



***Press Release/Newsletter***

***Issue 14 – Summer 2011***

**Welcome to the Late Summer Edition of the Portishead in Bloom Newsletter**

Portishead in Bloom volunteers worked extremely hard during the summer months to make the town look as attractive as possible for residents and visitors alike, culminating in a visit from RHS judges for the South West in Bloom competition in July.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Open Gardens Weekend 11/12 June**

Our Annual 'Open Gardens Weekend' usually begins the Sunday before this event with a 'Gardeners Get-together' at a committee member's home. This gives all the participants who have kindly agreed to open their gardens the opportunity to meet one another, have some light refreshments, talk 'horticulture' and visit one another's gardens prior to the Open Gardens' event.

The weekend had mixed fortunes in terms of weather, but in spite of this nearly £4,400 was raised, and all the comments from the visitors (who came from a wide area) were so positive.

A huge thank you must go to all the people who organised this annual event as well as the gardeners themselves. Without them this extremely popular fund raising activity would not take place.

### **Thursday 14 July – Judging Day for the RHS South West in Bloom Awards**

Streets were swept, litter and weeds cleared, flowers watered and dead-headed. Volunteers worked tirelessly putting in hours of hard work in order for the town to look its very best. Judges Terry Porter (from Hutton) and Carol Wride (from Plymouth) arrived at the Folk Hall to be greeted by the Portishead in Bloom Committee welcoming party. Following an in depth presentation highlighting the work of the group which, as required by the RHS, was divided into Horticultural Achievement, Environmental Responsibility, and Community Involvement, the judges set off on a three hour tour of the town. There were many 'stopping off' points where the judges were able to meet a variety of people who have helped to improve the environment in some way. The judges toured not only part of 'old' Portishead but also the much newer Marina development and Village Quarter, culminating in a visit to Trinity Primary School.

As the judging party walked down the Spanish Steps on the Marina, they were greeted by the Weston Town Band playing in the centre of the amphitheatre. The atmosphere was wonderful – residents had taken time out to come along and enjoy the exhilarating music, and children ran around playing with Portishead in Bloom balloons in the warm summer sun.

**A huge thank you must go to Peter Connell for acting as chauffeur for the duration of the tour. The judges were able to see Portishead in great style!**

### **THE RESULTS!!**

**The RHS South West in Bloom Awards took place at the Atlantic Hotel, Newquay on Thursday 15 September. Some members of Portishead in Bloom and the Chair of the Town Council, Arthur Terry attended the presentation ceremony. The morning programme began with an introduction by the Chair of Newquay Town Council followed by the 'It's Your Neighbourhood Awards'. Once again Portishead did extremely well. The Millennium Gardens and The Deans' Allotments received **Outstanding Awards**. There were 12 entries in total and all received awards for their efforts. We were particularly pleased that Brampton Way Community Project was included this year. Many young people from Gordano School as well as Community Police Officers, NS Housing and Portishead in Bloom have worked together to achieve an exciting renovation of this area. It's really worth a visit if you are passing Brampton Way!**

**The guest speaker for the day was the well known horticulturalist and TV Presenter Toby Buckland, who also presented the awards. The afternoon was devoted to the City, Town and Village awards. It was a tense time for the Portishead in Bloom volunteers awaiting the results. We were up against towns such as Trowbridge, Newquay, Exmouth, Falmouth and it was a huge relief to discover that we had been awarded **GOLD** once again. Not only that but we retained the **St Bridget Cup** for the second year running. This was for the being the best in this category!**

Every Gold Award winner was presented with a Gold and Green flag which at the time of writing is flying on the Flagpole in the Folk Hall Car Park. We are really proud to be the recipients of this new RHS initiative.

A special Local Heritage award was given in recognition of silver birch trees planted in memory of Squadron Leader Tommy Broom who was born near the site at the top of Roath Road. This was a particularly emotional moment for Portishead in Bloom members.

### **OTHER NEWS**

Portishead in Bloom volunteers have continued to weed and maintain the tubs even though the summer season has now come to a close and on **SUNDAY OCTOBER 23** we will be **TUB CLEARING**. We would be so pleased to see as many volunteers as possible – ‘many hands make light work’!! We will meet in the Precinct at 9.00a.m. If possible please bring green bags. **AND FINALLY** - we are continuing with our ‘sponsor a hanging basket or tub’ scheme. Please contact Sandy Tebbutt on 01227 843566 if you are interested. For those who have already joined - a huge ‘thank you’ from the committee. **A REMINDER** – Our AGM will be taking place on **Friday 4 November at 7.30p.m.** when Spring and Summer Garden Awards will be presented by our guest speaker, Rod Pooley an RHS judge and Manager of Bristol City Council Nurseries. A buffet will be available and if you wish to attend please contact Sandy. This will help with catering numbers. A warm welcome will await you.

**Our Portishead in Bloom DVD will be on sale £3.75.**

Visit our website [www.portisheadinbloom.org.uk](http://www.portisheadinbloom.org.uk)