



## Cumbria in Bloom Newsletter – June 2021

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



Water Butt in Wreay © Ronnie Auld

### Welcome to the June edition of the Cumbria in Bloom Newsletter

This is a very special Newsletter as it announces the securing of a three year Strategic Partnership agreement with United Utilities. The purpose of this arrangement with UU is to promote really good water resource management in our gardens and community open spaces.

Over the next three years we will be providing you with information about the need to save water. There will be lots of ideas (such as the down spout connected water butt seen recently in Wreay with a tray to grow plants making use of the roof collected water)

There will be regular communication from UU, competitions to win water management equipment, a UU presence at CiB events, such as our Award Ceremonies etc. and much more.

### United Utilities Sponsors Cumbria in Bloom

United Utilities is proud to sponsor Cumbria in Bloom this year, supporting the campaign in its mission to encourage Cumbrian's to take pride in their beautiful county.

We've always had a unique relationship with Cumbria's stunning landscape and its people, as the county plays an integral part in supplying the North West region's water. At the moment, we have a number of water projects across the county to help us provide you with a more resilient water supply for generations to come!

Excitingly, this year we are working with Cumbria in Bloom and the Royal Horticultural Society to help you get water savvy in the garden.

Below are five easy ways you can start saving water in the garden this summer, whilst still keeping your garden bright and blooming:

**1. Swap your hose pipe for a watering can**

A hose pipe can use enough water to fill 12 baths every hour, and garden sprinklers and hosepipes left running can use between a huge 500 and 1,000 litres of water an hour! So, an easy water-saving swap is simply switching to a watering can to direct water to where it's most needed!

**2. Add mulch to save water**

Adding mulch, such as wood chip or bark to your beds, not only suppresses weeds and improves the soil, it also helps soil retain water in the summer (up to 75%), helping you to save both water and the environment

**3. Reuse your water**

This is a super easy one, simply reuse your bathwater, shower water and washing up water to water your houseplants or garden

#### 4. Plant drought resistant plants

With climate change making our summers drier, you can help save water by planting plants such as Cape Daisies and Jerusalem Sage, which can handle drier conditions

#### 5. Install a water butt in the garden

The average roof collects up to 85,000 litres of rain a year, which is enough to fill a water butt 450 times! So, install a water butt and collect all that lovely rainwater to use in the garden!

Even by reducing your water use in the garden by a fraction through these tips this summer, you could have a big impact on water usage and help to fight against the climate crisis! So make sure to make your water-saving pledge today with the RHS by visiting [mains2rains.uk](https://mains2rains.uk) and start watering your garden the way nature intended!

To be in with a chance of winning your very own water butt and £50 worth of RHS gift vouchers, visit

[www.unitedutilities.com/win-50-rhs-gift-vouchers-and-a-water-butt](https://www.unitedutilities.com/win-50-rhs-gift-vouchers-and-a-water-butt). T&Cs can be found [here](#).

For more water-saving tips please visit: [unitedutilities.com/savewater](https://www.unitedutilities.com/savewater)



## Cumbria in Bloom 2021 Competition and Judging Update

The closing date for entry to our various award categories for 2021 has now passed. We have received a very credible number of entries this year.

We have a high number of entries for our new **biodiversity** and **small woodland copse** awards, as well as some allotment entries through our RHS It's Your Neighbourhood category.

Judging visits are already being planned for July with an Award Ceremony later in the year. If you haven't yet been contacted to arrange an appointment, don't worry, you will be in the coming days.

**Cumbria has 5 entries in the RHS Community Awards 2021.** They are:

Dalston in Bloom – Kirkoswald - Penrith Town Council - Ulverston in Bloom - Workington

### A greenhouse water butt idea

2 butts connected together to maximise the amount of rainfall collected and to ensure a continuous supply.



### cumbrialife

July 2021

#### Growing number of garden awards

Turn to page 39 for excellent article about CiB awards for 2021

Then go to page 120 for several pages about Cumbrian gardens and gardeners.

