



Monthly Press Release/Newsletter July/August 2010 – Issue 8

These last two months have been particularly hectic for Portishead In Bloom Committee members and our supporters as we prepared the town for two visits by Royal Horticultural Society Judges.

July Some of you may have noticed the appearance of a new flower bed near the 'Boat Roundabout'. Thanks to Nicky Barrah, one of our committee members, and the cooperation of Persimmon Homes, a group of very enthusiastic cub scouts with the help of other volunteers, planted a colourful bed of summer flowers at 'The Groins'. Two more beds are planned for this area in the future. So watch these spaces!

Friday July 9 - South West in Bloom Judging Day This was the day we had been preparing for! The South West in Bloom judging. Teams of volunteers had spent many hours weeding, pruning, litter picking and sweeping all along the judging route for this very important visit. The sun shone on the day which certainly helped Portishead to look its best. The two judges were Barry Cruse from Bath and North East Somerset, and Richard Budge from Truro. The judges were accompanied around the town by our Chair, Sandy Tebbutt and other members of the group. They travelled in great comfort thanks to Peter Connell's limousine.

At the Folk Hall the judges were given a presentation of the work Portishead in Bloom has carried out over the past year before embarking on the tour. They visited the Woodhill allotments and Rodmoor Road Gardens before driving along the Esplanade to the open air swimming pool where they saw the newly created Lions' Anniversary Bed of 40 yellow roses and companion planting and spoke to a member of the Lions Club of Portishead.

After stopping at Eastwood viewing platform the group went along to the Marina and the development's amphitheatre where they enjoyed a flute recital given by a local young musician. Portishead Primary school was the next stop where they met some of the children who belonged to the school's Gardening Club. Portishead in Bloom has been offering support to this school for some time now and it is really encouraging to see how the children's horticultural interests have grown. After a brief stop for refreshments the group visited Waitrose Piazza to look at the 'whirligig' planters before travelling to the Village Quarter.

The Nature Reserve nearby was next to be viewed by the judges and a representative from Avon Wildlife Trust was able to give them a detailed account of this important area.

Arriving at the newest school in Portishead – Trinity Primary School, groups of enthusiastic children were eager to show the judges their raised beds and very cleverly designed greenhouse made from plastic bottles. Again, Portishead in Bloom members have been busy helping and advising the school on horticultural matters.

Lunch followed the tour, and this was a very relaxed affair where committee members and the judges were able to socialise (without them giving us any clues about how we compared with other towns)!

The results of our efforts will be announced at an Awards ceremony at the Assembly Rooms, Bath on **September 16th**.

August 3 – Britain in Bloom Judging Day Once again, our team of volunteers did the usual weeding, litter clearing sweeping etc. of the town prior to this very important day in order to hopefully present Portishead at its best. This time the area highlighted for the judging route had to cover an area of no more than a population of 12,000 people, and the time allocated was shorter. The category we were entered in for was ‘urban community’. To fulfil this criteria we concentrated mainly on the Marina and Village Quarter, although Rodmoor Road gardens, the Esplanade and Eastwood were still included. The judges Sue Wood and Jim Knight enjoyed lunch at Avon View Guest House together with members of the committee, prior to them touring the judging route. Our thanks must go to Kate Ward who provided excellent food and hospitality, and once again, Peter Connell for generously providing the splendid limousine.

The outcome of this visit will be announced on **September 29th** at an Awards ceremony to be held in Birmingham.

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported us particularly our volunteers, Keith Southey, Officers of North Somerset Council, Brackenwood Plant Centre, Peter Connell, Tessa Huygens and Peter Rose, Head teachers, staff and children of the schools involved, all our sponsors and the local press for their coverage of Portishead in Bloom’s activities . Apologies to those we may have omitted.

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John Daws Cup – This is awarded each year to a person or persons who have selflessly helped the community in some way. This year we have been offered sponsorship of £100 by North Somerset Times to be included with the cup. For this we are extremely grateful. If you know of someone who may fit this category please contact Sandy Tebbutt on **01275 843566** or e-mail sandytebbutt@hotmail.com. The winner(s) will be announced at our AGM in November.

CD ROM/DVD’S FOR SALE

Why not help Portishead in Bloom’s fund raising activities by purchasing one of our DVD’s or CD’s. This features the work done as part of the annual In Bloom competitions. It was produced in partnership with Portishead Camera Club and would make a lovely gift at only £3.50. Copies can be obtained by calling Sandy Tebbutt on 01275 843566.

