

RHS Britain in Bloom

Judges' Remarks



UK Finals 2008

Britain in Bloom Quality Achievement Awards

Gold (170 – 200)

An exceptionally high standard demonstrated throughout. A consistent approach that demonstrates both best practice and sustainable effort. Meets all of the judging criteria and objectives of Britain in Bloom and scores very highly in each section of the judging criteria.

Silver-Gilt (150 – 169)

A high standard entry that meets the judging criteria and objectives of Britain in Bloom, including sections of exceptionally high standard. Generally meets sustainable and quality thresholds, but these may not be entirely consistent throughout the area. Offers potential to be a Gold Medal winner in the future.

Silver (120 – 149)

Considered to be an above-average entry that meets most of the judging criteria and objectives of Britain in Bloom. The entry will include more than one section that demonstrates exceptionally high standards. In particular, the entry will demonstrate good sustainable standards and the potential to progress to Silver-Gilt standard.

Bronze (100 – 119)

An average entry which meets most but not necessarily all of the judging criteria and objectives of Britain in Bloom. The entry will include at least one section that demonstrates an exceptional standard. In general, the entry will meet acceptable sustainable standards and the potential to progress to Silver standard.

No Award (0 – 99)

The entry may have a number of good merits and could well be the best area in its population size from the region. However, the entry has not met a sufficiently developed standard as required to achieve any of the Britain in Bloom medals.

Summary of results for RHS Britain in Bloom UK Finals 2008

Entry	Quality Award
Champion of Champions	
Alness	Gold
Darley	Gold
Heysham	Silver
Nottingham	Gold
St. Ives & Carbis Bay	Silver
Large City	
Belfast	Silver
London Borough of Croydon	Silver
Sheffield	Gold
City	
Aberdeen	Silver Gilt
Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea	Silver
Solihull	Silver Gilt
Tameside	Silver Gilt
Large Town/Small City (35k – 100k)	
Banbury	Silver Gilt
Gateshead	Silver
Mansfield	Silver Gilt
Stevenage	Silver
Taunton	Silver Gilt
Large Town/Small City (12k – 35k)	
Bicester	Silver Gilt
Buxton	Silver Gilt
Caerphilly	Silver
Coleraine	Silver
Douglas	Silver
Kendal	Silver
Perth	Gold
St. Helier	Silver Gilt
Whickham	Silver
Town	
Bridgnorth	Silver Gilt
Enniskillen	Silver
Forres	Gold
Morpeth	Silver Gilt
Nantwich	Silver Gilt
Rustington	Silver Gilt

Small Town		
Cricklade		Gold
Dunnington		Silver Gilt
Frinton-on-Sea		Silver
Wareham		Silver
Large Village		
Cayton		Silver Gilt
Falkland		Gold
Kirkby Stephen		Silver
Limpsfield		Gold
Market Bosworth		Silver Gilt
Upton upon Severn		Silver Gilt
Woolton		Gold
Village		
Earsdon		Gold
East Budleigh		Silver Gilt
Filby		Silver Gilt
Raglan		Silver Gilt
Scarva		Silver Gilt
Small Village		
Ravenfield		Gold
Scotlandwell		Silver Gilt
Coastal (12k and above)		
Exmouth		Silver Gilt
Felixstowe		Silver
Scarborough		Silver Gilt
Southsea		Silver
South Shields		Silver
Southport		Silver
Coastal (12k and below)		
Cemaes Bay		Silver
Herm		Gold
North Berwick		Silver Gilt
St. Brelade		Silver Gilt
Whitehead		Silver Gilt
Urban Regeneration		
Chapelfield, Norwich		Silver Gilt
Leicester		Bronze
Seedley & Langworthy		Silver
Urban Community		
Clifton Village, Bristol		Silver Gilt
Dyce		Silver Gilt
Moseley		Silver Gilt
Starbeck		Silver Gilt
Wolverton & Greenleys		Bronze

WHITEHEAD, Translink Ulster Coastal (12k and below), SILVER GILT

What a difference twelve months can make when everyone pulls together; it is obvious that the Brighter Whitehead Group have taken note of past judges' comments. This has spurred them on to achieve a much improved and well-deserved result. The partnership approach now being promoted by the community, working hand in hand with the council, is a shining example others could emulate. A worthy recipient of an RHS Silver Gilt medal. Well done to everyone!

SUMMER JUDGING

Floral Displays

The judges were particularly impressed with:

- The high quality and diversity of floral displays in the residential gardens as seen on the tour encouraged by the Best Kept Gardens Competition
- The contribution of the Brighter Whitehead Group to enhancing their town through their floral displays complimented everywhere by the council's contribution
- The displays at the various businesses premises; special note was made of the addition to the town centre by the butchers and the train and bus station
- The guest house on the promenade contributed to the area and made good use of tubs and containers
- The 200 hanging baskets planted and grown by the group in their own poly tunnel.

Areas suggested for future development:

- It may be prudent on future tours to carefully select a few more good examples of excellence in horticulture to show the judges
- In future planting schemes for the various floral boats, perhaps add some feature plants to vary the impact and height of the display
- Encourage any businesses where appropriate to add floral displays at street level through the use of tubs
- Encourage any new accommodation providers coming in to the area to Bloom up with appropriate displays
- The inclusion on the route of flower beds designed and planted by local school children in a Design a Flower Bed Competition would be a welcome additional feature.

Permanent Landscaping, Including Shrubs

The judges were particularly impressed with:

- The well-structured and permanent planted gardens evident throughout the tour
- The new "One World Garden" – in a word, 'Fantastic!'
- The recently planted permanent planters at the car park at Beach Road were excellent
- The excellent maintenance and choice of plants at the railway embankment opposite the station, maintained by the station staff.

Areas suggested for future development:

- Promote the planting of sustainable plants through the Best Kept Gardens Competition with a category or discretionary award for permanent planting in residential areas
- Further encourage the housing associations and various agencies to promote the idea of raised beds planted with sustainable material
- Continue to develop initiatives and ideas where permanent planting could be used along the seafront, although it is recognised that this may be climatically difficult
- Endeavour to encourage schools to plant trees within the open spaces.

Local Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development

The judges were particularly impressed with:

- The excellent wild flower meadow at Beech Road with the impressive backdrop and associated habitat, probably the best example the judges have seen
- The impressive track record on recycling and informative briefing at the beginning of the tour.

Areas suggested for future development:

- Further develop the habitat potential of the site at the rear of the children's play area to encourage the return of wildlife which once frequented this area
- Develop a community/Bloom composting site within the town to complete the cycle of "plug to compost".

Local Environmental Quality

The judges were particularly impressed with:

- The overall cleanliness of the area was a credit to the community
- The high quality of the new street furniture from reclaimed materials
- The approach being taken of self-help in keeping the area clean and tidy by groups such as the Whitehead Wombles.

Areas suggested for future development:

- Ensure any visible graffiti is removed as a matter of course wherever it occurs
- Continue to renew/replace older street furniture with reclaimed, more modern designs as appropriate to the area
- Why not ask local school children to design a poster to promote cleanliness.

Public Awareness

The judges were particularly impressed with:

- The comprehensive approach to marketing the entry was impressive
- The innovative way of seeking in-kind sponsors to help together with grant funding leading to an impressive £30k raised.

Areas suggested for future development:

- It is recognised that the age profile of the group may be a future problem. Try to encourage a younger element in to mainstream activities
- Continue with the current method of increasing sponsorship and funding.

'UNANNOUNCED' JUDGING

Horticultural Effort

The judges were particularly impressed with:

- The various bedding schemes placed at strategic points around the town, especially at the recreation ground
- The standard of displays in some of the housing areas including the container garden at 6
- The obvious attempts to improve the commercial/business areas, best demonstrated at the bank with it's sustainable planting
- The attempts made at the library to improve the visual impact of the main shopping area with floral displays.

Areas suggested for future development:

- Carefully consider the future use of strategically placed features and any associated planting is appropriate and maintained as part of the landscape rather than just added in
- The excellent residential gardens along Donegall Avenue
- The area of the main shopping area needs some form of coordinated approach to planting provision and maintenance
- The sustainable planting around the library requires a higher standard of maintenance.

Local Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development

The judges were particularly impressed with:

- The impressive tree planting at Blackhead Path
- The work currently ongoing to transform the Beach Road Nature Reserve
- The evidence of interpretation being developed.

Areas suggested for future development:

- Continue to improve the natural areas within the area with further sensitive planting and management
- Ensure there is a sustainable plan in place to further develop the nature reserve at Beach Road
- Further develop new signage/interpretation at the various sites.

Local Environment Quality

The judges were particularly impressed with:

- The overall cleanliness of the majority of the public spaces
- The reasonable condition of the street furniture in most areas of the town

Areas suggested for future development:

- One or two outlying areas did have some litter in evidence together with a small amount of flyposting and graffiti
- A number of the litter bins were showing signs of deterioration as were some of the floral boats planted around the area; perhaps look to developing a maintenance program.