

Beautiful Scotland support and resources

As well as being at the end of the phone or email for any queries your group may have, being part of our 'bloom' family gives you access to a wide range of support and resources throughout the year. These are detailed below:

Keep Scotland Beautiful support and resources

Our Climate and Nature Friendly Communities Network

We support, recognise and celebrate approximately 250 groups across Scotland every year through our Climate and Nature Friendly Communities Network, which includes our Beautiful Scotland and It's Your Neighbourhood initiatives. Why not find out if there are groups in your area you can connect up with/support/get advice from/work together on joint projects or funding bids? Explore our [list of communities](#) or explore our [online map](#).

Mentor support

If your group needs advice at any point during the year e.g. what to plant in a particular location, how best to attract volunteers, [drop us an email](#) and we can link you up with one of our volunteers, put you in touch with an experienced group who can share their experiences, or can signpost you to the relevant information.

For judged entrants, if you'd like guidance and advice on how to showcase your entry e.g. how to create your judging tour, you can request a visit from one of our volunteer judges. This would generally include a walk (or talk) around for tour route ideas and guidance, a chat about the three pillars and subsections to focus your group's activities, and advice on what to include in your group's year-round diary (previously called your portfolio) and presentation. This offer is available until end of June. Please [email](#) to request.

Mark sheet and criteria

Our Beautiful Scotland [standard mark sheet](#) outlines the three pillars of Beautiful Scotland – horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation – and gives details on what to focus on under each and has useful guidance notes, outlining things to think about (for BID entries, please click [here](#)).

Online Spring seminar

This is a great opportunity to meet our volunteer judges, get top tips on preparing for judging day (including guidance on creating your year-round diary, presentation and tour) and is a chance to chat and be inspired by others. Groups taking part in the non-judged category are welcome to attend too. The date and time will be emailed to you in advance.

Newsletter

Our quarterly e-newsletter is packed full of useful information and resources, inspiring stories and funding advice. Typically it includes information about campaigns your group can get involved in to increase community participation; funding available from external sources; your inspiring stories; updates from the [RHS](#) and [The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society \(The Caley\)](#); and interesting events and information that will hopefully benefit your group.

If you have a story you would like to share with others, or there are subjects you would like to see featured, please drop us an [email](#).

Regional networking events and online Q&A sessions

A chance to get together and learn from each other in an informal and relaxed setting. We'd love to hear from you if your group would like to host a regional get together, or if you have something inspiring you'd like to share (or a topic you'd like to hear about) through an online session.

Our web pages

We have a dedicated [Climate and Nature Friendly Communities Network](#) web section which includes inspiring case studies, an interactive map, general resources and top tips, and individual pages for each group: the page for your group is a great opportunity for you to promote the work your group is doing and for sharing achievements and good practice. If you would like to contribute text, web links, documents or a photo for your web page, please let us know.

There is a [dedicated web section for Beautiful Scotland](#) that outlines the benefits of taking part, and includes all the support and resources available to you to help you with your entry into Beautiful Scotland, key dates and details of the three pillars – horticulture, environment and community.

Beautiful Scotland Celebration and Awards Ceremony

A great chance to get together and celebrate all of your achievements. We will be in touch nearer the time with further details.

Awards and certificates

As well as category awards (Small Town, Large Village etc.), the overall Rosebowl Award and our medal certificates (Bronze, Silver, Silver Gilt, Gold), there are a number of discretionary awards your group can apply for, and we would encourage you to consider submitting an entry to showcase something you are particularly proud of – you'll be sent information about these.

Judges' surgery

Following the celebration and awards ceremony, there will be an opportunity to meet online with your judging pair to chat through your group's mark sheet. This is a great opportunity to ask specific questions and to get advice and guidance. More details will be emailed nearer the time.

Online Annual Seminar

The annual Climate and Nature Friendly Communities Network Seminar is a great chance to pick up hints and tips, to network with groups from across Scotland, and is a chance to celebrate everyone's achievements together. We'll be in touch with details in due course.

There will also be the presentation of a number of Special Awards, available to both Beautiful Scotland and It's Your Neighbourhood groups. More details about how to apply for these will be emailed out to you.

Media support and top tips to showcase your group

We offer a variety of media and social media support throughout the year, and have some great top tips to help you showcase the work of your group – please see [this document](#) for detailed information.

We love to hear and share what your group is getting up to – if you have a Facebook page for your group, then do let us know, and make sure to tag Keep Scotland Beautiful in your posts so we can see and share your posts wider [[view our Facebook page](#)].



Logo

Your group can use the Keep Scotland Beautiful logo for any of its publicity materials and signage. Please drop us an [email](#) if you'd like to use it.

Garden for Life Forum resources

These include handy downloadable leaflets to help you/your group and community 'garden for e.g. butterflies, food; to garden peat-free and, if you still like bedding plants, ones that are good for pollinators. Check them out [here](#).

Clean Up Scotland resources

For a wealth of free resources and support materials to help you organise litter picking and clean up events, please visit our [Clean Up Scotland web pages](#). Organising a Clean Up event in your community is a great way to promote the work your group does and may also lead to new volunteers.

There are lots of other ways you can get involved with the campaign - visit our [Do you bit to Clean Up Scotland](#) page to find out more.

We also have a dedicated [Community Litter Hub](#) - a dedicated place for information, advice and support to empower you to tackle the litter emergency.

RHS support and resources

Through our membership of the RHS Bloom Federation, groups registered in Beautiful Scotland will receive regular newsletters, and are able to access the following support:

Discounted insurance

Please click [here](#) for further information.

Horticultural advice

Free access to the RHS advice team who can answer a wide range of horticultural questions relating to your group's activities. Simply email: advice@rhs.org.uk, quoting BiBIYN in the subject line, or call 0845 260 8000 (Mon – Fri 10am - 4pm). Alternatively, you can post enquiries and samples to: Advisory Services, RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB. Please note that advisors can only help with queries relating to your group's activities.

Online resources

Visit the RHS Britain in Bloom web pages [here](#). You can find a wealth of community gardening resources such as 'promoting your group or project', 'creating a sensory garden', through to 'working with volunteers' [here](#).