



Business & Communities

This is the broadest category and is designed to appeal to businesses and community groups in your locality.

BEST PUB/RESTAURANT - GARDEN/CONTAINER DISPLAY

Awarded to the best pub/restaurant display (front and/or beer garden). The judges will consider this display worthy of raising a glass (or two!) above all other entries. Landlords and restaurant owners, don't miss this chance to perfect your plants and your pints! The winner of this category will also win a colour portrait illustration of their pub/restaurant by talented local artist Geoff Nutkins.

Kindly sponsored by Tom Chambers.

BEST SHOP/BUSINESS - GARDEN/CONTAINER DISPLAY

Awarded to the organisation that the judges feel has best embraced the gardening competition by helping to brighten up the locality. The display must be visible from the high street and can include, among others, police, ambulance and fire stations, hotels, hospitals, offices, retail outlets and so on. This is a great opportunity to stand out from the crowd with the winner receiving a free colour Business Profile in the Newsshopper.

Kindly sponsored by Smart Gardening & Newsshopper.

BEST COMMUNITY GARDEN

Awarded to the garden that the judges feel best represents what can be achieved when like-minded individuals (two or more), work together to create something special for everyone to enjoy. Previous entries have included sheltered housing, Almshouses, bowling green associations, sports clubs, church grounds and communal grounds within flat tenements. *Kindly sponsored by Gardman Garden Products.*

Judging & Award Ceremonies

We have appointed independent professional horticultural judges in conjunction with The London Gardens Society. Judges will assess each entry against nationally recognised judging criteria and give everyone an appropriate certificate. (**Gold, Silver Gilt, Silver, Bronze and Merit**). They will also produce a mini report with constructive comments on your garden which will be available on application. Certificates and prizes will be presented at a special Gardening Awards Ceremony on Wednesday 23rd September 2015 at Ruxley Manor Garden Centre (School Awards afternoon is Thursday 9th July).

Residential Category Prizes

1st: Trophy & £100 voucher 2nd: £50 voucher 3rd: £30 voucher

School Category Prizes

Best School Garden & Best Vegetable Plot

1st: Trophy & £60 voucher 2nd: £40 voucher 3rd: £20 voucher

Best School Planted Container Display & Heaviest Potatoes

1st: Trophy & £30 voucher 2nd: £20 voucher 3rd: £10 voucher

Allotment Category Prizes

Best Allotment Site

1st: £120 voucher 2nd: £80 voucher 3rd: £40 voucher

Best Allotment Plot

1st: Trophy & £100 voucher 2nd: £50 voucher 3rd: £30 voucher

Best Children's Allotment Plot

1st: Trophy & £60 voucher 2nd: £40 voucher 3rd: £20 voucher

Business & Communities Category Prizes

Best Pub/Restaurant Garden/Container Display

1st: Portrait & £100 voucher 2nd: £50 voucher 3rd: £30 voucher

Best Shop/Business Garden/Container Display

1st: Profile & £100 voucher 2nd: £50 voucher 3rd: £30 voucher

Best Community Garden

1st: Trophy & £100 voucher 2nd: £50 voucher 3rd: £30 voucher

All vouchers are Ruxley Manor vouchers and are redeemable against products for sale throughout the garden centre all year round.



Judging & Closing Dates

School Entry Closing Date: Friday 15th May 2015

Main Entry Closing Date: Friday 12th June 2015

Judging Dates: 13th June - 27th July 2015

The judges' decision is final.

Ruxley Golden Trowel Award

A special award for an individual who the Directors of Ruxley Manor Garden Centre feel has a genuine commitment to gardening that deserves to be recognised.

You may know someone who has overcome personal adversity to create a garden or perhaps you would like to nominate a neighbour who helps to maintain your own garden.. either way this person will be that 'special someone' whose love of gardening shines through. Please email the name and contact details of the person you would like to receive the 'Golden Trowel' trophy (and £100 gift voucher) to inbloom@ruxley-manor.co.uk. Only one nomination per entry please. Please briefly explain why this person should win.

How to Enter

If you are looking for some ideas, tips and advice on how to create an award-winning entry then book a space on one of our **FREE** gardening talks during the spring of 2015. Our programme is designed to inspire everyone to 'give gardening a go!' When you're ready to sign up, simply complete the entry form overleaf and return it to us via post, or go online at www.ruxley-manor.co.uk/inbloom.

You will receive an acknowledgement notice via email and judges will be in contact after the closing date to arrange a visit to your garden/school/business. Where appointments are not required (for front garden/business entries etc), you will receive a postcard through your letterbox stating that judging has taken place. Winners will be notified thereafter and invited to attend the relevant Award Ceremony.



Any questions, email us at inbloom@ruxley-manor.co.uk or call Marketing on 020 8300 0084.

Thank you to our sponsors

We would like to firstly extend our thanks to Bexley Council, in particular Richard Vero, who has helped enormously with the administrative process of transferring Bexley in Bloom to Ruxley Manor.

Secondly our warm thanks to John and Jane at The London Gardens Society, who have organised the external judging panel for us. Thanks to Jim Buttress for agreeing to fulfil the role of Head Judge and lending his support to this year's competition, despite having one of the busiest diaries we have ever seen! Thank you also to Richard Dolby and his team of volunteers at the Bexley Federation of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners for agreeing to shortlist the allotment entries; a huge help!

Gary at GC Images, our dedicated 'in Bloom' photographer, Geoff Nutkins, Signpost Signs, Newsshopper, Harrison Print Services, Hillier Nurseries, WD Smith & Sons, Cadix Ltd, Cuprinol Paints, Woodlodge Pots, Westland, Scotts Levington, Apta Pottery, Tom Chambers, Smart Gardening, Gardman Garden Products.

Please return your completed entry form to:
Lisa Bottomley, Marketing Dept
Ruxley Manor Garden Centre,
Maidstone Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5BQ
Tel 020 8300 0084

www.ruxley-manor.co.uk/inbloom
email: inbloom@ruxley-manor.co.uk

 Bexley
in Bloom

R RUXLEY MANOR
GARDEN CENTRE



2015

Bexley in Bloom

Annual Gardening
Competition
Entry Form

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R RUXLEY MANOR
GARDEN CENTRE



Bexley in Bloom

AT RUXLEY MANOR

Welcome to Bexley in Bloom, the annual gardening competition previously run by Bexley Council and now under the management of Ruxley Manor Garden Centre.

Bexley in Bloom is as much about people as it is about plants and gardening. Founded on the principle that brightening up our outdoor spaces is good for us all, the competition gives individuals and local communities an opportunity to work together to bring about change.



This year's competition offers everything you could want from a gardening contest - free entry, professional independent judges and an abundance of prizes. With a range of categories to choose from there is something for everyone - from hardy allotmenters aiming to be the 'pick of the crop' to schools striving to be 'top of the class'!

The popular categories for residents include Best Front and Back Garden Awards, as well as a NEW award for the Best Single Planted Container. Simply ask a neighbour or friend to take a photo of you beside your windowbox/hanging basket/patio container and email or post the photo to us! Our judges will then select their top three. Heading up our judging panel is Jim Buttress, former Royal Gardener and Horticultural Judge on BBC TV's The Big Allotment Challenge. We're delighted that Jim has lent his support to our competition and as the majority of entries will receive personal visits by our judges, Jim could be coming to a garden near you soon!

Have some fun and dig in to Bexley in Bloom 2015...

Residential

You don't need to be resident in the borough of Bexley to enter, merely living within 15 miles of Ruxley Manor Garden Centre. You can choose to enter one or more categories and even nominate a neighbour or relative if you feel that their green-fingered talent deserves to be recognised!

BEST FRONT GARDEN - SEASONAL/CONTAINER DISPLAY

Awarded to the front garden which the judges feel is the most colourful and visually appealing from the street. Can be solely containers, a cultivated garden or combination of both. Predominantly based on summer annual plants. Colour themes and contrasting colours tend to attract additional marks from the judges, as will any garden that leaves a lasting impression. *(Category kindly sponsored by WD Smith & Sons)*

BEST FRONT GARDEN - PERMANENT DISPLAY

Awarded to the front garden which the judges feel is the most attractive or which best demonstrates horticultural skill and/or design flair. Typically features hard landscaping elements alongside a permanent planting scheme (including shrubs and/or perennials). *(Category kindly sponsored by Hillier Nurseries)*

BEST BACK GARDEN

Awarded to the back garden which the judges consider to be a 'hidden gem'. It could showcase a variety of plants, act as a haven for wildlife, or simply represent the most enterprising use of a small space - serene, surprising or superb (or perhaps all three!). Remember to keep an eye out for weeds and pests before the judges spot any! *(Category kindly sponsored by Cadix Ltd)*



BEST GARDEN SHED

A fun new award for the garden shed that most inspires Ruxley Manor's own judges! Whether it is the ultimate Man Cave (!) or Crafty Studio, the winning shed will be an innovative, creative and fun addition to the outdoor space. The shed must be a stand-alone building in your own garden. *(Category kindly sponsored by Cuprinol paints)*

BEST SINGLE PLANTED CONTAINER*

***EMAIL PHOTO ENTRY**
Awarded to the individual who creates the judges' favourite single planted container. Photo entries only invited for this category. Simply create your masterpiece, which could be a hanging basket, windowbox or patio container, ask someone to take a photo of you and your planter, email it to us and the judges will select their top three! *(Category kindly sponsored by Apta Pottery)*



Schools *(Kindly sponsored by Woodlodge Pots & Westland)*

Will you be top of the class?! Enter your school into the competition and see if you can impress our judges! They will be looking for evidence that children have created the gardens themselves, with ideas and practical skills clearly visible.

BEST SCHOOL GARDEN

Awarded to the school which the judges feel best reflects the combined effort, energy and enthusiasm of school children, with additional marks given for environmental awareness and wildlife gardening. NB The garden **must** be the work of children and not parents!

BEST SCHOOL VEGETABLE PLOT

Awarded to the school which the judges feel is productive and the most well-tended. The plot can demonstrate a sense of fun too, with a bonus prize of a hamper of garden goodies for the scarecrow that most impresses (or scares!) the judges!

BEST SINGLE SCHOOL CONTAINER

Awarded to the school which creates the best single container display that is colourful, creative and fun! The use of novelty containers is encouraged - provided there is adequate scope for drainage, ideas include a brightly painted wheelbarrow, a pair of (old) welly boots, or even a rainbow coloured dustbin!

HEAVIEST POTATO CHALLENGE

Awarded to the school which grows the heaviest crop of spuds! Enter this category and we will provide a container, first early seed potatoes and compost for children to plant and look after until the potatoes are ready for harvesting in June! Each school will be visited by representatives from Ruxley who will perform the official weigh-in! Results will be announced at our School Awards Ceremony on Thursday 9th July 2015.

Allotments *(Kindly sponsored by Scotts Levington)*

Is your allotment the pick of the crop?! In conjunction with the Bexley Federation of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners, we are proud to bring you our three allotment competition categories...



BEST ALLOTMENT PLOT

Awarded to the most productive and well tended allotment plot. Crops must be pest and disease free, paths should be well maintained with tidy edges, and there should be evidence of good compost production and cultivation of soil.

BEST CHILDREN'S ALLOTMENT PLOT

Open to any individual child (not groups) under the age of 14, who is associated to a plot holder. The layout can be of their own choosing, but must not exceed 2 x 3 metres. Fruit, vegetables and flowers may all be used and a £15 gift voucher will be awarded to the plot with the funniest or scariest scarecrow!

BEST OVERALL ALLOTMENT SITE

Awarded to the site that the judges feel is the most well-maintained and which best demonstrates a sense of community and shared enthusiasm for allotment life.

Entry Form

Tick the boxes of the categories you would like to enter and return the form to Ruxley Manor at the address below. Please use a separate piece of paper for the Golden Trowel Nomination or email details to inbloom@ruxley-manor.co.uk.

Residential

Best Front Garden - Seasonal/Container Display
 Best Front Garden - Permanent Display
 Best Back Garden Best Garden Shed
 Best Single Planted Container (via email)

Allotments

Best Allotment Plot Best Allotment Site
 Best Children's Allotment Plot

Schools

Best School Garden Best School Veg Plot
 Heaviest Potatoes Best School Container

Business & Communities

Best Pub/Restaurant - Garden/Container Display
 Best Shop/Business - Garden/Container Display
 Best Community Garden

Title	First Name
Surname	
Company/School	
Address	
Post Code	
Telephone No.	
Email	

Please return your completed form to Lisa Bottomley, Ruxley Manor Garden Centre, Maidstone Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5BQ. We do not share details with third parties.