

# Press Release



25 September 2008

## 2008 RHS BRITAIN IN BLOOM WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Nottingham, the largest city in the East Midlands, has been crowned Champion of Champions 2008 in the RHS Britain in Bloom Awards, the largest horticultural campaign in Europe. The awards ceremony, attended by over 450 gardening enthusiasts and community champions, was held last night (24th September 2008) at Chester Race Course, with special guest, TV gardener Chris Beardshaw, presenting the prizes.

RHS Britain in Bloom, supported by Shredded Wheat, presented 69 finalist communities, selected from over 1,000 competitors, with awards of Gold, Silver Gilt, Silver or Bronze. Nottingham triumphed over Alness, Darley, Heysham and St. Ives & Carbis Bay, the other competitors in the Champion of Champions category.

The 69 finalists were judged during the summer by RHS judges who travelled the length and breadth of the UK using every conceivable form of public transport available. Each entrant was judged on their floral displays, permanent landscaping, sustainable development, environmental initiatives, public awareness and community participation.

Special RHS Britain in Bloom Discretionary Awards were also given to thirteen entries that demonstrated excellence in a particular area. The 2008 theme was Local Roots and recognised the community that best encouraged activities and links between their unique local history or cultural diversity. Falkland, Gold and overall Large Village category winner were awarded the Local Roots Discretionary Award for cultural diversity and Morpeth were given the award for history.

Two new awards introduced this year were the RHS Britain in Bloom Young People's Award and the Unannounced Judging Award. The young people's award encourages finalists to actively engage participation from young people in the community. This award went to Forres, Gold award and overall Town category winner. St Helier, Silver Gilt winners in the Large/Town Small City (12-35k) category, and Herm, Gold and overall Coastal (12k and below) category winners, won the Unannounced Judging Award for performing best during the unannounced spring judging.

Roger Burnett Chair of the National RHS 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."

RHS Director-General Inga Grimsey said, "Each year we are delighted by the entrants' enthusiasm for Britain in Bloom and their commitment to improve local environments through creative and sustainable planting. Britain in Bloom clearly illustrates that despite reports of rising crime and social indifference, there are thousands of communities working to create safe, inclusive, positive environments for all to enjoy."

For more information on RHS Britain in Bloom, which has been running for over 40 years and aspires to make communities healthier, greener and more socially responsible, visit [www.rhs.org.uk/britaininbloom](http://www.rhs.org.uk/britaininbloom)

**Ends**

**2008 Awards**

Champion of Champions	Achievement	Discretionary Award
<b>Nottingham*</b>	<b>Gold</b>	
Alness	Gold	
Darley	Gold	
Heysham	Silver	
St Ives and Carbis Bay	Silver	

\*Denotes Category Winner

Large City	Achievement	Discretionary Award
<b>Sheffield*</b>	<b>Gold</b>	RHS Britain in Bloom Environmental Quality Award & RHS Britain in Bloom Permanent Landscaping Award
Belfast	Silver	
London Borough of Croydon	Silver	

\*Denotes Category Winner

City	Achievement	Discretionary Award
<b>Solihull*</b>	<b>Silver Gilt</b>	
Aberdeen	Silver Gilt	
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	Silver	
Tameside	Silver Gilt	

\*Denotes Category Winner

Small City/Large Town (35-100K)	Achievement	Discretionary Award
<b>Taunton*</b>	<b>Silver Gilt</b>	
Banbury	Silver Gilt	
Gateshead	Silver	
Mansfield	Silver Gilt	
Stevenage	Silver	

\*Denotes Category Winner

Large Town/Small City (12-35K)	Achievement	Discretionary Award
<b>Perth*</b>	<b>Gold</b>	RHS Britain in Bloom Floral Award
Bicester	Silver Gilt	
Buxton	Silver Gilt	
Caerphilly	Silver	
Coleraine	Silver	
Douglas	Silver	RHS Britain in Bloom Tourism Award
Kendal	Silver	
St Helier	Silver Gilt	RHS Britain in Bloom Unannounced Judging
Whickham	Silver	

\*Denotes Category Winner

Town	Achievement	Discretionary Award
<b>Forres*</b>	<b>Gold</b>	RHS Britain in Bloom Young People's Award
Bridgnorth	Silver Gilt	
Enniskillen	Silver	
Morpeth	Silver Gilt	RHS Britain in Bloom Local Roots Award
Nantwich	Silver Gilt	

Rustington	Silver Gilt	
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\*Denotes Category Winner

Small Town	Achievement	Discretionary Award
<b>Cricklade*</b>	<b>Gold</b>	RHS Britain in Bloom Community Award & RHS Britain in Bloom Conservation and Environment Award
Dunnington	Silver Gilt	
Frinton -on-Sea	Silver	
Wareham	Silver	

\*Denotes Category Winner

Large Village	Achievement	Discretionary Award
<b>Falkland*</b>	<b>Gold</b>	RHS Britain in Bloom Local Roots Award
Cayton	Silver Gilt	
Kirkby Stephen	Silver	
Limpsfield	Gold	
Market Bosworth	Silver Gilt	
Upton upon Severn	Silver Gilt	
Woolton	Gold	

\*Denotes Category Winner

Village	Achievement	Discretionary Award
<b>Earsdon*</b>	<b>Gold</b>	
East Budleigh	Silver Gilt	
Filby	Silver Gilt	
Raglan	Silver Gilt	
Scarva	Silver Gilt	

\*Denotes Category Winner

Small Village	Achievement	Discretionary Award
<b>Ravenfield*</b>	<b>Gold</b>	
Scotlandwell	Silver Gilt	

\*Denotes Category Winner

Urban Community	Achievement	Discretionary Award
<b>Clifton Village, Bristol*</b>	<b>Silver Gilt</b>	
Dyce	Silver Gilt	
Moseley	Silver Gilt	
Starbeck	Silver Gilt	
Wolverton and Greenleys	Bronze	

\*Denotes Category Winner

Urban Regeneration	Achievement	Discretionary Award
<b>Chapelfield, Norwich*</b>	<b>Silver Gilt</b>	
Leicester	Bronze	
Seedley and Langworthy	Silver	

\*Denotes Category Winner

Coastal (12k & below)	Achievement	Discretionary Award
<b>Herm*</b>	<b>Gold</b>	RHS Britain in Bloom Unannounced Judging Award
Cemaes Bay	Silver	
North Berwick	Silver Gilt	
St Brelade	Silver Gilt	

Whitehead	Silver Gilt	
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\*Denotes Category Winner

Coastal (12k & above)	Achievement	Discretionary Award
<b>Exmouth*</b>	<b>Silver Gilt</b>	
Felixstowe	Silver	
Scarborough	Silver Gilt	
Southsea	Silver	RHS Britain in Bloom Public Park Award
South Shields	Silver	RHS Britain in Bloom Commercial Award
Southport	Silver	

\*Denotes Category Winner

Shredded Wheat Community Champion Awards
Pauline Roberts, Cemaes Bay
Dave Peacock, Wickham
Pat Graham & Beryl Maynard, East Budleigh
Burt Allen, Falkland
Eric English, Morpeth
Jenny Sowerby, Seedley & Langworthy

RHS Britain in Bloom Outstanding Contribution Award
Terry Bane, Norwich and Anglia in Bloom

RHS Britain in Bloom Lifetime Achievement Award
Mark Mattock, Thames and Chilterns in Bloom

**Ends**

**Notes to the Editor:**

- All entries, judges and representatives from the RHS are available for interview from the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2008. For further information about RHS Britain in Bloom, including details of past results or to arrange interviews please contact Eulina Clairmont on 0207 821 3657, mobile 07748994666 or email [eulinaclairmont@rhs.org.uk](mailto:eulinaclairmont@rhs.org.uk) [www.rhs.org.uk/press](http://www.rhs.org.uk/press)
- Images can be downloaded free of charge from [www.papicselect.com](http://www.papicselect.com) Register online free of charge or call T. **020 7821 3657** Images from the Awards Ceremony will be posted from 9.00am 25<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

**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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