

Harrogate in Bloom Awards 2024

SCHOOLS' COMPETITION – Hammond Mann Trophy

OATLANDS INFANTS SCHOOL

BRONZE

Quite a transformation of the enclosed area so far and the exciting plans for the future to act as a wildlife area to be enjoyed by youngsters and the local community.

ST AIDAN'S C OF E HIGH SCHOOL

SILVER

Nicola Connell and her team are achieving great results from their students on their Horticulture and Cooking course. They grow produce and then process it; the jams were delicious!! It was good to chat with the students. Good to note that they have received sponsorship from local business.

OATLANDS JUNIOR SCHOOL

GOLD

Chris Gray is doing an excellent job of creating numerous areas for wildlife and floral display with the help of some very enthusiastic youngsters who were keen to show off their knowledge and involvement. Youngsters appeared from everywhere as we toured the grounds.

The category winner and winner of the Hammond Mann Trophy is Oatlands Junior School.

CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION – Christine Dean Cup

Children between the ages of seven and eleven years were challenged to design a flower bed on the theme of Peace, which will be planted in 2025, on the circular bed near the main entrance of the Valley Gardens.

Children from the following schools took part in the Children's Art competition – Ashville Prep, Brackenfield, Coppice Valley, Oatlands Junior, Richard Taylor, Rossett Acre, St Peter's and Willow Tree Schools.

The following children were shortlisted:

Phoebe Kizer	Ashville Prep School
Vincent Elders	Coppice Valley School
Alice Wilson	Oatlands Junior
Isobel Golightly	Richard Taylor School
Heather Davis-Gray	Rossett Acre School

Crown Hotel**SILVER**

Good selection of colourful seasonal bedding in the glorious hayracks. Two urns with bay trees adorned the main entrance. Spoilt only by the poor state of maintenance of the car park.

Hotel du Vin**SILVER**

Nine only recently planted railing troughs / barrier baskets which needed time to mature with care and attention. Area neat and tidy.

West Park Hotel**BRONZE**

Majority of the displays were artificial material except for 2 yew cones and two containers with heathers. D

Yorkshire Hotel**GOLD**

Within the very limited space the displays to the front and rear of the hotel were excellent and all very well maintained.

The winner of the Crowther Trophy is THE YORKSHIRE HOTEL

COMMUNAL GROUNDS – Harrogate in Bloom Shield**Low Harrogate Crown Green Bowling Club****GOLD**

Good impact from the mix of plantings and colourful containers, coupled with the well-maintained bowling green. The whole area was neat, tidy and well cared for.

West Park United Reformed Church**SILVER**

The window boxes with a range of floral and foliage were excellent. Good use of evergreen plantings for year- round interest. Some areas require remedial attention.

The winner of the Harrogate in Bloom Shield LOW HARROGATE CROWN GREEN BOWLING CLUB

PUBS AND RESTAURANTS CATEGORY – Parks Department Rose Shield**Barking George****GOLD**

Good eye-catching colourful baskets and planters all colour coordinated and well maintained

Coach and Horses**SILVER**

The hanging baskets were of good quality but could have had more impact with a greater colour range.

Grane Coffee and Bakery

Certificate of merit

Sparse pots of hydrangea plants.

St Robert's Catholic club

SILVER

Obviously a new venture, all very neat and tidy which would be enhanced with additional colourful hanging baskets.

Winter Gardens

GOLD

Excellent eye-catching colourful hanging baskets and barrier baskets

Fat Badger

GOLD

Excellent range of containers and permanent plantings with eye catching colourful shrubs and seasonal bedding. All very well maintained.

The winner of the Parks Department Rose Shield is THE FAT BADGER

RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY - Bettys Teapot

The Manor House

GOLD

The steep well designed terraces with excellent plantings of shrubs and feature specimen lolly- pop bays. Colourful seasonal bedding.

Hampden House

SILVER

The circular arbour is superb, planted with climbers and shrubs. Excellent small productive garden and colourful containers at the entrance.

Rogers' Almshouses

GOLD

Excellent design for this lovely quadrangle filled with shrubs, hydrangeas and herbal perennials. The beds are edged with clipped box.

Swan Court

GOLD

Multiple very colourful well- maintained balconies with hanging baskets, Colourful summer bedding. Shrubs well maintained though some of the roses are showing their age.

Wedderburn Lodge

SILVER

The basic grounds are maintained by a contractor, but the main interesting features are designed and looked after by several very keen residents. The features include numerous containers, a lovely seating area and shrub areas. They are rightly proud of their communal compost heap.

The winner of the Bettys Teapot is SWAN COURT.

The Edgar Scholey Shield for the BEST ALLOTMENT SITE goes to PINE STREET ALLOTMENTS.

The Harrogate Borough Council Trophy for the BEST ALLOTMENT PLOT is awarded to Peter Walker of Pine Street Allotments.

Last year the Edgar Scholey shield was awarded to Pine Street and the best allotment plot was awarded to Peter Walker, so there is obviously something about Pine street that makes it such a successful site!

Each year the Allotment Federation holds the Allotment Show in the Valley Gardens, and all proceeds are given to a local horticultural charity. This year the recipient is Open Country and the charity will receive £600.

DISCRETIONARY AWARDS

THE HARROGATE CHAMBER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE TROPHY

Nature Reserve in Harrogate is a small urban nature reserve is situated between Richmond Avenue and Rossett Drive. There are several small ponds, along with some scrub and some grassland. It is a site of specific scientific interest and now also has Nature Reserve status from Natural England, due to a breeding colony of Great Crested Newts. The members of the group look after the area, arranging volunteer days for litter-picking, bird song identification walks and conservation work. The team also provides educational sessions on pond life and newts on site for local schools, uniformed groups and the local community. The Council Countryside Rangers, Shirelle and Frances are frequently to be seen working with this group.

The winner of the Harrogate Chamber of Trade and Commerce Trophy was ROSSETT NATURE RESERVE.

The MAYOR'S TROPHY is awarded annually to someone who has gone that extra mile. This year's winner has done her utmost to make sure that not only has she looked after Harrogate in the 'in bloom' competitions, but she has also looked after at least another 11 'in bloom' groups. Over the past few years there has been a great deal of uncertainty in our Local Government organisation, but she has carried on regardless!

The winner of the Mayor's Trophy is LIZ BAILEY, Community Engagement Officer for North Yorkshire Council.