**2024 Guildford in Bloom Competition**

Enter your garden or business in the 2024 Guildford in Bloom competition and join us in making where we live, work, and play Blooming Beautiful.

**First – choose your category**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Best Front Garden** | Your garden must be visible to the public from the footpath. It will be judged on design, colour, quality of plants, all year-round interest and inclusion of native plants and plants that attract pollinators. Gardens will be divided into small or large category |
| **Best Allotment & Vegetable/Kitchen Gardens** | Judged on the variety and quality of vegetables grown, evidence of good horticultural practice, use of space and sustainable management including elements of wilding (e.g. attraction of pollinators). All allotment plots entered must have the plot number clearly on display or you may not be judged. |
| **Best Garden for Wildlife** | Open to all gardens including businesses and smaller community projects where the design, choice of plants and management is especially welcoming to wildlife and enhances connectivity with similar areas. |
| **Nature Champions** | This category is open to businesses, community groups and areas with public access that have nature conservation at their core. It is suited to larger areas of private or public land where the aim is to protect and conserve wildlife habitats and species population and enhances connectivity with similar areas. |
| **Best Pub, Restaurant or Business in Bloom** | We are looking for a well-balanced design, good use of colour and greenery, quality planting, and inclusion of plants that attract pollinators. |
| **Best Container Garden** | Open to balconies and gardens that are based on pots and baskets, good use of colour and greenery, quality planting, and inclusion of plants that attract pollinators. Must be visible to the public. |
| **Best Neighbourhood Project** | This category recognises projects that green up the local area and include those organised by sheltered accommodation, village halls, resident’s associations, parish councils, voluntary groups, and charities etc. Judges will be looking for good design, colour, and plant quality, encouragements of wildlife, as well as input from residents or the community. |
| **Best Themed Garden Award** | **Wild About a Green Guildford:** with the aim of encouraging more wildlife to Guildford’s gardens such as plants that attract pollinators |
| **Young Gardener Award** | Awarded for entries from young people aged 11-21 years in full time education. |
| **Best School in Bloom**  | This year our theme is “Wild About a Greener Guilford”. We are looking for imaginatively themed gardens or novel containers. Children’s involvement in the design, planting and upkeep and meeting the theme of the competition will score high marks. Note: dates of the school competition are different from the main competition. |

**Secondly – read the rules to make sure your entry complies**

Rules:

* The Guildford in Bloom Gardening Competition is open to all borough residents, schools, community groups and businesses – anyone who loves gardening and wants to help make Guildford and our surrounding villages greener and even more beautiful places to live, work and visit.
* **Entries must be received by Sunday 23 June 2024**; simply choose a category, let us know if you are a young gardener, choose to theme or not to theme, you can enter only one category per site/address; email your entry details to info@guildfordinbloom.com;
* **Judging takes place between 1-19 July 2024**; it is not possible to advise individual entrants of the exact day and time of judging (with the exception of Kitchen Gardens, Wildlife Gardens, Nature Champions and Neighbourhood Project categories);
* Judges will not be available to discuss individual entries; the judges' decision is final;
* Winners will be notified by email and invited to the **Awards Show** the date and venue of which will be announced in due course; a list of winners will be published on our website; photographs of your garden may be used for marketing purposes.

**Nominate**:

If you have a friend, neighbour, family member, local school or pub with a beautiful garden, you are welcome to nominate them. We will need the address nominated as well as the nominee and we always advise that you let them know.

**Special Awards**:

Younger gardeners and students in full time education will receive special recognition for entering. There will also be a special award for the best themed garden / allotment. Let us know if you are a young gardener and/or theming your garden.

**School Gardening Competition:**

The Schools Gardening Competition runs alongside the main competition. The theme is **“Wild About a Greener Guildford ”**, and the closing date is 24 May 2024. Schools should register their entry by email at Schools@guildfordinbloom.com

**Website And Social Media**:

Entry forms can be downloaded from our website [www.guildfordinbloom.com](http://www.guildfordinbloom.com) – where you can also see details of previous winners.

You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for regular updates, news and gardening tips.

**Sponsorship:**

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**Decide whether to theme or not to theme**

**Wild About a Green Guildford:**

With the aim of encouraging more wildlife to Guildford’s gardens such as plants that attract pollinators

This link may well help you: [How to increase biodiversity in your garden - National Garden Scheme (ngs.org.uk)](https://ngs.org.uk/how-to-increase-biodiversity-in-your-garden/)

***If your garden features all 10 listed below – you should be entering the Best Garden for Wildlife Category***

1. A Nectar Café – plants for bees, butterflies and other pollinators
2. Bug Hotel or log pile
3. Bee B&B
4. Water Source for birds and wildlife – making sure it includes stones so insects can climb out
5. Pond
6. Bird Feeder
7. Bird House
8. Hedgehog house
9. Be part of a Hedgehog Corridor
10. Wildflower area

We will also be looking for a *plastic free environment unless the plastic item is being recycled* i.e. milk bottles used as planters, plastic cloches, poly tunnels etc. Additional points are given for **Peat Free Gardens**

To Help You

1. <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/best-plants-bees-and-pollinators>
2. <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/09/how-to-build-a-bug-hotel/>
3. <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/04/how-to-build-a-bee-hotel/>
4. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/activities/build-a-bird-bath/>
5. <https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/actions/how-create-mini-pond>
6. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-kids/games-and-activities/activities/make-a-recycled-bird-feeder/>
7. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/activities/build-a-birdbox/>
8. <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-hedgehog-home>
9. <https://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/actions/how-create-hedgehog-hole>
10. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/lawns/wildflower-meadow-establishment>

**Then make a note of the Diary Dates:**

24 May 2024 Best School in Bloom entry deadline

1 June 2024 Blooming Picnic in Guildford Castle Grounds

17-28 June 2024 School Gardening Competition Judging

23 June 2024 Guildford in Bloom Competition entry deadline

TBA School in Bloom Awards

1-19 July 2024 Guildford in Bloom Competition Judging

September (date tba) Guildford in Bloom Competition Awards Ceremony.

Now its time to complete the Entry Form with your details on the next page

**Guildford in Bloom 2024 Competition Entry Form**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Which category are you entering (only one category per address/venue/plot) |  |
| Young Gardener Open to young gardeners in full time education age 11 to 21 | YES | NO |
| Will your entry be themed?**Wild About a Greener Guildford** | YES | NO |
| Name(The name you enter here will appear on your certificate) |  |
| Telephone (essential) |  |
| Email (essential) |  |
| Address (essential) |  |
|  |
| Post Code: |
| Address of site to be judged (if different from above**For Allotments you must specify site and plot number**  |  |
|  |
| Post Code: |
| General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): Your personal details will be kept on file for a period of two years. Guildford in Bloom will use your information to administer the competition and associated events. Your details will not be shared with any other person or organisation. |

**Finally – email your entry form to** **info@guildfordinbloom.com**

**Good Luck!**

Guildford in Bloom
c/o 8 Park Chase, Guildford GU1 1ES

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