

DISCRETIONARY AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

Please find descriptions of each award below, and some examples for guidance:

a. Community Horticultural Award

Presented to the community entrant that demonstrates the highest quality of horticultural displays.

2015 winner – Kinghorn in Bloom: From arriving by train where the station gardens give an instant splash of colour, to the creation of a dry river bed garden, the community has coloured up this seaside village through sustainable plantings and annual flower mixes. The station gardens range from bedding, alpine colours, to ample sustainable plantings, and numerous colourful planters are scattered along the main street, including boat planters to honour the seaside connection.

2014 winner – North Berwick in Bloom: There are perennial beds throughout the town, some planted to cope with the conditions on a seaside raised beach using grasses and other drought resistant plants. Around 1 million bulbs have been planted by volunteers in and around North Berwick, and the group holds a tulip festival each spring. There are wildflower meadows, a bed showcasing coastal flowers, some now extinct locally, beds sown for native cornfield annuals and their insects. The emphasis on permanent and varied planting means that nectar is available from February to at least October.

Volunteers plant and maintain 90 hanging baskets in summer and 130 planters ranging from barrels to boats in summer and winter.

The Lodge, jointly managed as a partnership between NBIB and ELC, was nominated by Britain in Bloom judges as 'best park' in Britain in 2013. It is an arts & crafts garden with a series of gardens including a sub-tropical bed, dry bed with succulents, rose garden, Edwardian rockery with compartments which may be the last in the country, a fernery showing British native ferns and their forms, a stumpery and a shade bed for woodland plants, a Japanese bed commemorating the end of WW2, a daffodil display showing all 13 daffodil groups, wildflower areas and recreational grass.

b. Jim Murdie Trophy for Sustainability

Presented to the community entrant that demonstrates the highest commitment to sustainable landscaping or sustainable development.

2015 winner - East Haven Heritage & Garden Group: Everything this group does enhances the environment, and promotes biodiversity of the coastal community. The group has sought advice from experts and worked in partnership with SNH to protect the rare Greater Yellow Rattle on its SSSI; developed a sustainability strategy linking its charitable aims to the '2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity' key outcomes, and also the 'Community Action for a Sustainable Scotland Themes'; developed a new partnership with its Waste Water Treatment Plant and is using bio-solid pellets as a slow release fertiliser; uses free soil enricher from Angus Council; planted new flower beds using locally grown herbaceous plants and in other areas native wild flower seeds; and added water butts, hedgehog, bird and bat boxes to create a new wildlife corridor in the village. The group is looking towards tomorrow and ensuring that East Haven is a strong, sustainable community in the future.

2014 winner - Lanark in Bloom (Community Garden): This group has embarked on an ambitious project with its partner Lanark Community Development Trust at Castlebank Park. The new Horticulture Centre at the Park has been developed over the past year and is now the nerve centre of Lanark in Bloom. The polytunnel is already being used to bring on cuttings for planting out next year and as a venue for committee meetings. There are also raised beds which are being used to grow vegetables for sale to bring in much needed funds, supplementing the sale of home grown plants. Lanark in Bloom works closely with the Community Development Trust which is

involving a variety of special needs groups in growing vegetables the sustainable way. The Centre also has its own beehive.

c. Garden for Life Biodiversity Award

Presented to the entrant that demonstrates the greatest commitment to supporting and increasing biodiversity in their local area.

2015 winner – Brighter Bothwell: The group has supported biodiversity in a number of ways: a perennial wildflower meadow along the cycleway established over a number of years with orchids, oxeye daisies and yellow rattle, and yellow flag iris in wetland areas; bird and bat boxes to encourage wildlife; production of a trail booklet to encourage local schools to use the nature trail; and town centre planters with pollinator friendly plants labelled to raise awareness. The organic Community Garden provides a strong focus for wildlife, with a well-established pond providing wetland habitats and a homemade solar powered device oxygenating the water; a compost area with wormery; bird and bat boxes; a biodiversity border; and 10 beekeepers who are running a Breeding Queens programme.

2014 winner - Monifieth Eco Force: The group has tackled the issues of biodiversity in a realistic and constructive manner. There are two projects of commendation – a community orchard, and a wildflower meadow. After initial guidance from Tayside Biodiversity and planting advice from 'Appletreeman & Plants with Purpose', a fully-fledged orchard was planted in autumn 2013. With the support of Angus Environmental Trust, the varieties chosen include many with associations to Perth and Angus. To encourage pollination, a bee friendly wild flower mix is used in the ley together with Crocus. With a free draining soil type, in which clinker had been a base from previously industrial use, the site has been enhanced by using planting pits into which compost was incorporated. Being a community orchard there is excellent scope for the site to be used for adult gardening education in fruit growing, as well as within schools. The second project is a large dedicated wild flower meadow in West End Park. In the past it was an area of low maintenance grass maintained by Angus Council but now there is a site to encourage bumble bees, butterflies and moths that are in national decline as well as creating an aesthetically pleasing flower meadow. To ensure that local provenance is maintained, professional guidance was sought from Scotia Seeds. A fully workable structure plan for its longevity has been fleshed out, and its future, like that of the community orchard, is guaranteed with the site being used as an educational resource, a seed repository, carbon offsetting, and continuing involvement by the local community as well as visitors to Angus.

d. VisitScotland Award for Tourism

Presented to the entrant that demonstrates the greatest effort in the promotion of tourism. This may be either Scotland as a whole or local tourism and may include promotion of the results of their efforts in the campaign on the entrant website. Local heritage projects are particularly relevant for this award.

2015 winner - St Andrews in Bloom: The group complements and supports the local tourism industry, with recent projects focussing on high-profile areas and ones heavily used by visitors. These include upgrading entrance points, transforming the harbour area, increasing the number of hanging baskets and planters in the main streets, working with tourism businesses to brighten up their shopfronts, working closely with the official Visit St Andrews website, planting for year-round colour, and working with St Andrews Links Trust to demonstrate to golfers how St Andrews cares for its natural environment.

2014 winner - East Haven Resident's Association: East Haven is a small coastal village of 53 properties and is one of the oldest fishing communities in Scotland dating back to 1214. A new section of national cycle route 1 was opened in 2012 resulting in an immediate increase of over 1,000 visitors a week. The group consulted with every resident to identify priorities for celebrating and commemorating its Octocentenary. In less than a year, the 120 residents and friends have: branded themselves 'East Haven 800' and used social media to engage with people all over the world; linked with every section of the community and beyond to involve people of all ages and all abilities; aligned themselves to the Scotland Homecoming and held a large public event in August; managed to get East Haven on the BBC weather map; and held a large public Maritime

and Heritage exhibition in March. The group also succeeded in obtaining £63,000 to develop a new heritage point in the village, and involved the public, SNH and RSPB in developing six heritage boards. A large fishing boat was acquired which the group has sunk into the centre of its newly created community garden. Tourists are now flocking to East Haven after following the groups' progress in the media and on social networking. The group has enhanced the visitor experience and revealed a real gem on the east coast of Scotland.

e. Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society Trophy

Presented to the entrant or local authority that demonstrates the highest quality of horticultural standards in public open spaces.

2015 winner – Aberdeen City Council (for Seaton Park): Seaton Park, situated on the banks of the river Don and in the shadow of St Machars Cathedral, is one of the jewels within Aberdeen's parks portfolio. The Cathedral Walk epitomises the high standards of design, plantsmanship, and maintenance of a formal bedding display that includes hardy annuals and half hardy annuals, framed by mature sustainable plantings in a parkland setting. The lawns are maintained to an exceptional high standard, showing a great degree of skill and knowledge by the small team who are ably supported by a dedicated Friends of Seaton Park who work in close co-operation.

2014 winner - Fife Council: The Kingdom of Fife boasts award-winning beaches and parks, new towns, picturesque villages and heritage and culture in abundance. The Council works hard to improve the quality of the environment for visitors and residents alike.

Taking great pride in the management of its open space, Fife Council ensures very high horticultural standards are evident throughout the kingdom. With permanent horticultural features in key areas, seasonal bedding is complemented by sustainable and permanent planting.

Helping to raise the standards of public floral and horticultural displays, Fife Council runs the successful Beautiful Fife competition. This has stimulated interest in horticultural excellence across the Kingdom, recognising achievements of fledging groups and well established entrants.

f. Wright Sustainability Award

Presented to the entrant that demonstrates the greatest commitment to sustainable landscaping or development.

2015 winner - East Lothian Council (for Spott Road Depot, Dunbar): The Council's Spott Road Depot workers work hard all year to ensure Dunbar is kept litter free, parks have well-trimmed grass, and the flower borders and wild flower areas are the envy of other areas. The supervisor, James Scott, is a very talented designer, designing and producing beautiful flower displays around the town as well as working with local groups to design special borders - this years' design is a fishing boat which celebrates the towns fishing fleet. The manager, Gordon Whitelaw, also supports local horticultural projects, engaging with groups planning to have planters and allotments around the town. He practices sustainable landscaping and encourages all groups to do the same. The council team ensures there is no waste, recycling rubbish, composting garden waste and reusing stone, top soil and other waste materials where possible.

2014 winner - Dundee City Council: The Council has a tradition of spring bulb planting on many of its approach roads and open spaces, these bulbs have been maintained and managed for many years. Dundee also has a well-managed tree resource within the city. In recent years the council has continued to develop its open spaces through the development of the Riverside Nature Park, which is an important location on the Tay Estuary. The park has created a wonderful new habitat for wildlife, and opportunities exist for bird watching. At the Riverside Nature Park you will find the largest wildflower meadows in Dundee. As part of its annual improvement programme, each winter a number of flower beds are redesigned, replacing annual bedding with more sustainable and yet colourful planting. These areas include Dudhope Park, Taybank, Baxter Park, Stobsmuir and Harefield Road. The council has begun trials with yellow rattle on some grass areas, reducing the amount of grass cutting required and allowing opportunities for wildflower planting. Wildflower or annual sown areas are being introduced, including to Lochee roundabout, the Law and Riverside Drive.

g. Community Involvement Award

Presented to the entrant that demonstrates the greatest community involvement throughout the year in the Beautiful Scotland campaign themes*. All sectors of the community should be shown to be involved in the local activities.

2015 winner – Milngavie in Bloom: The group attracted new volunteers through a leafletting campaign, asking for people to look after 'pocket parks', which has led to volunteers gaining a sense of ownership. The group has developed partnerships with businesses in the central precinct, and its Community Bed is a great opportunity for local organisations to showcase their own work – this year the bed is being looked after by a Carer's charity which has helped them raise awareness. New partnerships have been established with the Ramblers and TCV, and the group is working closely with the Council on all projects. The group has also helped other organisations to link with each other e.g. volunteers from Tesco who helped out with a bed replanting, met a Friendship group for elderly people and this has led to Tesco providing food for free for the Friendship groups' weekly sessions.

2014 winner - Flourishing Forth: Forth is a former mining village on an exposed, and at times, windswept site but, thanks to the efforts of so many local people, it is certainly 'Flourishing'. The village hall was packed with local people to meet the judges keen to talk to them and to tell them about their activities. The enthusiasm of all ages is inspirational. As a result, baskets and flower beds brighten the village with much of their care in the hands of people who live nearby; former industrial areas now have wild flowers planted; three new stone gateways provide a welcome to the village; the daffodil tea organised over two days to mark the move from the old to the new primary school brought children and adults together to share and reminisce. The group has also taken the enforced move out of its polytunnel at short notice in its stride, and the new facility with a twin span tunnel, a series of around 30 raised beds and an office, is well on the way to completion; it will provide even better facilities for community use - notably by the PolyDollies, the children and older residents.

h. David Welch Memorial Award

Presented to the entrant that demonstrates particular commitment to the Beautiful Scotland campaign themes* with an interesting, unusual or creative project.

2015 winner – Beautiful Perth (for Rodney Gardens): This project was developed after the closure of the National Heather Collection at Cherrybank in Perth. The new Riverside Heather Collection has now been established with some 16,000 heathers (550) varieties planted. Committee member, Tom Lowdon has taken lead role in managing the local volunteers and has established a wide circle of people who give freely of their time to ensure planting, addition of compost, pruning and weeding is undertaken. This is an important partnership between the local authority, local business (donated hours for landscape works), Community Payback who have undertaken much of the clearance work, Perth College Horticultural students and the Beautiful Perth volunteers. Youth Challenge clients have completed the work on the renovation of the nearby 'Folly' and landscaping has been completed with the addition of a managed grass area and access path. This along with the heather collection is a real talking point for visitors. The project has become a model for a way of partnership working that is sustainable and can be used for other projects to improve the environment and general community wellbeing. It also demonstrates the power of working together for a common cause and has fostered great community pride.

2014 winner - Bonnie Dundee (Ninewell's Community Garden): Located at Ninewell's Hospital in Dundee, and featured as one of Beechgrove Garden's 2013 community gardens, this therapeutic and community garden includes herbaceous plants, fruit and vegetables, sensory garden and a medicinal herb garden in an accessible environment. Some of the beds are split into 'wards', with medicinal plants in each ward that are for specific ailments such as dermatology and Musculo-skeletal. The mission of the garden is to promote physical activity and good health through gardening. The charity run garden is supported by volunteers and open to the public, local groups, hospital staff and patients.

i. New Entrant Trophy

Presented to a first time entrant or entrant returning after a break of five or more years, that best demonstrates endorsement and development of the Beautiful Scotland campaign themes*.

2015 winner – Dunkeld & Birnam in Bloom: This very active and dedicated group has taken part in the Take A Pride in Perthshire local awards scheme for a number of years, and works hard to help its village not only look good but to be environmentally responsible and with a great sense of community. The group looks after a community garden, a woodland walk, 34 containers, five flower beds and even a train feature at the local doctor's surgery. The community garden – St Ninian's Garden - has been a truly impressive project. The group has raised over £50,000 to completely transform this previously neglected area. The members have created beautiful stone walls, added attractive seating, new planting, hard landscaping and lighting. Volunteer and community support is strong in Dunkeld and Birnam, with regular weekly work parties throughout the village. The group is well supported by local residents and businesses, and has excellent links with the Royal School of Dunkeld. The group runs a local garden competition, and also has a tremendous sense of fun and community spirit – as witnessed in its entry into the Decorated Wheelbarrow competition and the Arts Festival Float.

2014 winner - Blooming Haddington: Blooming Haddington has burst on to the Beautiful Scotland scene with an abundance of high quality community led initiatives which a seasoned entrant would be proud of. This well supported and organised group was formed under a year ago. The group is assisted by helpful council staff and has a passion to make Haddington better for all. The sheer amount of organisations supporting its vision, with real commitment, is remarkable for the size of this town. Amisfield Walled Garden and St Mary's Pleasance are both worthy of special note. From a standing start last September, the group has encouraged businesses to sponsor 100 hanging baskets.

j. RHS Award for Overcoming Adversity

A new award for 2016: presented to the entrant that has overcome challenging circumstances (e.g. flooding; tackling giant hogweed etc.) and shown impressive commitment to improving their local environment through joined-up community action.

**Campaign Themes: Horticultural Achievement, Environmental Responsibility, Community Participation*