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PRESS RELEASE

XX April 2013

Bowden in Bloom to create edible community garden for Leicester

RHS Britain in Bloom 2013 Launch (7-14 April)

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Bowden in Bloom in **Leicester** is celebrating the nationwide launch of Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Britain in Bloom 2013, by sowing seeds to create an edible herb and vegetable garden for local residents to use. Volunteers will be planting seeds provided by the RHS **outside the community centre on Harvey Street** on **13 April 2013**.

The 'Edible Britain' launch will see community gardening groups and schools create 2,000 edible gardens in public spaces across the UK between 7-14 April. The RHS is distributing 30,000 seed packets in total, including chives, parsley, coriander, dill, garlic chives, sage, thyme, marigolds, nasturtiums, radishes, carrots, fennel, spring onions, spinach and red frills mustard.

John Terry of **Bowden in Bloom** said: "The gardens in this area are very small and lots of people want to grow their own but don't have the space. This will be a new growing space for **Bowden**. Come along on 13th to help us plant it up - we'll be sowing seeds and weaving willow fences, with tea and cakes afterwards."

Stephanie Eynon, RHS Community Horticulture Manager, said: "Britain in Bloom isn't just about pretty hanging baskets brightening up gloomy streets, it's about improving the environment, enhancing lives and bringing communities together through gardening. 'Edible Britain' will see new public herb and vegetable gardens planted across the UK, bringing access to tasty produce to thousands."

Each year more than 200,000 people devote almost 4.4 million hours to enhancing their community through Britain in Bloom, saving the country thousands of pounds. On average, groups plant 115,000 trees, 352,000 shrubs and 21.6 million plants and bulbs each year. In 2012, more than 1,200 groups participated in the wildflower-themed launch of Britain in Bloom and several acres of meadow were created.

Anybody can set up or join their nearest group by typing in their postcode into an online map found at www.rhs.org.uk/getinvolved.

- Ends -

For more information, please contact **John Terry** at **Bowden in Bloom** on **01346 456 457/**
jterry@gmail.co.uk for more information.

Notes to the Editor:

About **Bowden in Bloom**

Bowden in Bloom (BiB) is a group of 40 volunteers who meet regularly to care for the streets and green spaces around the Leicester suburb of Bowden. The group takes part in the East Midlands in Bloom campaign, winning a Silver medal in 2012. BiB volunteers work in partnership with the city council to maintain the horticultural displays throughout Bowden. The group is currently fundraising to create a new community garden at Market Street, with a children's play area and wildlife corner. To find out more about BiB's regular activities, please visit: www.bowdeninbloom.co.uk

About RHS Britain in Bloom

RHS Britain in Bloom is the UK's largest community gardening campaign, involving more than 200,000 people. As part of RHS Britain in Bloom / and its sister campaign, RHS It's Your Neighbourhood - volunteers in cities, towns, villages, urban communities and neighbourhoods work together to improve their local environment, using gardening as a tool. To find out more, visit: www.rhs.org.uk/communities

About the RHS

The Royal Horticultural Society is the UK's foremost gardening charity, helping and inspiring millions of people to garden. We do this at our gardens and shows and through our scientific research, publications, libraries and our education and community programmes. We are entirely funded by our members, visitors and supporters.

RHS Registered Charity No. 222879/SC038262