



***Monthly Press Release/Newsletter
September – Issue 9
An 'IN BLOOM SPECIAL EDITION'***

SOUTH WEST IN BLOOM

On Thursday September 16th Portishead in Bloom Committee and various representatives, including the Chair of the Town Council, Reyna Knight headed for Bath's Assembly Rooms to attend the RHS South West in Bloom Awards presentations.

Jon Wheatley, Chairman of the RHS, introduced the proceedings followed by a welcoming speech from the Chairman of Bath and NE Somerset Councillor Sarah Bevan.

The guest presenters were Bob Flowerdew and Jekka McVicar (representing the RHS), who did an excellent job presenting the awards to recipients.

The morning began with the "Its Your Neighbourhood" Awards – Portishead had entered 12 ranging from two schools (Portishead Primary and Trinity Primary), Westhill Heather Bed, The Deans Allotments to the Millennium Gardens (which once again received an 'outstanding' citation). A full list of participants can be found on the Portishead in Bloom website www.portisheadinbloom.org.uk

The afternoon was devoted to the City, Town and Village Awards. This was a nail-biting time as we awaited the results of our year long hard work and commitment, as well as meticulous planning of the judging day. A huge cheer went out when we were awarded Gold in the town category (22,000 inhabitants or more). An even louder cheer rang out when we were presented with the **St Bridget Cup** for the best in this category. We were particularly pleased with this result as we had to move to a new category due to the expanding population of Portishead. Following this we were presented with the **Urban Communities Trophy** which covered Port Marine and the Village Quarter as well as the Lake Grounds and Eastwood (12,000 inhabitants).

We believed things could not get any better when it was announced that Portishead was to be awarded the Sponsors Trophy (Viridor) - **The Blue Riband Award**. This is a discretionary award for the 'most meritorious entry' of all in the South West. Our thanks must go to all those dedicated volunteers and members of North Somerset Council who have been so supportive, and especially to our new Chair, Sandy Tebbutt for her professional leadership, dedication and enthusiasm.

BRITAIN IN BLOOM

The Awards ceremony for this year's RHS Britain Bloom finalists took place on Wednesday 29th September at Birmingham's Centennial Centre. This was a magnificent affair with representatives from England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. The floral displays in the Banqueting Hall were stunning – sunflowers, foxtail lilies, gerberas, bird of paradise flowers to name but a few. The table settings were beautiful using a black and white theme to compliment the floral arrangements. The whole evening was abuzz with anticipation!

Community gardens' enthusiast, author and presenter of Gardener's World, Alys Fowler, was the special guest presenter at this awards dinner for over 500 keen gardeners.

Portishead was entered into the biggest category - Urban Community (9 communities in total) – which covered Port Marine and Village Quarter. The competition was very strong and we should be very proud that we won a Silver Gilt Medal. Only one area in this category was awarded the Gold medal and that was Beighton (Sheffield).

We also came a close second to the City of London in the Discretionary Awards section of Sustainable Landscaping.

OTHER NEWS

The Wildflower Meadow situated on the incoming side of Wyndham Way has not been very successful due to the heavy clay soil. Portishead in Bloom is now hoping to replace this with a '*ribbon of flowers*' – a curved line of sustainable planting such as ox-eyed daisies, camassias and astrantia, for example. **We are looking for sponsors** who would be willing to help with the funding of this area. If you think you can help please contact Sandy Tebbutt on 01275 843566.

John Daws Cup

This year it is being sponsored by North Somerset Times and we are extremely grateful for their support.

Dates for the diary

Sunday 17 October - Apple Day – this will take place in the field near St Peter & St Paul Church, Weston-in-Gordano from 11.00a.m to 4.p.m. A real family event in conjunction with Transition Towns and Portishead in Bloom.

Friday 29 October at 7.30p.m. AGM of Portishead in Bloom

Sunday 31 October – Tub clearance ; Sunday 7 October – Tub planting

