

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Marlborough to represent the South West in this years' RHS Britain in Bloom Competition

This week, The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) has revealed the 70 finalists vying to win the UK's largest community gardening competition, of which Marlborough is one

Five South West finalists are competing in this year's RHS Britain in Bloom competition with communities across the UK increasingly recognising the value of green spaces to people and the planet.

Now in its 56th year, 70 competition finalists will be going all-out to showcase their horticultural skills, community and environmental efforts. Finalists are put forward to the UK final based on their progress regionally and compete across 11 categories including village, town and coastal.

Representing the South West will be Bath, Exmouth, Marlborough, Sidmouth and St Austell.

Each will be visited by a pair of RHS judges in August as they vie for a medal, a category win and to be named Champion of Champions.

Marlborough Town Council is leading this years' entries into both the RHS South West in Bloom and the National Britain in Bloom Competition, working with members of Marlborough in Bloom and community volunteers to ensure Marlborough is looking its best for the judges and residents alike. Plans are well underway to make 2020 the best possible entry for the town. We are aiming high.

"This is an absolutely fantastic opportunity for Marlborough. It is going to be a challenge, but we have a proactive, experienced team here at the Town Council who are full of ideas and keen to put Marlborough on the map, showcasing the town at its best for the benefit of all who live, work and visit throughout the year. We can do this!" The Town Mayor, Mervyn Hall.

If you have a passion for the outdoors, have 'green fingers' (although this is not a requirement!) or just want to help us to make Marlborough looking 'blooming amazing' in 2020, please get in contact with Clare Harris charris@marlborough-tc.gov.uk or on 01672 512487.

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Note to Editors:

For more information about the RHS Britain in Bloom finalists

visit <https://www.rhs.org.uk/bloomfinalists>

Britain in Bloom with the RHS

- UK's biggest community gardening campaign involves around 3,500 community groups and hundreds of thousands of local volunteers who work year-round to keep our neighbourhoods and streets green, clean and thriving.
- Bloom was started by the British Tourist Authority as a way to attract visitors to the UK through floral displays. In 2001, the RHS took over as organisers and have developed the campaign to include greater focus on community participation and environmental responsibility.
- In 2006, the RHS launched a new grass roots level for Bloom – It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN) – which is aimed at small volunteer groups (such as youth groups, 'Friends of' groups, etc.)
- Since 1964, Bloom has evolved from what many saw as a rural hanging basket competition to a major socio-environmental campaign that is improving villages, towns and cities across the UK

About the RHS

The Royal Horticultural Society, the world's leading gardening charity, was founded in 1804 by Sir Joseph Banks and John Wedgwood. Our vision is to enrich everyone's life through plants, and make the UK a greener and more beautiful place. This aspiration underpins all that we do, from inspirational gardens and shows, through our scientific research, to our education and community programmes such as Campaign for School Gardening and Britain in Bloom. We produce key publications, hold a world-class collection of horticultural books and botanical art, and sell the very best plants and gardening gifts.

The RHS is fundraising £40m to transform our gardens, outreach and education facilities, which includes redeveloping our flagship RHS Garden Wisley and opening a new garden, RHS Garden Bridgewater, in 2020. We are solely funded by our members, visitors and supporters. For more information visit www.rhs.org.uk.

Contact information

Marlborough Town Council – Clare Harris, Assistant Town Clerk

01672 512487 or charris@marlborough-tc.gov.uk