

## It's Your Neighbourhood 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**

Your group will be visited by one of our trained volunteer assessors/mentors at some point between April and the end of September - you and our volunteer will work out a time that suits you best, and visits should be around 1 hour. The visit is informal and is a chance for you to show our volunteer around your project and for them to ask questions about e.g. who is involved, who benefits from the project, and any future plans, etc. Our volunteer then writes up a report, which we will email to you, highlighting achievements and also giving useful suggestions and advice.

It's Your Neighbourhood is non-competitive, and projects are not assessed against each other, so the visit should be enjoyable for you, the group, and our volunteer, and at no time should you feel stressed or under pressure.

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.

We're always on the lookout for new volunteer assessors - if you love Scotland, the environment, gardening, meeting new people, visiting inspiring projects, and being part of a team, and want to support our aim to make Scotland clean, green and more sustainable, [get in touch](#).

#### **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. [Explore our previous seminars](#).

#### **Certificates and discretionary awards**

It is at the seminar that your group will be presented with its well-earned It's Your Neighbourhood certificate. Certificates of Distinction are also awarded and there's the opportunity to win the 'Pollinator Friendly' Award from NatureScot, which is available only to It's Your Neighbourhood groups. More details about how to apply for these will be emailed out to you.

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.

### **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 to your web page, please let us know.

There is a [dedicated section for It's Your Neighbourhood](#) that includes the benefits of taking part, including all the support and resources available to you, and details of the three pillars – community, environment and gardening – and activities and ideas you could consider to help your project progress.

### **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 to 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.

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## **RHS support and resources**

Through our membership of the RHS Bloom Federation, groups registered in It's Your Neighbourhood 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](mailto: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](#).