



THAMES AND CHILTERN IN BLOOM 2021 AWARDS

Engage : Encourage : Recognise : Reward

This last year has been like no other. The In Bloom Communities have functioned in different ways and it seems increasingly unlikely that the competition will be able to continue in 2021 with the same style of judging for our cities, towns and villages as in previous years. The TCIB Committee has therefore decided, for this year only, to take a different approach. We wish to continue engaging with all our contacts, to encourage the projects you have been working on, to recognise your hard work and to reward our In Bloom Communities.

To this end, we are expanding five of the most appropriate Regional Awards. They are more relevant to the current situation and are more flexible in the way that you can present them and we are able to judge them.

- The five awards are as follows, further details are provided below.
 - Community Covid-19 project
 - Conservation and wildlife
 - Involving children and young people
 - Managing the environment
 - Pride of place
- Awards will be presented for current and ongoing projects, although these may have started in 2020 or in previous years. Projects can be of any size, small or large, but must be nominated by the In Bloom organisation rather than by an individual.
- The In Bloom organisation can submit up to 2 applications per award, with a maximum of 6 projects in total.
- A fee of £25 will be charged per project i.e. a maximum of £150 for any entrant.
- Entrants will be asked to submit a brief written submission based on guidance to be provided, along with a limited number of images, videos or other evidence to illustrate the entry. Entry forms to register for the awards should be submitted by 31 May with a deadline of 30 June for submitting the application/s providing information on the project/s and accompanying evidence.
- Small panels of judges will assess the projects based on the information provided by the entrants. This will take place in July. A virtual (Zoom) meeting may be held with the entrant to discuss the project or clarify any points.
- There will be a winner for each of the five awards in the form of a plaque or trophy.
- All entrants will receive a certificate and brief feedback.

The Thames & Chilterns in Bloom 2021 Awards

The descriptions and examples below are for guidance only. You can interpret each Award in a way which best reflects your work within your community, provided that this links to the Bloom criteria of **Horticulture, the Environment and Community**.

COMMUNITY COVID-19 PROJECT

Projects within this award should be linked specifically to the pandemic. Work on the entry may have started in 2020 and should be ongoing, continuing into 2021 or it may be a new project which you have just started this year. We are interested in hearing what you have done to benefit your local community during the pandemic, for example, grow and share, helping the vulnerable, those with mental health issues or other impairments, encouraging people to garden or grow produce on allotments, providing practical support or improving well-being through engagement with the Bloom criteria. We would like to hear who has been involved, how you have managed the work during the various lockdowns and restrictions and what has been achieved.

CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE

Much has been said on how nature has benefitted people during their daily walks or from their own gardens. This may be an ongoing or a new project which you have been able to work on during the pandemic demonstrating your commitment to the protection and enhancement of the flora and fauna in your local environment.

INVOLVING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Since we are unable to visit schools in 2021 and the Mark Mattock Schools Challenge will not take place, it is even more important that we recognise the work of children, young people and youth groups. These may be a family of children, a school group or a community team who, for example, have carried out their own project or participated in a specific way within the Community Covid-19 Project.

MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT

The issues relating to Climate Change are becoming an integral part of our daily lives. What are you doing to commit to good, sustainable environmental practices in a changing climate? Again, this may be an ongoing project or it may be a new one.

PRIDE OF PLACE

There has definitely been more litter around with more people out and about. How have you maintained your local environment and space, for example, keeping it clean, maintaining the landscaping, looking after the street furniture?

Parks, open spaces and cemeteries awards

We will be offering awards for parks, open spaces and cemeteries exactly as in previous years, although judging arrangements may vary depending on circumstances in July. Since it may not be possible to hold escorted visits, entrants may be asked to submit background information, for example on the management of and community involvement with the site.

Entries are welcome from all types of green spaces, small and large, from ornamental gardens to country parks, pocket parks to cemeteries.

Entry fees are £25 for a green space under 1ha and £50 for greenspaces over 1ha. Entries should be received by 31 May with any background information requested to be provided by 30 June.

There will not be a RHS Certificate of Distinction in 2021, but Thames & Chilterns in Bloom will have an overall winner for this category.

If you have questions about any of these awards, please contact us at:
tandcinbloom@gmail.com