



CUMBRIA IN BLOOM

Part of RHS Britain In Bloom

## Cumbria in Bloom Newsletter – January 2021

[www.cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk](http://www.cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk)

### Looking Back on a Terrible Year

While 2020 was an awful year for individuals, it turned out to be not too bad for Cumbria in Bloom. Looking back 12 months, at this stage of the year we knew nothing about what was about to befall the world. We would have been horrified at the prospect of so many deaths, the most since the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Who had heard of a lockdown before March or April? However, lockdown we had, and it coincided with a wonderful spell of lovely weather, which allowed many of us to spend time in our gardens as well as managing a little bit of community gardening.



### There Was A Silver Lining

In 2020, Cumbria in Bloom opened its website to your stories, photographs and projects. We had no idea if you would take to the idea of sending in pictures and videos, but you did in droves. This gave us the opportunity to hold a digital Award Ceremony in November. At this we were able to hand out certificates, both for participation and for exceptional efforts. Well done to all who received a certificate.

### Cumbria in Bloom Annual General Meeting

What are we planning for 2021? Firstly, we have just had the CiB Zoom Annual General Meeting. Colin Cheyne stepped down as Chairman following a couple of stints in the job. Our thanks to him. Colin was proposed for and accepted the position of President. We have also introduced a position of Vice President. Alan Heath, who has given years of service to CiB was nominated for this new appointment. Both Colin and Alan will remain on the Management Committee. Our thanks to them both and CiB's notes of appreciation on their work for Cumbria in Bloom will appear on the website in due course.



Ronnie Auld was appointed Chairman and Keith McIntosh Vice Chairman. The following appointments to the Management Committee were also confirmed: Hon. Treasurer - Ali Gordon, Lisa Greasley, Lee Hodgson, Janet Mardon, Rachel Parratt, Pat Ross, Sue Sharkey, Haydn Spedding, Shelagh Todd, Mary Wilson, Christine Baelz, Emma Chapman and Toni Magean. Colin Cheyne, Alan Heath, Lee Hodgson, Leslie Johnson, Paul Nedved were confirmed as Trustees. Liz Auld agreed to continue as Administrator. Our Patron, Mrs Olive Clarke OBE, JP, DL, FRAGS completed a well-attended and interesting AGM with a short appreciation of Cumbria in Bloom and a vote

of thanks to everyone involved.

## A Programme for 2021

Ronnie Auld has just attended the RHS Federation Regions and Nations meeting. It was clear that all the groups around the UK were determined to forge ahead with some sort of programme, as close to normality as possible. The Competitions Sub-Committee, under the Chairmanship of Keith McIntosh, has already designed a programme for CiB and we will inform you shortly of our Pride in Your Community, Schools and Tourism competitions, as well as Allotments, Biodiversity and Woodland/Copse special awards. The RHS It's Your Neighbourhood assessments will be conducted on a similar basis. If it is not possible to visit entrants' sites, then the 2021 programme will be more digitally based. We will also have the appropriate facility on the CiB website ready to receive any pictures, videos, and stories that you would like to submit – the more the merrier. Details on this will be announced in a future Newsletter and on the [www.cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk](http://www.cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk).

## RHS Community Awards 2021



The RHS recognises that it cannot run a normal Britain in Bloom Finalists programme this year. Instead, it is proposing a series of Community Awards covering the following categories: **Nourishing Your Community, Planting with Purpose, Nature Friendly Gardening, Green Solutions** and **Cultivating Your Community**. Up-to a maximum of 5 entries from Cumbria will be allowed. We have written to several of our communities asking if they would like to be nominated by Cumbria in Bloom. There will be no site visits by Judges, but groups can submit evidence of their work throughout the season using portfolios, photographs and videos, as advised to the accepted nominees.

Spring Promise in the Frost?!



In 2021 we hope to make more use of social media. We already have a Facebook group and may soon have an Instagram presence for photographs. Watch out for future announcements.

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For any queries or comments please contact Liz Auld, Cumbria in Bloom Administrator via [admin@cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk](mailto:admin@cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk) or 01228 710128.

