



Cumbria in Bloom Newsletter – Spring 2024



It would be nice to say that spring is in the air! However, every time that we see the sun and feel it's rays on our back, our hopes are dashed with more rain and a drop in temperature. But we will get there. The snowdrops are nearly over, and the daffodils are about to burst into bloom. March heralds a new Cumbria in Bloom season. Liz has sent out the first circulation of covering letters and entry forms. So, look out for yours and don't forget to send in your entry.

This year we have the added bonus of brand new RHS Community Awards. These are designed to give every group of volunteers the chance to shine and achieve national recognition at the Britain in Bloom Awards

Call for Cumbria in Bloom Award Entries

You may already have received the paperwork but, in case you haven't or it has been mislaid, use the following links to go straight to the right page on <https://cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk>
Pride in Your Community – Towns and Villages - <http://tinyurl.com/yrb2hya9>
Tourism - <http://tinyurl.com/28k9b77u>
School Gardening - <http://tinyurl.com/5fwk7wbj>
It's Your Neighbourhood - <http://tinyurl.com/3j38r84t>
RHS Community Awards - <http://tinyurl.com/2ryb8upw>
Special feature award - <https://tinyurl.com/2743938f>

RHS Community Awards

New awards for 2024. They provide Bloom and It's Your Neighbourhood groups the chance to win a national category and receive their award at the 2024 Britain in Bloom Award Ceremony in Manchester. The 5 categories are:
** RHS Community Engagement Award **
** RHS Gardening with Young People Award **
** RHS Gardening for Health & Wellbeing Award **
** RHS Sustainable Gardening Award **
** RHS Gardening for Wildlife Award **
More information at - <http://tinyurl.com/2ryb8upw>

In 2024, Cumbria's Britain in Bloom Finalists will be **Wreay** in the Village category and **Ulverston BID** in the Business Improvement District category. We wish them well.

Rest in Peace

Mrs Olive Clarke, OBE, JP, DL

It was with great sorrow that we lost one of our longest serving Patrons Mrs Olive Clarke. In December Cumbria in Bloom wrote an appreciation for the Royal Horticultural Society of Olive's involvement as a friend and part of the 60th anniversary celebrations of Britain in Bloom in 2024. Following the post war initiative in France, the Tourist Board set up a Britain in Bloom Committee in 1963. At the time Olive Clarke was working in London on the National Federation of Women's Institute Committee and was asked to be a founder member of Britain in Bloom and a judge in the South of England and nationally in towns and villages. She has been involved ever since and became a Cumbria in Bloom Patron many years ago.

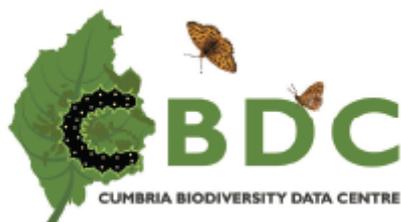


Receiving a bouquet in appreciation of her long service at the 2021 Award Ceremony at the Appleby Hub

With the death of Olive Clarke, Cumbria in Bloom has lost not only one of its Patrons, but also its greatest champion and cheerleader. Olive was a fierce supporter of Cumbria in Bloom, attending Award Ceremonies and Annual General Meetings in her capacity as Patron. She spoke with passion and was very loyal to all those entrusted with running the charity. She regularly kept in touch with our President, Chairman and Administrator, usually by telephone, the most recent call coming just a few weeks before her death on 18th December 2023. Our dear friend's enthusiasm for Cumbria in Bloom and Britain in Bloom will not be forgotten. Her words would send us all out determined to do even more for the community. She was small in stature, but had a massive presence and when she spoke, she never needed a microphone – a special lady indeed, who will be missed by many.



Helping to present awards at the 2023 Kendal Award Ceremony



Wildlife Data Recording with the Cumbria Biodiversity Recording Centre in Carlisle

Cumbria in Bloom is very conscious of the collapse in biodiversity in recent years. We have to record to know what we have. The CBDC's predecessor, the Natural History Records Bureau, was setup in 1902 in Tullie House Museum. CBDC holds over 2.1 million wildlife records and is the oldest record centre in the Country.

CBDC was officially launched on the 22nd October 2011 at the first Cumbria Wildlife Recorders Conference at Tullie House Museum. As a result, CBDC is both a very young Local Records Centre but also the oldest! CBDC continues to collect biological records, a tradition lasting over a century, for the Centre for Lakeland (Cumbrian) biological records at Tullie House Museum; a tradition unbroken since the time the information was beautifully recorded in a ledger.

Cumbria in Bloom is partnering with CBDC to encourage all our supporters and volunteers to record what they see. This year the Cumbria Data Watch in June will provide you with the incentive to do your bit for wildlife recording in Cumbria. CBDC are asking everyone in Cumbria, resident or visitor to record everything they see in an hour between 27th and 30th June and send the results to CBDC.

<https://cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk/cumbria-wild-watch/>



This year the RHS celebrates 60 years of Britain in Bloom with the emphasis on friendship. There will be a special Friendship Garden at the Chelsea Flower Show. Follow the link below to go to the Cumbria in Bloom page on the 60th anniversary.

<https://tinyurl.com/94n7vbd6>



NR Training has moved back to Newton Rigg.

Since NR Training started in 2021, it has been a privilege to have the horticultural base at Lowther Castle and Gardens. We are very grateful to Lowther for the support, which has enabled over 150 Horticultural learners to gain knowledge and beneficial skills to enable successful employment in the horticultural industry.

At the beginning of the 2024/25 academic year Newton Rigg is delighted to be able to announce the return to its roots with a new horticultural educational teaching facility.

Strong links with a number of gardens, horticultural groups and growers have been built by NR Training which will continue at Newton Rigg:

Askam Hall Gardens – Acorn Bank Gardens – Dalefoot Composts – North Cumbria Orchard Group – Dalemmain Gardens – Home Grown Cumbria – Larch Cottage Nurseries – Holehird Gardens

For more information contact Shelagh Todd at support@nrtraining.co.uk

The Cumbria in Bloom 2024 Assessors Training Day will be held at the Cumbria Wildlife Trust centre at Gosling Sike on 17th April 2024. We are indebted to the site manager, Adam McGinley, for offering to host the training day and to show our assessors round the site. We will also be joined by RHS National Judge, Rae Beckwith who will be on hand to help with how to properly interpret award criteria. Gosling Sike is named after a small tributary of the River Eden and is CWT's Northern Office.



Sponsor Feature **Sponsor Feature** **Sponsor Feature** **Sponsor Feature**

<p>Windermere Lake Cruises</p>  <p>Windermere Lake Cruises - the most popular attraction in Cumbria.</p> <p>Go to sponsor website</p> <p>Amberol</p> 	<p>United Utilities</p>  <p>Water for the North West</p> <p>Responsible for water and wastewater services in the North West of England.</p> <p>Go to sponsor website</p> <p>AW Jenkinson</p> 	<p>Hayes Garden World</p>  <p>One of the largest, most respected family run garden centres in the north of England.</p> <p>Go to sponsor website</p> <p>Cumbria Tourism</p> 	<p>Serious Waste Management</p>  <p>Serious provides a wide range of services for sewage, grease and waste water management, all of which are available nationwide and 24/7.</p> <p>Go to sponsor website</p> <p>Lake District National Park</p> 	<p>Hope Leisure Ltd.</p>  <p>An oasis of calm on the edge of Keswick, a beautiful market town in the heart of the English Lake District.</p> <p>Go to sponsor website</p> <p>Rickerby Ltd</p> 	<p>Cumberland Building Society</p>  <p>Kinder banking - it's in our nature.</p> <p>Go to sponsor website</p> <p>Lake District Estates Co. Ltd.</p> 
<p>English Lakes Hotels</p>  <p>Unforgettable family run hotel group with hotels in the Lake District & Lancashire.</p> <p>Go to sponsor website</p>	<p>Out of Eden</p>  <p>The UK's most popular one-stop shop for hospitality products.</p> <p>Go to sponsor website</p>	<p>Ullswater Steamers</p>  <p>Operating one of the largest heritage boat fleets in the world, 360 days a year.</p> <p>Go to sponsor website</p>	<p><i>We welcome enquiries from any commercial organisation who, for a small donation, could join our growing list of sponsors enjoying exposure and business links via the Cumbria in Bloom website.</i></p>		
<p>Friends of the Lake District</p>  <p>Dedicated to protecting and enhancing Lake District and Cumbrian landscapes.</p>	<p>High Spirits Leisure Group</p>  <p>Serving great food, wine & beer across our bars, cafes, restaurants & event accommodation.</p>	<p>Booths</p> 			



RHS It's Your Neighbourhood brings communities together.

Whether it's the street you live in, an existing community garden or a disused area that needs a revamp; almost any outdoor space being looked after by the local community can qualify for It's Your Neighbourhood

Why should your group join?

Annual visit from a local It's Your Neighbourhood Assessor	Support from experienced mentors
Recognition of your hard work with an RHS Certificate	Access to networking opportunities in your area
Insurance cover with Cumbria in Bloom and the RHS	Access to a range of seed giveaways

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/3j38r84t> to register your It's Your Neighbourhood entry for 2024.

Visit <https://cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk/> to keep up with all the news.