



THAMES & CHILTERN IN BLOOM  
VIRTUAL SPRING SEMINAR



# Virtual Spring Seminar 2022

Plans for Bloom 2022, Talks and Q&A  
From the comfort of your armchair



# THAMES & CHILTERN'S IN BLOOM VIRTUAL SPRING SEMINAR



## Agenda

Topic	Who	Details	Time/ Duration
<b>Introduction</b>	Victoria Newton – Vice Chair	Welcome everyone to seminar and go through running order and seminar etiquette	<b>2.00</b> <b>5 min</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	Ted Smith - Chair	Welcome and introduction to T and C In Bloom	<b>2.05</b> <b>5min</b>
<b>Link With Nature</b>	Marianna Pentek Clare Randell – Wokingham in Bloom	Presentation on the inspiring Link With Nature project in Wokingham	<b>2.10</b> <b>15 min</b>
<b>Regional plans for 2022</b>	Kate Dagnall – Judge Julie Graham – Treasurer/Judge Victoria Newton – Vice Chair	Plans for judging/assessing in 2022, including revised marking, assessing and categories	<b>2.25</b> <b>20 min</b>
<b>Question and Answer session</b>	All	An opportunity to ask anything on this year's judging or any other topics of interest	<b>2.45</b> <b>30 min</b>
<b>Break</b>	All	<b>Ten minute comfort break (rolling show from around the York House Project, Stony Stratford)</b>	<b>10 mins</b>
<b>Twyford Sustainability</b>	Bridget Ditcham Lucy Moffatt – Twyford in Bloom	Hear how Twyford made changes to their community environment to support their Climate Change Action Plan	<b>3.25</b> <b>15 min</b>
<b>RHS Update</b>	RHS Volunteering Group	Content TBA	<b>3.40</b> <b>15 min</b>
<b>Amersham Memorial Gardens</b>	Steve Catanach – Amersham in Bloom	A talk about the ever changing Memorial Gardens in Amersham Old Town	<b>3.55</b> <b>15 min</b>
<b>Close</b>	Ted Smith - Chair	Ted to thank everyone for attending	<b>4.10</b> <b>5 min</b>



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### Zoom Etiquette

- Please stay on mute unless invited to unmute
- Indicate name of group or job title against your name
- Video allowed unless we encounter internet issues in which case we will ask you to switch off your video
- Use Chat function if you wish to ask questions
  - We'll monitor and answer during Q+A
- All sessions will be recorded for viewing later
- We will be doing some snap polls at times through the seminar

We recommend **SPEAKER VIEW** setting



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Welcome  
Ted Smith



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# Poll 1



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Link With Nature  
Marianna Pentek  
Clare Randell  
Wokingham in Bloom



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# Poll 2



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# Regional Plans for 2022

Kate Dagnall

Julie Graham

Victoria Newton



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## 2022- city, town and village entries

<b>Standard Marking Sheet</b>	<b>Name of Entry</b>									
	<b>Judges</b>									
	<b>Date of Assessment</b>									
<b>Category:</b> Village / Large Village / Small Town / Town / Large Town / Small City / City / Small Coastal / Large Coastal. (Indicate appropriate category).										
<b>MAXIMUM OF 10 POINTS PER SUB SECTION</b>								<b>Total marks awarded in sections A, B &amp; C</b>		<b>Medal level awarded in sections A, B &amp; C</b>
<b>A Horticulture 40%</b>	<b>A1</b>		<b>A2</b>		<b>A3</b>		<b>A4</b>			
<b>B Environment 30%</b>	<b>B1</b>		<b>B2</b>		<b>B3</b>					
<b>C Community 30%</b>	<b>C1</b>		<b>C2</b>		<b>C3</b>					
<b>Total Score out of 100:</b>						<b>Overall Medal Awarded:</b>				
<b>Medal Guide: Gold, Excellent 85-100 Points; Silver Gilt, Very Good 75-84 Points; Silver, Good 60-74 Points; Bronze, Satisfactory 50-59 Points. 49 Points and below – certificate of participation.</b>										



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		10-9	8	7-6	5
A1	<p><b>Overall Impression</b></p> <p>Taking account of all relevant factors, how strong is the impact of the entry in creating a memorable impression? Are designs and materials used appropriate to their locations? Emphasis here is on coordination and overall quality.</p>	High impact with <b>excellent</b> attention to detail delivering the desired results in an appropriate and consistent manner.	Most areas are high impact with <b>very good</b> attention to detail although some inconsistencies.	<b>Good</b> overall impact although not always balanced. Some areas make an impact but others need to be more vibrant with better design.	Although generally <b>satisfactory</b> , more attention to detail is required in order to increase impact and improve consistency of design.
A2	<p><b>Maintenance of Planted Areas</b></p> <p>Are the areas within the entry maintained to an appropriate standard, including cultivation, weeding, feeding, pruning, grass maintenance, tree management and maintenance? (See B3 for maintenance techniques)</p>	<b>Excellent</b> standards of cultivation. Very consistent throughout. Horticultural maintenance and general care is outstanding.	Standards are <b>very good</b> with few exceptions. Horticultural maintenance is managed consistently.	Standards of horticultural maintenance are <b>good</b> and <b>fairly consistent</b> . A few exceptions where further attention is required.	Standards are generally <b>satisfactory</b> . However, the horticultural maintenance programme requires further attention to detail in some areas.
A3	<p><b>Plant Selection</b></p> <p>Are the plants <b>or trees</b>, used in the planting schemes, suited to their growing conditions, locations and purposes? Is there a diverse range of plant-species to attract a variety of insects and wildlife? Is there year-round interest, where appropriate?</p>	<b>Excellent</b> plant selection with extensive year-round interest, and almost no exceptions.	Plant selection is <b>very good</b> overall with only a few exceptions and ample year-round interest.	Plant selection is generally <b>good</b> , but there is room for improvement in some areas in order to extend year-round interest.	Plant selection is generally <b>satisfactory</b> , however it requires further consideration in order to extend the season and maintain interest.
A4	<p><b>Plant Quality</b></p> <p>Are the plants <b>or trees</b> vibrant and grown to their full potential? Are they <b>generally</b> free of pests and diseases?</p>	Plant quality is <b>excellent</b> , plants are very healthy, <b>vigorous</b> and grown to their full potential.	Plant quality is <b>very good</b> , plants are mostly healthy and vigorous, with only a few exceptions.	Plant quality and health is generally <b>good</b> , but not always consistent. Lack of vigour in some areas.	Plant quality and health is generally <b>satisfactory</b> , but could be improved.



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		10-9	8	7-6	5
B1	<p><b>Local Identity &amp; Pride of Place</b></p> <p>Is there a sense of place, with appropriate acknowledgement of local heritage (including biodiversity) and its relevance for the community; e.g. art in the landscape, signage, interpretation, etc. Consider the pride taken in hard landscape (including streets), open spaces (including grass areas, wild areas and beaches if appropriate), street furniture maintenance, etc. To include cleanliness, absence of litter, graffiti vandalism, flyposting/temporary signage, chewing gum, and effective dog fouling control measures.</p>	<p>Extensive evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. An <b>excellent</b> impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in <b>excellent</b> condition.</p>	<p>Considerable evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A <b>very good</b> impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in <b>very good</b> condition.</p>	<p>Some evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A <b>good</b> impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in <b>good</b> condition.</p>	<p>Little evidence of efforts to highlight/enhance local identity. A <b>satisfactory</b> impression made about what makes the area unique. Street furniture including litter bins and seating is in <b>variable</b> condition.</p>
B2	<p><b>Natural Environment</b></p> <p>Is there an understanding of what biodiversity means locally? Have efforts been made to create, restore or maintain appropriate habitats to support wildlife? What has been done to assess the effectiveness of any interventions? E.g. through surveys. Is nature being considered in all activities, rather than just restricting wildlife-friendly practices to a specific project or area?</p>	<p>The natural environment is managed to an <b>excellent</b> standard supporting an extensive range of flora and fauna, with little improvement required. Extensive effort to assess the impact of interventions. Nature is considered across all activities.</p>	<p>The natural environment is managed to a <b>very good</b> standard across the whole entry, supporting a considerable range of flora and fauna. Considerable effort to assess the impact of interventions. Nature is considered across most activities. Very little effort would lift it to excellent.</p>	<p>The natural environment is managed to a <b>good</b> standard supporting a range of flora and fauna. Some effort to assess the impact of interventions. Nature is considered across some activities. Requires further work to improve it in places.</p>	<p>The natural environment is managed to a generally <b>satisfactory</b> standard supporting some flora and fauna. Little effort to assess the impact of interventions. Nature is considered across very few activities. Needs significant improvement in places.</p>

pesticides and using other biological and physical controls like hand weeding or companion planting. Eliminating the use of peat, implementing solutions like composting, reducing the use of plastics and recycling those used. Taking measures to minimise the use of water. Where local environmental issues have been identified, have plants or greening solutions been considered, e.g. as rain gardens, green roofs/walls, or as barriers for pollution?	<p>minimising negative impacts. Extensive use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.</p>	<p>minimising negative impacts. Considerable use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.</p>	<p>minimising negative impacts. Some use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.</p>	<p>Little use of plants or greening solutions to address local environmental issues.</p>
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C1	<p><b><u>Year Round Activity and Future Commitment</u></b></p> <p>Evidence of forward planning and year-round activities, initiatives or events, highlighting where they are adding value and demonstrating the strengths or uniqueness of the entry.</p>	<p><b>Excellent</b> evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning. The annual programme of activities is exceptional.</p>	<p><b>Very good</b> evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning.</p>	<p><b>Good</b> evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning.</p>	<p><b>Satisfactory</b> evidence of activities taking place throughout the year and of advanced planning but some areas of improvement needed.</p>
C2	<p><b><u>Communication, Education, and Awareness</u></b></p> <p>Use of suitable interpretation, enabling learning and a greater understanding of purpose, and environmental importance. Engagement with schools, young people or other groups. Promotion within the immediate area through local and regional communications. Appropriate communications and media involvement evidenced.</p>	<p><b>Excellent</b> use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are extremely well evidenced.</p>	<p><b>Very good</b> use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are very well evidenced.</p>	<p><b>Good</b> use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are well evidenced. A few missed opportunities.</p>	<p><b>Satisfactory</b> use of signage and interpretation, and evidence of involvement in public awareness and educational programmes. Communications and appropriate media involvement are evidenced but limited and there is room for improvement.</p>
C3	<p><b><u>Support and Funding</u></b></p> <p>Has the entry made every effort to be inclusive, and engage the support of a wide variety of local groups and organisations? Participation should be representative of the local community. Evidence of fundraising and on-going support from a range of businesses and organisations appropriate to the size of the entry, making it viable and able to continue moving forward.</p>	<p>The range of groups and organisations engaged are an <b>excellent</b> representation of the wider community. Excellent levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is sustainable and outstanding.</p>	<p>The range of groups and organisations engaged are a <b>very good</b> representation of the wider community. Very good levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is very good and will be sustainable over time.</p>	<p>The range of groups and organisations engaged are a <b>good</b> representation of the wider community. Good levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is good and, with effort, will be sustainable over time.</p>	<p>The range of groups and organisations engaged are a <b>satisfactory</b> representation of the wider community. Satisfactory levels of funding to ensure the viability of the entry. Support in all areas is satisfactory and fairly sustainable over time.</p>



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### Regional Awards

#### “Caring for the Environment”

- Compost
- Water
- Recycling
- The Community
- Green spaces





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- **Business Involvement**
- **Community Involvement**
- **Conservation & Wildlife**
- **Heritage**
- **Horticulture**
- **Involving Children & Young People**
- **Pride of Place**





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## How do you win a Regional Award?

- Excellence
- Deserving recipient
- Encouragement
- Spread amongst the entrants
- Recognition





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### Mark Mattock Schools Challenge

- A local school
- One entry per c t v entry
- 10 minute tour
- Meet & talk with the children



### Activities related to:

- RHS Schools Gardening Awards
- Eco-Schools
- Forest Schools





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## Business Landscape

- Shopping mall
- Hospitality venue
- Hotel grounds
- Business park





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# It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN)

- Part of Thames and Chilterns in Bloom campaign for a decade
- Focus on volunteer-led groups of **all sizes**
- Working on improving local environment through community gardening
- Working in one area eg community space





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## IYN and In Bloom

- Some groups are independent projects (for example a community garden, grounds of a housing estate or community allotment)
- Some groups become part of a main category entry
- Some groups go on to become a main category entry once working across more than one site or collaborating with other local projects



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## RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Assessment Form

<b>Name of entry:</b>
<b>Assessor:</b>
<b>Assessment Date:</b>
<b>Judges' Summary:</b>

<b>Section A - Community Participation (40% or 40 points)</b>	
Total points assessed for Section A (out of 40)	
<b>Section B - Environmental Responsibility (30% or 30 points)</b>	
Total points assessed for Section B (out of 30)	
<b>Gardening Achievement (30% or 30 points)</b>	
Total points assessed for Section C (out of 30)	
<b>GRAND TOTAL POINTS ASSESSED</b>	
<b>LEVEL ACHIEVED</b>	

## How are you assessed?

- 3 areas - Community, Environment and Gardening
- You decide which of these areas and what priorities in each of these areas are most important to your project. We then assess you against how you're moving forward to achieve the goals you have set
- Assessment visit in June/July
- Non-competitive - Certificate of Merit



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## Participating is easy as 1,2,3.....

- Register online by 30 April
- Assessment visit late June/July
- Certificate presented September





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## The really good things.....

- **Free** to participate
- An annual visit with **feedback and advice**
- **Recognition** of your achievements
- **Access** to seminars and networking
- Digital **newsletters** from RHS
- Specifically created **insurance** for groups
- **Free advice** from RHS advisors





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### **Parks, open spaces and cemeteries awards**

- Entries can be any type or size of public green space
- Entry fees £25 for green spaces under 1ha, £50 for over 1ha
- Judges assessment in July
- All entries receive a written report





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## Parks, open spaces and cemeteries awards

### Assessment based on:

- Community involvement and support – including fund raising and events and plans for development
- Maintenance – arboriculture, horticulture and conservation appropriate to the site
- Environment – litter, condition, interpretation and information





## THAMES & CHILTERN'S IN BLOOM VIRTUAL SPRING SEMINAR



## We need new judges and assessors!

- For city town and village entries
- For It's Your Neighbourhood assessments
- Or for both!





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# Poll 3



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Any Questions?



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# Poll 4



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Tea Break



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# Twyford Sustainability

## Bridget Ditcham

## Lucy Moffatt



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# RHS Update

## Kay Clark

### Community Development Manager



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# Amersham Memorial Gardens

## Steve Catanach



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# Poll 5



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# Virtual Spring Seminar 2022

Thank you for attending

## Awards Seminar 28<sup>th</sup> Sept @ Oakwood Centre, Woodley

Recordings will be loaded to:  
<https://tandcinbloom4.wixsite.com/tandcinbloom/spring-seminar-2022>

Entry materials can be found at:  
<https://tandcinbloom4.wixsite.com/tandcinbloom/entry-info>