



# Press Release

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September 2008

## **CHESTER HOSTS RHS BRITAIN IN BLOOM PRESENTATION AWARD CEREMONY**

Chester's prestigious race course will host 450 gardening enthusiasts for the Royal Horticultural Britain in Bloom Awards Presentation, tomorrow night, 24 September 2008.

The 69 finalists from villages, towns and cities from 18 regions/nations UK-wide are eagerly waiting to hear if their green-fingered efforts, which were judged during the summer, have earned them the ultimate gardening accolade – at the 2008 awards ceremony.

Each will receive an RHS Britain in Bloom Quality Award of Gold, Silver Gilt, Silver or Bronze on the night and are in the running to receive one of the 11 discretionary awards.

Entrants must show sustained and lasting improvements benefitting the whole community to be awarded an RHS medal. The Campaign focuses on four core pillars; horticultural enthusiasm, environmental friendliness, sustainable development and community development – all entries must evidence how they have fulfilled these criteria.

Roger Burnett Chair of the National Britain in Bloom Judging panel said, "2008 has once again proved that the Britain in Bloom campaign recognises all that is great about Britain. Despite the poor summer weather the finalists proved beyond doubt just what can be achieved when communities work together.

"Britain in Bloom has, in the past, been seen as a floral competition, judged on the quality and quantity of hanging baskets and bedding plants. However with the recent shift towards sustainable planting and environmental responsibility, we are seeing fantastic innovation not only in style of planting but in the choice of plants used."

Inga Grimsby, RHS Director General said, "Britain in Bloom is a unique competition, it shows real community strength and the RHS commends all those taking part in Britain in Bloom for their commitment, imagination and community spirit."

The City of Chester is this year's deserving host. Chester is ideally located in the heart of the UK's gardening county of Cheshire and finalists will enjoy the evening in the elegant surroundings of Britain's oldest racecourse.

Louise Garforth from Visit Chester and Cheshire said, "We feel privileged to have the honour of hosting this year's awards. 2008 has been a very special year for Cheshire and our *Gardens of Distinction*, so holding the national RHS Britain in Bloom Awards in Chester is an honour."

After the ceremony entrants can attend the judges' surgeries specifically designed to give feedback from the judges; entrants can quiz the judges to find out how well they did and what are the areas for improvement.

**For more information on Britain in Bloom visit [www.rhs.org.uk/britaininbloom](http://www.rhs.org.uk/britaininbloom)**

**Ends**

**Notes to Editors**

For more information contact: Eulina Clairmont on 0207 821 3657 or email [eulinaclairmont@rhs.org.uk](mailto:eulinaclairmont@rhs.org.uk)

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**About the RHS**

The RHS believes that gardening improves the quality of life and that everyone should have access to great garden experiences. As a charity we help to bring gardening into people's lives and support gardeners of all levels and abilities; whether they are expert horticulturists or children who are planting seeds for the very first time.

**RHS membership is for anyone with an interest in gardening. Support the RHS and secure a healthy future for gardening. For more information call: 0845 130 4646, or visit [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)**

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