and it really did feel like a very special day to show off our first attempt at Bloom. So many supporters turned up to enjoy the occasion and the fruits of our efforts.

Without doubt the biggest benefit of the competition has been to the residents that live in the village, not only the physical improvement to our outside shared spaces but the sense of bonding and pride in the bloom adventure that has united so many of us.. The only downside is that it now takes three times as long to do the ‘local lanes walk’ as invariably you will meet someone....!

So how did we do? It was a long wait until October to find out!

Ten villagers attended the presentation event in Truro and we were stunned to be awarded: **Gold Medal** and overall Winner of the Pennant Village Devon Category, Vic Verrier Trophy for ‘Best Newcomer’.

Barry Cruse Trophy for ‘Best Website’.and Outstanding – Level 5 for It’s Your Neighbourhood Entry ‘Friends of Poltimore’.

We’re now well underway with this year’s activities to improve the current planting and give some new areas the Poltimore in Bloom treatment.

We hope you enjoyed the insight into our adventure to date and we’d like to share this note that was sent by one of our residents that we think sums up why we all continue to be inspired to do what we do.

“The village looks beautiful and my walks to the postbox have been exceptionally slow and meandering as I enjoy the improvements you’ve all made. What a lovely gift to the villagers and our visitors. Thank you to you all “

Thank you Poltimore in Bloom



**South West in Bloom
Winners of the Children's Painting Competition 2023**

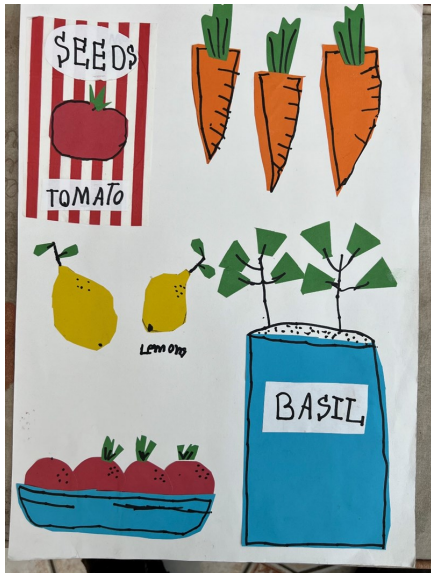
This year's entries were very good, excellent drawings all round. The theme this year was **"The Incredible Edible Garden"**
Our thanks go to Lady Emma Fellowes for judging this year's competition.

**Children's Picture Competition
Up to 6 years Old**

Evie, Age 6
Bosvigo School
Truro
Winner



Alba Martin-Bouillon Age 6
St Joseph's (After School Club)
Portishead
2nd Place



Layla Osiecka Age 6
St Mary's Church School
Writhlington, Radstock
3rd Place



Children's Picture Competition
7 to 11 years Old

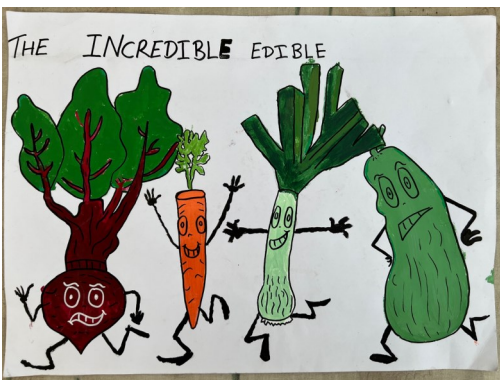


Ellen McDowell Age 11
St Joseph's After School Art Club
Portishead
Winner

Connie Browning Age 10
1st & 7th Exmouth Brownies
Exmouth
2nd Place



Darcie Newman Age 9
St Nicholas Church School
Radstock
3rd Place



Bella Age 11
Whitchurch Primary School
Bristol
Highly Commended

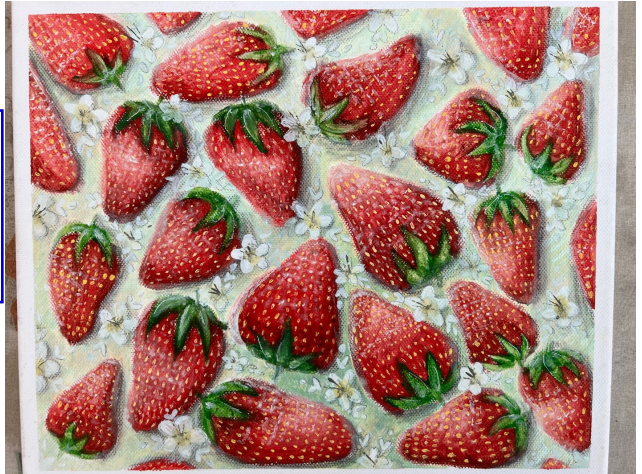


Children's Picture Competition
12 to 15 years Old



Connie Brougham Pickard
Age 14
Cape Cornwall School,
St Just, Cornwall
Joint Winner

Greta Gyulia Age 13
Hayle Academy,
Hayle, Cornwall
Joint Winner





SOUTH WEST



Follow South West In Bloom on Instagram
and Facebook @southwestinbloom
Please #southwestinbloom on
your own socials too!

Important Dates for 2024

Regional Judging **Monday 1st July to Friday 26th July**
IYN Assessments **Monday 1st July to Friday 26th July**
Pride in Park Judging **June 2024 to December 2024**
Spring Seminar **Thursday 21st March 2024 at Rosemoor**
Presentation **Still to be decided. Notice in Spring Newsletter**

South West in Bloom Facebook and Instagram accounts are a great way for groups to showcase the work they have been doing. Please follow us and #southwestinbloom into your own social media posts and content.

Secretary. Melissa Poole
6 Main Road, Hutton,
Weston super Mare.
North Somerset. BS24 9QG
E Mail southwestinbloom@aol.com
Tel No 07875 849809

Editor. Terry Porter
15a Moorcroft Road
Hutton, Weston super Mare
North Somerset. BS24 9RW
E Mail tporter11@aol.com .
Tel No 07989 855339

Web Site : www.southwestinbloom.org.uk