

RHS Britain in Bloom Awards 2017

Scottish finalists

About the 2017 Scottish finalists:

Growing Smarter, Granite City Aberdeen

The City of Aberdeen Council has been participating in the Bloom competitions for half a century, and this year will be entered into the Champion of Champions Category, following their win in the City Category, and success scooping two discretionary awards in Britain in Bloom in 2016. Last year in the Beautiful Scotland competition, the entrant also won the City Award and also two discretionary awards - the David Welch Memorial Award for Something Special - for the David Welch Winter Gardens, and The Royal Horticultural Society Award for Overcoming Adversity for Seaton Park.

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: traditional displays of first class horticulture still feature, but there is greater emphasis on sustainability, biodiversity and working in partnership with a very wide range of community groups. The city now has an excellent balance between seasonal colour and permanent planting, while good quality green space can be seen city wide.

North Berwick in Bloom

The community group in North Berwick scooped the prestigious Rosebowl, the overall award in the Beautiful Scotland competition in 2016. It also won the Coastal Town category.

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: a colourful array of hanging baskets welcomes residents and visitors to the main street of North Berwick. The floral displays around the War Memorial are outstanding. The work of the group is enhanced by the wide knowledge of the three pillars of Beautiful Scotland of some of its members.

Coupar Angus Pride of Place

The community group won the Large Village category in Beautiful Scotland in 2016, and also took home the discretionary award for Community Horticulture.

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: Coupar Angus is a hotbed of ideas. These ideas do not stay as ideas but come to fruition. The Pride of Place group, supported by numerous other local groups, is proactive in improving what was a rural backwater into a place that is bustling and full of purpose.

Growing Kirkcaldy

The community group won the Small City category in Beautiful Scotland in 2016.

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: excellent partnership arrangements, in particular with the local council, have resulted in beautiful and well used public spaces which the city is quite justifiably proud of.

Brighter Bothwell

The community entrant won the Small Town award and the discretionary Keep Scotland Beautiful Award in the Beautiful Scotland competition in 2016.

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: The Brighter Bothwell group has continued to enhance the town with its floral displays and wide variety of community projects. The incredibly enthusiastic volunteers have identified what is successful in their small town, and have established a number of sustainable initiatives and events. The visit to the community garden was a highlight of the judging tour.

Beautiful Kilconquhar

The group won the Wee Village category in the Beautiful Scotland competition in 2016.

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: Kilconquhar is a very attractive wee village, and the residents take an obvious pride in presenting the village to its best, with many tubs, troughs and hanging baskets adorning the public thoroughfares. The biodiversity rich areas of marsh and loch add to this special and unique place. The work of the large group of volunteers and members of the 'in Bloom' group is very evident and should be commended.

Forres in Bloom

A former Britain in Bloom 'Champion of Champions', Forres in Bloom re-entered the Beautiful Scotland competition in 2016 after a three-year break. The group won the Medium Town category in the 2016 Beautiful Scotland competition.

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: since the closure of the Council's nursery two years ago, Forres in Bloom has taken on the task of growing on all bedding from plug plants to supply the town's floral displays, including the hanging baskets, tubs and the floral sculptures and carpet bedding in Grant Park. Forres in Bloom has established a horticultural base at the Community Garden, with its own glasshouses, storage and composting facilities and a new community building.

Uddingston Pride

The community group won the Urban Community Award in the 2016 Beautiful Scotland competition.

Beautiful Scotland judges commented: this very experienced group has been proudly enhancing its community for 16 years now, and with excellent effect. Colourful displays are Uddingston's hallmark. They brighten up the day for local people and the many travellers who pass through this busy place on the North and South Lanarkshire boundary. Our judging visit was on a dull, damp day, but even the weather could not dampen the obvious enthusiasm of so many keen volunteers.