

CHAIRMAN OF PORTISHEAD IN BLOOM'S NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER 2014



If you haven't heard already, the wonderful news we received at the Britain in Bloom National Finals on Thursday was that we had not only won a gold award in the Urban Communities category but were the outright winners as well by a long way. In the three different categories that made up the award were gold for the Horticultural Achievement and Community Participation and silver gilt for Environmental Responsibility. When we went to the Judges' surgery on the following day, they commended us on such a good entry.

We also won the "Pride in Place" award where we were up against all the National finalists. The judges were very impressed with the cleanliness of our streets, hard landscaping, street furniture and the public art In particular. We were overwhelmed to receive this award as well and we must thank John Flannigan's team at North Somerset Council for pulling out all the stops in the run-up to the judging day on the 29th July. The Glendale teams worked tirelessly to meet all the different tasks that we pointed out to them that needed attention. A big thank you is due to Ed McKay and in particular to Gareth Withers who accompanied the judges on the day. John Carson's team were out during the early mornings cleaning the streets so much so that the judges said they didn't see any rubbish at all. Thank you also to Portishead Town Council who fund the wonderful displays in the main shopping areas of the

town, to Rodney Pooley of Blaise Nursery for the absolutely splendid carousel baskets and tub plants and to Keith Southey who is up at the crack of dawn watering them. We shall never forget that great day we had with the Sainsbury volunteers when we painted every piece of street furniture that we could find.

The judges said that the welcome they received at the Big Picnic was the best that they had ever had in their 17 years of judging. Our thanks must go to Transition Portishead, the wonderful atmosphere there would never have been achieved without them.

Lastly, we couldn't have managed any of this without our "Friends" who turned out time after time to plant, dig, weed and clean in order to present Portishead at its very best.

It was a glorious day in all respects and to receive the top award for all our efforts was more than we could ever have dreamt of receiving. Our friends, Marion and Kath at the Tinca Gallery have made a display of our awards in their shop window.

You will be pleased to know that we haven't let all these amazing awards go to our head. We have already been out bulb planting, emptying tubs and will shortly be filling them again with winter flowering plants. We will be planting a nuttery with Transition Portishead on Sunday 2nd November. Scything the wild flower meadow will happen on Wednesday, 5th November at 2.00 pm. Please come and collect seed if you can. On Friday 7th November, we are putting on a concert of songs written by our local Victorian songwriter, Fred Weatherly - tickets £5.00 from Morgan Westley.

Our Celebration Day will be on the Friday 21st November which should be quite an event!!



Sainsbury's volunteers