



SOUTH WEST



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Acting Temporary Secretary,
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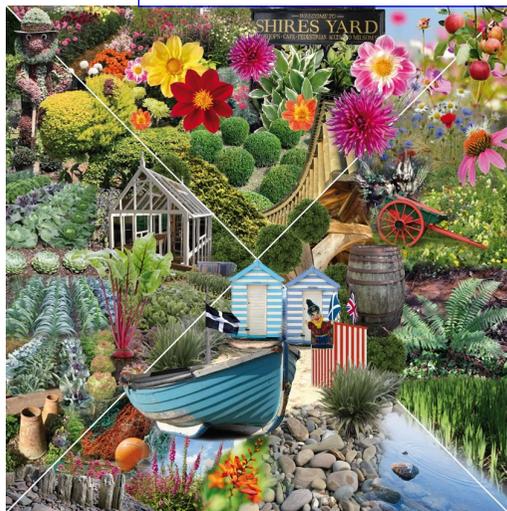


SOUTH WEST

Britain in Bloom - South West Spring Newsletter 2020



South West in Bloom - Chelsea 2014



**Diamond Jubilee award for best exhibit Chelsea Pavillion
and the Lawrence Medal Best entry in all RHS Shows**

Important Dates for 2020/21

Spring Seminar, Beer March 18th 2021
Presentation. Winter Gardens Pavillion, WSM 7th October 2021

Our South West in Bloom Facebook Page is also a great way for groups to showcase the work they have been doing- if your group has a facebook page, we would love for you to join ours.
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/South-West-In-Bloom/193263914018665>

Web Site www.southwestinbloom.org.uk

Hi everyone.

I hope that you are all keeping as well as can be expected in this the most challenging of times in our recent history.

Our thoughts and prayers must go to all those families friends and NHS as well as those essential workers who are all engaged in meeting such a challenge to our lives

For Charities and volunteering these are important times and I hear of many heart warming and creative initiatives throughout the UK to help support and improve the lives of the young, the old and communities.

Gardening the Environment and the love of and appreciation of things natural whether in built up areas of the Inner city or the beautiful Countryside are so important to us all as well as Food Security. Through Communities involved in what we know as bloom there are many ways to achieve and overcome adversity and I know you will all be involved in keeping things going, maybe in different ways to previous years but to the benefit of your communities.

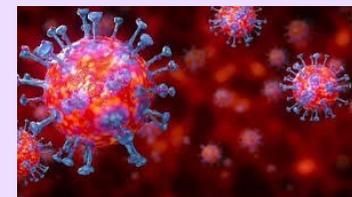
I know that here in Chew Magna where most of our time has been with flowers that we are becoming almost self sufficient in Vegetables herbs and keeping interested and fit at the same time .

Our Bloom programme is on hold but I know and fully appreciate that you will all be participating in the principles of your past endeavours and I would encourage you all to share your ideas deeds and projects with us via Social Media or e mail with a view to capturing ideas and framing a new future when we can be more involved in the social interaction that Volunteering and Bloom provides.

Terry, Richard and I along with the SWIB Exec will do our very best to support and advise and help you. Please keep things going stay resilient safe and smiling.

Finally the RHS as a Charity is committed to Community Horticulture and is working in partnership with the 17 Regions and Nations to continue to support us all
My very best wishes to you all

Jon Wheatley
Chairman



Coronavirus and South West in Bloom

2020 has quickly developed in a completely and very serious outlook with the arrival of the Coronavirus . The government actions to try to fight and reduce the effect of the virus has caused a virtually complete shutdown and an uncertain position is predicted for many months.

This left us, in conjunction with the RHS no option but to cancel the 2020 main competition. It then followed that it became necessary to cancel our IYN competition, although for some time we did think we might just be able to move it to later in the year. The shutdown of many commercial and leisure facilities has also made this competition unviable.

With the Pride in Parks awards, we have only had a few entries before the lockdown, and with the still uncertainty of restrictions for the rest of the year, the Pride in Parks has also ben cancelled

Following some requests to keep the Children's painting competition, providing another activity for them to do while isolated, therefore we have decided to continue with it this year. Details of where to send the entries are on page 8.

We have postponed the Spring Seminar to Thursday 18th March, still at Beer, and the main presentation to Thursday 7th October, still at The Winter Gardens Pavillion, Weston super mare. Both of these venues have been very good and transferred our booking fees to 2021.

We have received payment and bookings fees for our main competitions and business and leisure entries. We are proposing to transfer all of these to 2021, if the entrants are happy with this arrangement, and we will automatically take these as entries for 2021.

We will automatically transfer all of this years IYN's to 2021, unless someone withdraws.

We are hoping that the same can apply with the ticket bookings for the Spring seminar. However if anyone wishes to have a refund then they need to let me know.

We hope when we come to our Autumn Newsletter things will be returning to some form of normality and we can look to a very active and prosperous year in 2021

Terry Porter



Think about incorporating areas where insects and bugs can find sheltered spots or places for winter hibernation. A log pile or a 'stumpery' made from planted up hollow tree stumps, or clusters of driftwood provides a natural habitat for insects and other bugs.

Make provision if you can for hedgehogs, frogs, toads or other amphibians. You might wish to think about the following elements when planning your garden layout. For example, think about incorporating shade-loving plants for the areas of your garden that receive low levels of light. Also, for the sunny and warmer areas, add plants that provide vibrant colour or tolerate full sun or higher temperatures.

Think about selecting plants, trees and shrubs that can contribute to adding colour, texture, pattern, height, structure and form to your garden space. Think about how you might wish to disguise the outer boundaries of your garden by adding fences or large trees or plants. Trees or other features from neighbouring areas can also add to the illusion of the garden becoming larger by extending your eyes beyond its existing boundary. This is known as the 'borrowed landscape'.



Think about creating 'areas of mystery' in your garden that invite you, your friends or your visitors to explore and take a closer look.

A garden can be divided into garden 'rooms' or themed areas e.g. a rocky outcrop, a fernery, a wildflower garden, a Mediterranean garden or a colour themed area. Try unusual or exciting colour - themed planted areas or pots. Planting colour schemes can be visually exciting and attractive e.g. orange and yellow, brown and purple, blue with shades of red, silver, white and green etc. I call this 'painting with plants.' incorporate plants that add scent to your garden, or plants that can be safely touched, and plants that have an interesting shape or texture.

Make provision in your garden for pets and young children, or those with disabilities, and if necessary, take expert advice before you add plants or other features that might endanger adults, children, pets, or those with any allergies. Encourage your children to help in the garden. This will help them to engage with nature and learn valuable skills and, in return, gain valuable experience for their later lives. Keep a photographic record of your garden during the year so you can appreciate the changes from season to season, and the adaptations or improvements that you have made over the years.

Some hints and tips for your garden from Grenville Johnson Chair & Founder of St George in Bloom.

Gardens and gardening activities help us all to reconnect with nature and wildlife, and gain new skills. Many of the hints and tips are based on my own experience of developing my urban garden, and the joys that my garden gives back to me, my partner, and my friends.

With the recent Coronavirus and the impact this is having on the way we are currently leading our lives, it is very important to use any free time we have to gain some useful exercise, but also the need for us all to take some valuable time to reflect on the awe and wonder of our natural world.

Nature follows a cyclic pattern, and we are also part of that pattern. Gardening provides us as human beings with a unique opportunity to do this, and, in addition, we can appreciate and learn to respect all the wonderful features that wildlife and the natural world has to offer. Gardening also increases our health and well - being. Gardens can also be places that dramatically assist our healing during periods of ill health, or during times of personal hardship, sadness or anxiety.



Here are some 'hints and tips' that you might wish to consider: -

Even if you have a small garden, you can make your garden a very special place where you can relax and spend some time outdoors. If you do not have a garden, you might wish to think of ways in which you can grow some flowers or edibles in a window box, or pots or other containers.

Think about incorporating some of the additional features into your garden: -
Incorporating bird nesting boxes or insect and bug hotels. Within our cities and urban areas, we are seeing a decrease in the numbers of wild birds. You might wish to give them a helping hand by providing some bird feeders particularly during nesting times or during the harsh winter months.

You might wish to reserve an area of your garden where you can grow some vegetables or fruit, or you may wish to hire an allotment plot from your local council.
Consider adding a water feature, pond, or bird bath to your garden.
Incorporate a table, seating area, or benches where you can sit, relax, or have a meal or socialise and meet outdoors.

Think about making provision for Bees, Butterflies, and other pollinating insects by incorporating plants that provide rich sources of pollen and nectar. Many species of Bees and other pollinating insects are currently under the threat of extinction or their numbers are in serious decline.

Truro—A response to the Coronavirus

A report from Richard Budge on the response from the Parks and Amenities department in Truro and how they are tackling the challenge of the Virus.

We are working on only essentials at present. With limited staff on call, the rest are staying at home and following the guidance and Government's advice.

Sadly our play parks at Boscawen park, Hendra, Tremorvah, Redannick and Newbridge lane remain closed, following Government guidance, but the areas around the play equipment remain open.

Staff are coming in and emptying the bins in all our open spaces, as they also contain dog waste. Truro Public cemetery is also closed to the public, due to guidance and we are only open when operating funerals at present, but also many people started to use them as dog exercise areas throwing balls among the headstones

In our nursery, due to a depleted work force, we have taken the decision not to grow any bedding plants this year and sold the majority of our plug plants to a local nursery having been let down on a large order by a multi national company.



We have planted all the hanging baskets, window boxes and hayracks, so the town centre will be colourful for the summer. We will be planting alternatives to bedding this year to fill our beds, with colour and cheer. The flower beds will be sown in the City centre with wildflowers, and parks beds planted with dahlias canna Lilly's and some limited beds planted with vegetables.



We all hope to be back very soon to start getting ready, but will be out cutting grass and getting ready for a bumper summer in our parks and gardens.

At present the aim is to Stay in, stay safe and save lives



A message from Amberol - How can we help you?

These are difficult times for everyone. But it's important to remember that this will pass, and things will return to normal - although many of us will experience some form of loss, and 'normal' may look and feel a little different.

We were very sad at Amberol to temporarily pause production, but it is the right thing to do for staff and customers. However, we are still very much in business and available to customers who have a query or who want to discuss future planting plans or production requirements. Our management team are also hard at work taking this unexpected opportunity to do some planning for the future and look at ways that we can continue to improve our products and services. Any suggestions or input that you have would be gratefully received.

We are constantly reviewing the situation and aim to open our factory doors again as soon as it is safe to do so. Hopefully by the time you read this, we will have an opening date, so do keep an eye on our [website](#), newsletter and [social media](#) pages for updates.



Attleborough 6

Free support for you from Amberol

With some of you possibly having a little more time on your hands, now is a good time to visit our updated website which has descriptions of all our products from self-watering hanging baskets to Percy Penguin litter bins.

If you haven't browsed our [community hub](#), there are lots of interesting articles on there to inspire you.

We also still have a few free tips booklets left which are available on request by emailing sales@amberol.co.uk:

How to excel at Britain in Bloom.
The Amberol guide to container gardening

Octangular planter at Kings Lynn Minster



Chairman's Report

News from the regions

Scotland. Mutil Converts telephone box to create a distribution Centre for Veg and Spare plants. Lovely place lovely people

N Ireland. Castle Caulfield grow veg for their Community. Micro greens. Ideas for balcony projects

N West With the Loss of their Chair to the Virus Bill Blackledge. MBE they are reeling with grief Our thoughts are with them . They are showing such Courage and are determined to perpetuate his wonderful work and enthusiasm

London. Keeping going focussing on the value of Green Parks and at St James Park have floral features of fantastic Quality

Guernsey. Planting and growing with John Woodward

Jersey Managing to keep Close Community links and Growing

South And South East Seem to be keeping most competitions going like most awaiting Govt advice as to lockdown

East Midlands Working on next year Kept Sponsors involved and informed

Cumbria Visit their newsletter on line interesting material

North East Northumbria Durham recycling plants Rae and Andrew advising helping as you would expect

Yorkshire Community based activities

Heart of England Birmingham make N H S Floral Feature and plan for the end of lockdown

RHS Regular Newsletters Kay looking how to recognise wonderful work and Communicate best ideas. RHS considering it's financial position. More news later

In summary. Engagement without assessment seems to be the order of the day. Also Recognition without criteria Communication is the order of the day

All led by the Wonderful Chair Prunella Scarlett LLB. Who wholly recognises the Partnerships you all create.

Without you and your colleagues in communities throughout the U K there would be no Bloom with its community values benefits and spirit.

Visit their Web Sites Jon

RHS South West in Bloom 2020 Schools Painting Competition

This is a very challenging year in many ways, and the fact that the Schools have been closed has presented many children with staying at home.

We have had requests for the children's competition to continue to be held this year, and even if the strict conditions that apply, there is the opportunity for the Children, while remaining at home, to still be able to enter the competition.

RHS South West in Bloom 2020 Schools Painting Competition

The theme for this year is

“ Climate Change and Me “

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:

Terry Porter

15a Moorcroft Road, Hutton.

Weston super Mare, North Somerset. BS24 9RW

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

Entry Forms are now available and can be downloaded from our web site.

www.southwestinbloom.org.uk

**Closing date for entries is
Friday 17th July**



Top tips for securing sponsorship for planters and bins Keep in touch with other In Bloom communities via our [Buzz in Bloom](#) Facebook page where members exchange ideas, post questions and offer advice. Just search 'Buzz in Bloom' on Facebook. And of course, Amberol's Twitter and Facebook pages have up to date information, facts and advice.

If you don't currently receive our email newsletter, do sign up on our website to keep up to date with Amberol events, news and competitions coming soon.

We are also putting the finishing touches to our 'Best Plant-Ups' guide which contains examples of successful displays from Amberol customers as far afield as Belgium to inspire you.



Some people have also asked about our annual photo competition, which is running this year, but in a different format. Details will be announced soon, so, please do send in any photos of Amberol planters that you see when on your daily exercise. Again, you can keep up to date via our newsletter, website and social media pages.

Why we need Britain in Bloom now more than ever

This year's competition may be cancelled, but the impact that Britain in Bloom has across the UK has never been more important. As I go for my daily walk from home, I pass some beautiful displays (some in Amberol's self-watering planters) that really help to lift the spirit. In fact, I believe that one of the upsides of this difficult time will be a new appreciation for the beauty of outdoors – whether it be fields in the countryside or floral displays in urban areas. Now, more than ever we need to make a visible difference, and I have no doubt that as soon

as you are allowed to, our dedicated army of In Bloomers will be out in force making Britain beautiful.

In the meantime, if we can help you in any way, please do call us on 01773 830 930,

visit our website or email sales@amberol.co.uk.



Good luck to you all and stay safe

Patience Atkinson-Gregory, managing director at Amberol

Leisure, Tourism & Commercial Award

2020 is going to be a very difficult year for the businesses in the South West. With Pubs and restaurants closed, together with many other retail properties, Hotels and leisure sites closed for what may be a considerable time then it seems unlikely that we will be able to hold the Leisure, tourism and commercial awards this year.



We had some excellent entries in 2019, so it is disappointing that we will be missing these entries this year.

We all need to look forward to 2021, but if any of you manage to meet the challenge of this year and produce some good results you might like to send them to us and we may be able to feature some of them in our Autumn Bulletin.

Bradley Stoke, Bodywise (UK) Ltd

GOLD



Babbacombe Model Village **GOLD**



Buckfast Abbey Gardens **GOLD**



Flowerhouse Penzance **GOLD**



6 Modbury Moor **SILVR GILT**

Some 2019 Discretionary Awards



**West Country
TV Cup
Outstanding specific
Project**

**Phoenix Palms &
Harbourside Beds,
Penzance**



**Amberol Trophy
Best Business
Floral Display
Magdalene House
B & B,**



**Vic Verrier Trophy
Best New entry
in South West in
Bloom
Crewkerne**

New generation. Ted Wheatley Design and Build. Ltd !



Furloughed from Chew Magna Primary School, four year old Ted, decides to create his own Chelsea Garden.



With no encouragement, but with stealth and determination he quietly collects Plants (crossing through the red barrier tape) and decorates a tree, places plants on rocks and sets out a pathway lined with 54 fuchsias so 'Children can walk through them'

Next day Delphiniums go missing and all of this without encouragement. So this goes to show that fun can be had with plants ,competitive natures are hereditary as is, hopefully a love of horticulture .

The new generation with so much enthusiasm gives us all heart to keep going.



Presidents Message

A word only in a few peoples vocabulary a few weeks ago now Covid 19 {Coronavirus} a household name. Sweeping the world at such a rapid speed as I write and on everyone's mind. Unprecedented measures now being taken by our Government to try and stem the spread of this terrible virus affecting us all.

This lead to us having to postpone our Spring seminar until 2021 and then this week our main SWIB main competition.

Everyone will need cheering up this coming summer, so I appeal to all you "bloomers" out there wherever possible to enhance the communities in which you live in the way you know best. Planned 75th World War II displays should still be planted if possible using fewer people and self distancing according to government guidelines..

We owe it to those who gave their lives in this special Anniversary year to remember them.

Some of our groups had decided to take a year out this year which we fully understand. We had been able to welcome some new entries which really buoyed everyone up, such a shame things have happened outside of control. But be rest assured any questions or concerns you may have with regards to your future entries we are only a telephone call away.

It was reported at our recent AGM that we had four long standing members retiring!!! (one on health grounds). We thank them sincerely for their dedication to judging, mentoring, committee and other commitments carried out to the highest standards over many years. They know the door will always be open, for a return if circumstances change.

If it's any consolation most of you will be aware that most South West Horticultural Agricultural Shows along with all RHS forthcoming shows and events have either been postponed or cancelled for 2020, so we are not alone.

It just remains for me to say to you all, keep healthy and safe in these rather troubling times, and bounce back in 2021



Vic Verrier MBE President
RHS South West in Bloom
(March 2020)

RHS News

Keeping young people occupied is a major challenge for everyone at the moment, so we've attached a piece about gardening for young people

Green-fingered family fun

From virtual PE lessons and yoga classes to online choirs and baking challenges, the internet is awash with brilliant ideas to keep everyone in the family busy during these uncertain times. It is also a perfect time for getting out into the garden – or planting a windowbox – and encouraging all ages to have a go at growing together.



The RHS Campaign for School Gardening is our national charitable initiative that provides help and resources for teachers to encourage opportunities for gardening in schools. It is also a goldmine of ideas for parents, grandparents and carers to help children connect with nature and learn about growing.

Follow the Campaign for School Gardening Facebook and Twitter pages to find family-friendly activity ideas, such as making watering cans from milk bottles, planting up old wellies and making pots from newspaper. Regular challenges set for young people are also a great way for them to share what they have created at home.

For even more ideas, visit the Campaign website where you can find more than 300 different activities under the 'resources' menu, which are written in a way to help adults teach the information to young people. Here you can find advice on the more technical elements of gardening such as growing different vegetables, how to sow seeds and take cuttings, as well as plenty of activities to take you through the summer months.

For those who are currently home schooling, many of the resources also link to different areas of the curriculum, providing fun and exciting ways to teach a variety of subjects.



Rainbow Chard



Red Iceberg - Very Reliable



Kale Besides being good to eat it has some excellent ornamental form, just some From left to right Black Tuscany, Purple curly Kale– Redbor, Silver Russian Kale, Green Curly Kale– Reflex, Red Russian Kale.



ACER



Angelica



Thanks to the support of our members, the Campaign for School Gardening is able to reach thousands of children so that they can benefit from outdoor learning and develop growing skills for life.

Find resources at: schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook: [/rhsschoolgardening](https://www.facebook.com/rhsschoolgardening) and on Twitter: [@RHSSchools](https://twitter.com/RHSSchools)



After preparations following the Coronavirus the RHS has now set up new communications, and they will be sending out a newsletter every fortnight, with calls to action to engage people and groups, links to social media etc. encouraging them to share content back with us.

There will be plenty of focus on Bloom across the UK – kicking off with Durham in the next issue.

Most groups will receive the RHS Newsletter and you can get the first issue on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/BloomingBrilliant1>

This is the link where you can subscribe for future copies(or you can subscribe via the link on the newsletter):

<https://tinyurl.com/BloomingBrilliantSubscribe>

Help us grow a rainbow

Over the coming weeks, we'd love your help to do what you do best, which is growing the colours of the rainbow in your gardens, on balconies or in your windows. As we all know, rainbows have become an important symbol during these challenging times so we'd love to help lift spirits and brighten up people's days.

Let's grow brightly coloured blooms for all to see. Maybe you could encourage people in your street or group to each grow different colours? Do you have any resources you could share with others? Just remember to be safe :)



Pride in Parks Awards 2019

County	Location	Name of Park	Award Given
Dorset	Gillingham	Shires Gate & Shreen Meadow	3 Stars
Devon	Budleigh Salterton	The Green	3 Star
Devon	Tiverton	Peoples park	4 star
Devon	Bovey Tracey	Mill Marsh Park	4 Star
Devon	St Austell	The Meadows	4 Star
Bristol	Bristol	Kingswood Park	4 Star
Dorset	Gillingham	Jubilee Fields	4 star
Dorset	Gillingham	Upper Lodden	4 star
Wiltshire	Chippenham	John Coles Park	5 Star
Wiltshire	Chippenham	Stanley Park	5 star
Bristol	Bristol	Redcatch Park	5 Star
Bristol	Bristol	Troopers Hill	5 Star
Bristol	S Gloucs	Page Park	5 Star
S.Glos	Yate	Kingsgate Park	5 Star
Somerset	Cannington	The Walled Gardens	5 Star
Somerset	Yeovil	Yeovil Country Park	5 Star
Somerset	Burnham on Sea	Apex Park	5 Star
N Somerset	Portishard	Rodmoor Gardens	5 Star
Cornwall	Falmouth	Gyllyngdune Gardens	5 Star
Cornwall	Falmouth	Queen Mary Gardens	5 Star
Cornwall	Redruth	Victoria Park	5 Star
Cornwall	Newquay	Trenance Gardens	5 Star
Cornwall	Truro	Boscawen Park	5 Star
Cornwall	Truro	Victoria Gardens	5 star
Cornwall	Penzance	Morrab Gardens	5 star
Cornwall	Penzance	Penlee Gardens	5 Star
Devon	Exmouth	Manor Gardens	5 Star
Devon	Exmouth	Phear Park	5 Star
Devon	Babbacombe	Tessier Gardens	5 Star
Devon	Sidmouth	Connaught Gardens	5 Star
Devon	Sidmouth	Blackmore Gardens	5Star
Devon	Devonport	Devonport Park	5 Star
Devon	Kingsbridge	Memorial Recreation Ground	5 Star
Devon	Tiverton	The Grand Western Canal	5 Star
Devon	Great Torrington	Great Torrington Commons	5 Star
Devon	Ilfracombe	Bicclescombe Park	5 Star

As you all know SWIB were going to go back to Chelsea this year Terry, Lynette Richard, Roger Burnett and ourselves were planning to promote SW in the manner we did in 2014 with our Lawrence Medal winning exhibit You will remember that year arose from the flooding that took place here in SW Little did we know there would be another different kind of disaster in the form of a pandemic.

The RHS keen to keep things going, decided to create a Virtual Chelsea on Line. We have applied and are preparing a three minute submission for consideration.

Either way we are preparing a video of our efforts and will be planting up a garden here at Chew to reflect our intentions. Terry has grown some fantastic Veg again with the help of Suttons who have asked us to include a beautiful Limonium and a Jacaranda for our SW Plant of the Year. Watch out for visuals on SWIB Web site and Richard Budge's What's app. This new tech is great at my ripe old age!!!



Peppermint Chard - A new release for 2020 would have been part of our exhibit



This year I grew 12 varieties of lettuce, showing a variety of colours and forms.

South West in Bloom at Chelsea - Now a Virtual Entry



I started growing the vegetables for Chelsea back in November.



Sea Kale



Britain in Bloom South West Pride in Park award.

The parks and green spaces in the South West with the Pride in Parks award continues to be a success and the 2019 awards were due to be presented at the South West in Bloom Seminar at The Mariners Hall , Beer on Thursday 19th March.

Due to the Coronavirus the seminar had to be postponed until the corresponding date next year, again in Beer.

The results are contained opposite and the awards, Feedback sheets and the park Plaques were posted to the entrants.

With the continuing uncertainty of the Coronavirus restrictions, and that by the time of the lockdown we had only had a few entries, then it seems prudent to cancel the Pride in Parks competition for this year, although this is a great disappointment. .

A review of a few of last years 5 Star Winners



Yate Kingsgate Park



Redruth Victoria Park



Penzance Penlee Gardens



Babbacombe Tessier Gardens

Glendale continues to maintain parks and North Somerset

Glendale has secured an extension to their contract with North Somerset Council which oversees the management and maintenance of parks, streets, beaches and trees.

The current contract was awarded in 2013, but Glendale have worked with North Somerset for over 15 years, with this extension our relationship will have lasted 18 years. Glendale also maintains all cemeteries and churchyards in North Somerset through a 23 year arrangement with Dignity Funerals which started in 2009.



Regional Director, Jim Strang commented *“This is great news and gives our team at North Somerset some stability in these uncertain times. We are looking forward to the investment in new kit, learning and development of our team as well as mapping out some exciting projects and rewilding initiatives throughout the district”.*

Terry Doyle, Managing Director commented *“Glendale has extended all contracts in the southwest due for renewal in 2020 from Parish Councils to Large Local Authorities. There’s no better recommendation than repeat business and shows that our Glendale team are offering great customer service and value for money”*

Tough times for Glendale Horticulture, but a bright future.

Glendale’s nurseries continue to grow a full range of bedding plants, herbaceous perennials and shrubs to fill beds and borders this year. The current restrictions have been devastating for the garden centre market, which came at the worst possible time, but we continue to take our social responsibilities seriously and have changed our working practices to ensure the highest possible safety and welfare standards for customers and staff. Deliveries are still available through our transport team or courier depending on quantities ordered.



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glendale-services.co.uk
Follow me on Twitter: [@terrydoyleSW](https://twitter.com/terrydoyleSW)
Follow us on Twitter: [@GlendaleUK](https://twitter.com/GlendaleUK)

The aim this year was to plant up Elmer and send him to Chelsea as part of the SWinBloom display which unfortunately cannot proceed due to the extraordinary circumstances of Corvid19. However, the exchange, with due health care in place, will take place between Sidmouth and Regent’s Park and as our new concept for Sidmouth is planted up in the open, SIB is looking forward to realising their work.



Sidmouth is known for its sea creatures. The fish were first introduced to Sidmouth in 2003 by John Govier, past Chair of SIB, who based the design on his goldfish and commissioned Nick Beavis of Sid Vale Metal Craft to make them. Another four fish were later ordered, as well as the large starfish and

whelk.

Some of these structures will be planted this year - fortunately SIB have a field and polytunnel to work in and each of the volunteers can be suitably isolated.

As the situation in the UK varies, it is our wish to try to maintain some of our work. Even over the next several months the town needs to be a place of enjoyment and wellbeing. Our displays, already ordered, will go ahead as much as possible.



SIB wishes all of you to stay safe, keep your distance, but continue your gardening where possible.

Lynette Talbot,
Chair, SIB

Sidmouth in Bloom (SIB)

Sidmouth in Bloom's current committee's work commenced in March 2012 and soon realised that the high cost of 3-D planting over previous years could be reduced by ordering the carpet bedding plants (procured from Kernock Park Plants, Saltash, Cornwall) and using volunteers to plant up the structures. It followed that an opportunity arose to design and create new features suitable for all ages.



In 2013 an exchange was arranged with Royal Parks for their 'Green Man' and we lent them the small elephant. This proved to be a success and a further exchange was mooted over the past 2 years to exchange 3-D structures again. Mark Rowe, Assistant Park Manager of Regents Park, was keen to proceed with this venture as part of a community exchange linking with volunteer groups involved in the RHS 'In Bloom' work.

He was also so impressed with the horticultural standard that SIB was asked to replicate the design of "Elmer the Elephant" and come to Hyde Park Glasshouses to teach the apprentices as 3-D floral planting on these metal structures as this type of floral art, due mainly to cost, has been gradually lost. The designs and ordering of plants for the exchange was carried out over November and December to achieve planting in the following April.

SIB also needed to design and order for the iconic three fish, the rhinosaurus, and the raised bed in the Sidmouth 'Triangle', apart from the two new designs for Blackmore Gardens.



Our bedding team in Gloucestershire have also been impacted, with 6 pack bedding and veg our main seller for the year, however the local authority teams are busy preparing for the main dispatch season.



Euonymus jap. Albomarginatus 10L from £6.50,
 Choisya ternata 10L from £8.50
 and Aucuba japonica Crotonifolia 10L from £6.00



Helonium Moerheim Beauty 2L from

Nursery Manager Jo Dury commented that whilst times are extremely tough *"In my 26 years of growing at the Nursery, I am still amazed how plants here grow so fast! Plants potted a couple of weeks ago are now ready with a full root system and looking lovely!"*

Prices exclude delivery and VAT. More information on availability, bulk orders and delivery available from Jo Dury, Nursery Manager 07736 147585 jo.drury@glendale-horticulture.co.uk or visit www.coblandsgardencentre.co.uk

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

Jo Dury, Nursery Manager at our shrub nurseries in Kent has some great stock available for wholesale including



Hosta Halcyon 5L



Spring displays in Kingsbridge

A positive message from Kingsbridge.

I know that all of our bloom towns and villages will be as disappointed as we are not to be having the main competition this year due to COVID -19 restrictions. We were well on track for another enjoyable and rewarding entry this year following our national Champion of champions gold award in 2019 then out of the blue the whole programme was turned upside down.

The many friends that I meet in the bloom community are resilient and it is so important that we all remain positive and maybe take a little time out in the present situation to reflect on how we can move forward with our work to keep the South West a very special place to live and to work.

Amongst the current restrictions that we are having to endure, it was so good to receive our SWIB pride in the park award of 5 stars and having



Spring displays in Kingsbridge



Daffodills in Kingsbridge recreation ground

visited many other parks in the region, I am sure that many other bloom groups will also share much community pride in their achievement.



At the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability in London, raised wooden units are used for growing. Participation with Thrive in a design project with Forest Garden led to the purchase of the corner planters on right. These are very good for stroke patients who can garden with one hand but need encouragement to use the other hand. The other unit is the v-shaped trough from Suttons which is deep enough to grow vegetables. All these units can be emptied and relocated to other parts of the hospital as patient numbers change, allowing flexibility.

The tiered ladder allotments left take a standard trough and are at heights which allow a wheelchair-based patient to water. They are good for maintaining a succession of flowers. These are combined with the V trough and corner planters. Very stable wooden armchairs were requested by relatives and a table the wheelchairs fit underneath.



Container gardening in Scandinavia and Britain Josephine Spring

For wheelchair-based gardeners and those with balance or mobility issues, gardening is easier seated at a desktop height container. The person's feet fit underneath the unit. Trying to garden sideways is tricky and definitely not ergonomic.

In the roof garden at Dalheimers House in Goteborg, all gardening is in containers,



ers, including fruit trees. The wooden units were made in a Swedish prison and have a lip, tiers with soil and a central pillar. A wide range of plants are cultivated including ornamentals, vegetables, fruit including bush and tree fruit. In the picture are an occupational therapist, psychologist and physiotherapist who work with neurological patients.

The view from the terrace garden at Sunaas Rehabilitation Hospital on Oslo fjord is stunning. The garden was designed by the Agricultural University of Norway situated nearby.

The raised beds of contoured concrete allow access by chair-based patients. Plants are grown, include ornamentals, herbs and fruit. There are trellises for the climbers.



There is sufficient soil to grow the fir tree. The hospital restaurant is adjacent and visitors can dine al fresco with patients. There is a telescope to watch the shipping sailing to the port.

The steep slopes of the fjord have only small areas of flat land but there are two other gardens on the site, one for vegetables, left overleaf, and one outside the therapeutic kitchen growing strawberries and herbs, on the right.

At this time, keeping the group together with the isolation restrictions in place is important and as well as keeping our website fresh and updated we have our own WhatsApp group (KIBchat) where we share ideas, have friendly banter and a list of where we can buy goods locally and get them delivered to our home addresses.



This is particularly useful for horticultural supplies now that we can spend more time tackling some of our own gardening jobs that are long overdue.

I am sure that given the known enthusiasm within the fantastic SWIB community we can come out of the present situation even stronger and I can't wait to get back to work on our bloom activities again.



Kingsbridge Memorial Park sustainable planting display

Graham Price
Chairman,
Kingsbridge in Bloom

Glendale

The RHS 'In Your Neighbourhood' awards are a great enabler for any group of people from villages, towns and cities who wish to take part in the RHS Britain in Bloom regional campaigns. The awards recognises the work of communities improving their environment, from 'Grey Spaces' in urban areas to parks, riversides, educational faculties and even neighbourhood streets.

Generally a group consists of a minimum of two people but all must involve some form of horticultural effort. There is a marking scheme consisting of: 'Community Effort' 40%, Environment 30% and Horticulture 30%. Horticulture includes not just beautifying a public area by perennial and seasonal planting, troughs and baskets, but can include increasing native plants, improving riverbanks, fields and woodlands.

Awards go from Level 1 to 5, from Developing up to Outstanding. Details can be found online through www.southwestinbloom.org.uk>Its-Your>Neighbourhood and also through the www.rhs.org.uk>get involved>its-your-neighbourhood sites.



Here are some hints to get the best out of the assessors tour when they meet your group.

Think about your aims and have a clear portfolio of what you have done that year with periodic photographs. Past, Present: Future evidence are needed.

Photos can easily make clear what you are doing without having wordy details. Think of what your group intends to do the following year and note it. After all, IYNs are not a one year wonder, they are about progression and on-going improvement of a site and its maintenance. If the group has been going for a while, past work can be presented to show progress. Look at the marking scheme and show how you have covered the three areas clearly. It is an RHS competition, e.g. collecting rubbish alone is not really sufficient so link it to other improvements in the area, such as improving biodiversity and native flora.

All types of educational groups, including the disadvantaged or those with special needs, can part but are encouraged to link into areas outside the campus, such as in parks or other safe places to plant trees, bulbs or seasonal planting making them a good IYN. Consider other IYNs in your area and see if the schools can be incorporated into their activities.



If IYNs are included on the Regional 'in Bloom' judging route then it should be made clear to the main entry visiting judges who they are. Up to 3 IYNs can be included but only an extra 30 minutes will be allotted for 3 IYNs, whereas 2 IYNs will get 15 minutes each. Ensure that volunteers are there to meet the judges to talk about their IYN. The 'SW In Bloom' entry tour leaders consider

stepping aside while the IYN is assessed, allowing a relaxed and generally informal discussion to proceed.

IYNs are not featured as such on a National Tour but should be included as part of all-embracing tour for the town to emphasize the voluntary input. Include a display of their work at presentations with good, interesting photographs.



Those of you this year who cannot participate in the full 'In Bloom' competition may still present an IYN as work is supposed to be all year round and 'not just in summer'. There are some exceptions to this and this is always noted by the judges according to their entry.

Remember that more than one IYN needs to have a coordinated visit so assessing can be done on the same day if possible. Contact your local Chair of the 'In Bloom' group or SWinBloom for advice.