

SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS 2009

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♥ GreenSpace East Midlands Award for Horticultural Excellence within Parks~

Awarded to:

University of Leicester Botanic Gardens, Oadby and Wigston

The University of Leicester Botanic Gardens present extremely high horticultural standards throughout the freely accessed grounds, situated in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston. Lovely floral features complement mature trees and formal pools and this year, coinciding with the judging, an extensive exhibition of outdoor sculpture and art forms were also present to delight and enthrall the visitors. All in all a very worthy recipient of the award.

LEICESTER

♥ Countryside Companions Award for best Wildflower & Conservation Area ~

Awarded to:

Bradlaugh Fields, Northampton

The land became open space for the public in 1996 following concerted public action to protect it from development. An old barn is the focus of many visitor friendly activities. Various free leaflets give information as to the site's history, its geology and details of birds, insects, flora and fauna that may be found there. It is a place of education and enjoyment and is highly deserving of this award.

NORTHAMPTON

♥ East Midlands in Bloom Award for the Most Improved Entrant~

Awarded to:

CRESWELL, Derbyshire ~ 37points improvement from 2008 and a great effort – next year the same again please!

♥ T & D Randalls Waste Systems Award for the least littered Environment~

Awarded to:

BOURNE, Lincolnshire

This entrant richly deserves this highly coveted prize. The town was immaculately clean, even in the wilder areas of Bourne Woods where littering or dog fouling could so easily be an issue. The impact of the "Bloom" campaign is coming into its own as it manages cleanliness and pride in the environment through education and engagement of the local community.

♥ East Midlands in Bloom Committee Award~

This year we are recognising the splendid work that has taken place at:

Church Vale School

It may be argued that one of the most important things we can do is to inspire young people so that they may aspire to greater things – to learn to be creative and appreciate nature. Hopefully they will mature to lead full and exciting lives and maybe make a better job of things than we have done.

In recognition of the inspired leadership and for the manner and extent that care for the environment is embraced throughout the curriculum by staff the 2009 EMIB Committee Award is made to Church Vale School.

WARSOP, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

♥ EMiB/RHS Britain in Bloom Local Roots Award~

Awarded to:

OADBY & WIGSTON ~ for multi-cultural involvement across all faiths, engaging all people in the Bloom project, spearheaded by Gerald Gardiner.

This area of Leicestershire has a hugely diverse population, but that is a strength which is obvious to all visitors and due to such splendid work that we are privileged to see during the Bloom tour.

Can you all please note that the Local Roots theme continues for 2010 – so entries that highlight either their heritage or cultural diversity are 'in the frame' for an award.

♥ Frank Constable Award for Best Residential Garden~

Awarded to:

Cuckoostone Cottage, Chesterfield Road, Matlock, Derbyshire

Owned and maintained by Pauline and Barrie Wild

This garden is a dream; it has something of everything and all maintained to immaculate standards. Herbaceous, trees, shrubs, marginals, aquatics, a plantsman's paradise with a number of rarities. The low wall allows all going past to enjoy delightful views and half-hidden gems all through the garden. Fantastic design creating mini vistas and habitats combined with organic management. Truly a gem!

The criteria for this award require that the garden should be highly visible to the public, well-planned and laid out; containing good all year round colour and be immaculately maintained.

A curious fact, but once again the Frank Constable Award goes to a garden in the Derbyshire Dales!

♥ East Midlands in Bloom Award for the Best New Permanent Landscape~

Awarded to:

Gorse Field Wood

The planting of more than 45,000 native trees and plants along the relief road at Oakham and the continued development of Gorse Wood demonstrates the vision to protect this important approach to the town. Appropriately chosen species that are well maintained and accessible will ensure that residents will have nature on their doorstep and that wildlife will be protected and habitats enhanced both now and into the long-term future.

OAKHAM, Rutland

♥ East Midlands in Bloom Best School Garden 2009~

Awarded for the third year in succession to:

Spire Infant and Nursery School

"The Spire School garden is exceptional by any standard, even when the standard of school gardens generally is rising!

The links with the curriculum, healthy eating, good garden practice, the environment and wildlife habitat, good management and the quality and care of the site, and the very wide range of plants grown mark it out as excellent."

CHESTERFIELD, Derbyshire

♥ East Midlands in Bloom Best Hotel/Pub Garden or Display 2009~

Awarded once again to:

Ringwood Hall, Brimington

The Hotel is set in 6.5 acres of formal gardens in which guests can wander freely; around the hotel itself are cheerful floral enhancements of baskets and containers, but as one moves away the grounds display lovely trees and shrubberies, lawns, herbaceous borders and rose beds, a parterre and an extensive, organically managed kitchen garden which grows food for use in the kitchens.

CHESTERFIELD, Derbyshire

♥ **East Midlands in Bloom Best Retail/Commercial Premises 2009~**

Awarded once again to:

Market Rasen Racecourse, Legsby Road, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire

The hanging baskets were well conceived and in-house propagation ensured that there were sufficient plants to create a superb display. The Dahlias were particularly striking as were the beds of Lavender and white roses. Old compost is being used as mulch for beds, all green waste is composted and baskets were filled with a peat free compost mix. Lawns and hedges were immaculately maintained. As in 2008 – the course is a horticultural delight – Well Done Market Rasen racecourse!

Do publicise your achievement and encourage the town of Market Rasen to enter East Midlands in Bloom in 2010.

SPECIAL AWARD REPORTS:

Category B: Best School Garden

Best school garden does not have to be attached to a 'Bloom' entry and is judged by the following criteria:

- **SECTION 1:** Usefulness in education and curriculum; maximum marks 25
e.g. clear links evident to use in teaching; use as an outdoor classroom; observation 'hides'; recycling
- **SECTION 2:** Value to wildlife and the environment; maximum marks 25
e.g. presence of native plants; bird feeders; composting
- **SECTION 3:** Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness; maximum marks 25
e.g. vegetables and fruit grown and studied; clear links to food awareness issues; produce eaten in school or taken home.
- **SECTION 4:** Quality of care and maintenance; maximum marks 25
e.g. appropriately tidy; mulched; management during school holidays

Each section is marked out of 25; Total maximum marks obtainable = 100%

Awards

85%+	Gold
75-84%	Silver Gilt
60-74%	Silver
50-59%	Bronze
0-49%	Certificate of achievement

This year this entire category was judged by Rupert Atkinson B.Sc. F.D. Hort. – formerly of Nottingham City Council.

Schools Gardens 2009 – an Overview

The quality of the gardens seen this year appeared to show the influences of the various school garden "grow your own" initiatives. Raised vegetable / fruit beds are now the order of the day, with often one bed per class plus larger beds for gardening clubs. Again the availability of a portfolio of photos / reports for the year is essential to advise the judge successfully. Standards are rising, and for the best awards, no school can afford to stand still! Remember we can only judge what is shown to us!

Rupert Atkinson

Reports are in order of dates judged:

1) School: The Grove School.

London Road, Newark, NG24 3AL.

(Khris Smith, Jill Laird. Gillian Wilkinson – Newark in Bloom.)

The school garden has been going for approx 18 months, and , sofar only a limited number of children have been involved, but are very clearly benefiting from the experience.

They have taken part in the creation of the key facets of the garden created so far – a flower garden with border plants and a dry garden; very well constructed raised beds, and the production of a wide range of fruit and vegetables.

The work diary of one pupil was very well presented.

In terms of Education and Curriculum, only a very few students from the school have been involved to date but the school is to be a hub school for Food Awareness and Healthy eating.

There has clearly been little time to spend on the Wildlife and Environment agenda but that is starting to be addressed. There are compost bins and a water butt, and leaves are being collected in plastic bags for use on the beds in future years.

In terms of Management and quality of care and maintenance, the site is tidy and has moved along way, by dint of hard work, from the old County Council dumping site it has been. The site has been cleared of a lot of debris, trees have been shredded to surface paths. A local farmer has given manure for the beds. Although the site is remote from the school there is a shed / toilet / tool-shed.

Its early days for this garden but it has still come along way in a short time – future years will reward the work being put in.

Suggestions and ideas for the future: More water butts to negate the need for mains water; some more quality top soil; netting for beds. Bird boxes / feeders/animal and insect habitats, bat boxes, a pond! – aimed at more emphasis on the environment – more use of the garden by regular classes.

(The idea of adopting, pruning etc, the old fruit trees in an area nearer to the school is excellent.)

Judged on 6th July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson.

Award: **CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT.**

2)School: Wynndale Primary School.

Address: Wynndale Drive, Mansfield, Notts. NG18 3NY

(Jayne Gibbons – H.M.)

(220 Pupils. 4-11 years.)

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Website has historical development record. Each class year has a specific garden to look after. Nursery beds, Orchard and bulb area, Japanese garden, bog garden, Flower bed, vegetable garden. Enthusiastic external horticulturalist works with the school. Composting. Good design and execution.

Very good portfolio records.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment). Bird feeders / bird boxes / log habitat piles. Wormery. New trees planted have “mulch mats” and are well staked.

Water to the veg garden is mains rather than from rain water collection. Bog garden doing well. Renovation work has been attempted on the willow bower.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) Range of food grown in veg area which is protected by woven fencing. Many plants grown from seed including carrots / beans / nasturtiums/ sweet-corn.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Most areas are well kept and well maintained. Parents are involved – family tree planting day looking for ways to involve parents in other aspects of gardens.. Banking planted with heathers to secure – very good. Veg area looks a little run down.

There is new well laid plastic honeycomb mesh on grass slopes to resist wear.

Proposals / suggestions for future. Willow bower needs moisture retention measures or be relocated to more moist conditions. Veg area should be equipped with larger raised beds.

This garden has many excellent features although the vegetable garden is less well developed than the average school judged this year.

Judged on 6th July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson

Award: **SILVER GILT**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
21	17	17	20	75

3) School: Thrussington C of E Primary School

Address: Hoby Road, Thrussington, Leics, LE7 4TH.

(Katrina Cass, David and Pauline Alton.)

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Outdoor classroom, set under shade and with chipped bark surface. Regular, well attended gardening club on Thursdays and the generally children work on the whole garden. The greenhouse is used to propagate plants from seed.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment) Eco school principles. Leave sars collected for composting, there are several compost bins. Bird boxes, bird feeders hedgehog houses, Large habitat pile for mini beasts, Link to Wildlife trust – growing on of native trees / shrubs for forest; bark paths. One or two trees planted. Willow bower. Insect “house”. Some water butts.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) Excellent new beds. Lettuce/sweetcorn/leeks/courgettes/beans/carrots/beetroot/peas/potatoes/onions/rhubarb. Small orchard and soft fruit area – maturing nicely. Any veg / fruit not eaten by children is sold to the local pub- recently taking potatoes grown in bags.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). The whole garden lends itself to involvement and use. The new raised beds are very good. New, good quality paths have been laid, as well as a new “performance” area. The new rockery is excellent, as is the new gazebo. There is a play course and good planting round the school. The school holds a school open gardens day each year.

Proposals / suggestions for future. Replanting of trees where necessary; install some raised beds for veg – separate perennial bed?- clean up and expand veg bed area. Eg into school meals. Exploit greenhouse – keep cool.

Regular record / diary of Eco club activities; replace eco / wildlife posters.

There has been a great improvement since 2008. All concerned should be very proud of the current condition and use of the garden.

Judged on 6th July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson

Award: **SILVER GILT**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
18	20	18	23	79

4) School: Rosliston Under Fives Pre -school.

Address: Village Hall, Rosliston, Derbyshire, DE12 8JG

(Sarah Hill, Heather Hooper, Gaynor Roberts, Sue Harris.)

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) All children have a chance to see and join in garden activities. A miniature garden with pergola /raised beds/ shrubs / climbers / Veg / flowering plants. Well planted garden. Enthusiastic support.

Children water the plants -building plant knowledge. Children involved in planning of garden and they bring in plants themselves. Children are introduced to plant awareness and knowledge. Sunflowers planted. Children go on country walks. The garden is used in many curriculum objectives.

Excellent photo record of years activities- “Our Garden 2008”, tying garden activities to learning and understanding and social and creative development.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment). Insect tubes and box, bird boxes, bird feeders, nectar feeder. Log pile (well investigated!) - children seek out insects and snails. Composting started this year. Water butt on order through Tesco scheme.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.)

New raised beds. Growing carrots, lettuce, gourds!, potatoes / cabbages /strawberries (in a hanging wellie basket!). Herbs including sage and lemon balm. Produce is taken home or sampled in school.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Nicely laid out small area, but the garden genuinely gives an excellent introduction to gardening features and ideas, and its kept in good order. It is clear that the local community is very supportive, and the garden is

clearly visible from houses and road. Signs done by children. – Parents and local residents involved. Great scarecrows from competition.

Proposals / suggestions for future:- Wish list of weather station, greenhouse and fragrant / sensory plants! – still working to develop extra beds next to building.

Judged on 7th July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson

Award: **SILVER**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
20	17	17	20	74

5) School: St Peters C of E Primary School.

Address: Station Road, Market Bosworth, CV133 0NP

(Joanne Stone. Michelle Clement/ Chris Hooker – MB in Bloom)

~250 pupils in 9 classes.

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Only key stage 1 (5-7) are involved in the gardening so far.(Initiative only started in 2008). Gardening club 3-4 on Thursdays, Feb to Nov. Seats / outdoor classroom in wildlife area. Decorative tubs planted by children.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment) Wildlife area currently being renovated / constructed – open to children during all schooldays. "Friends" and parents involvement. Log piles / pond for dipping – newts etc. bug hutch. Willow bower planted. Composting – some water butts.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) Two excellent raised beds, growing good range of vegetables etc. Other raised beds in other areas of site.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Plants sold. Parents / Friends / Teachers involved, and will maintain in holidays. The garden and site are well kept. A good start has been made to an annual portfolio. Advice is being taken from Wildlife Trust and local Bloom representatives.

Proposals / suggestions for future. Already planned is a greenhouse and shed. Demonstrably use the garden in healthy eating and in curriculum of other subjects and with other classes, and keep portfolio. More water butts are suggested – for self sufficiency.

Only recently started, good progress is being made and there is clearly a lot of support for the project.

Judged on 7th July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson.

Award: **SILVER.**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
14	15	15	17	61

6) School: Bridgewater Primary School.

Address: Bridgewater Drive, Northampton. NN3 3AF.

(Sue Biddle – Teacher.)

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Designs done by classes for a large pond area in a flood prevention area. Reception class have a garden area wher they grow some veg. Two planters outside every class in which class decides aheth to plant, - every year group has own small raised beds. There is a gardening club – sunflowers have bee+-n grown this year.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment) New pond area – trees/ shrubs/water-bog plants installed. No bird feeders / boxes/bat boxes as yet. Composting is in its infancy, with some roller compost bins but some water butts are in situ. Bridgewater is an Eco school. There are plans for a new willow bed, for which children trench and watered.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) Some herbs are being grown in reception garden. There are 3 small beds for each year group in market garden area. – in the holidays they have to take plants home with them. The school has no kitchen.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Parents and staff were involved with construction and planting of the pond area. The school has links with the Co-op and Woodland Trust, and have used the Morrisons scheme for tools etc. It is an RHS school guidelines / training/seed bank.

Proposals / suggestions for future. Comprehensive annual portfolio needed of work and use in Education and Curriculum/ food awareness. Perhaps four "Garden Club" managed raised beds to illustrate crop rotation. (Science curriculum)

The school buildings and grounds have only been in existence a couple of years, and although much progress is being made, it is still early days for the garden.

Judged on 7th July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson.

Award: **SILVER.**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
16	12	17	15	60

7) School: Mablethorpe Primary School.

Address: Mablethorpe Lincolnshire. LN12 2QE

(Kitty Cox)

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Gardening club meets every Wednesday night. Individual classes do get involved in gardening – watering and feeding every lunchtime. There are several low raised beds which are in a difficult position and which they plan to move. Children have planted bulbs and helped plant trees and tend the raised beds and the raised tyre veg gardens. A "pavilion" is used for outside classes.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment) Growing willow for intended new willow hide and for repair. Bird feeders and bird boxes and wild area for insects. Pond dipping in small pond. A number of water butts in strategic locations, with some composting bins – the compost will be used in the Autumn for the first time in the gardens. There are fruit trees and a wild flower area.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) A range of veg is grown including parsnips/beans / carrots/rhubarb/peas/onions/blackcurrants and herbs – 19 lbs of potatoes have been harvested and sold this year. Some veg is cooked and a lot used in school.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). A number of well kept and planted tubs dot the site, and round the "pavilion". Soil conditioner has been used. Mr and Mrs Cox will be able to support the garden more next year – Mrs Cox is retiring! (There was no detailed portfolio of annual activities)

(Nursery school has own garden- interesting and well kept.)

Proposals / suggestions for future. Suggest more water butts and new area of large raised beds to be able to practice Crop rotation. Perhaps each class could have their own productive bed. There seems to be a real opportunity for the school to build on solid foundations and integrate gardening further into the curriculum and support food awareness. Produce detailed portfolio of activities.

Judged on 8th July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson.

Award: **SILVER**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
15	15	18	18	66

8) School: St Mary's C of E Primary School.

Address: Brampton Road, Melton Mowbray, Leics, LE13 0NA

(Cilla Saxilby)

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Each class has a section of the three large raised beds and they decide what to grow. A wide range of plants are being grown, mostly veg but also flowers – mostly from seed. There is a tool shed and a greenhouse. They are using the gardens and the theme of "grow your own" as a link to history curriculum.

(There are clearly other uses in the curriculum that the gardens are being used for but there is no annual portfolio record to report them.)

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment). There are water butts and and compost is being made and used. Residual fruit etc compost from school is being collected. There is wildlife area but visiting was not possible because it needs considerable renovation. There are several bird boxes and feeders etc.

There is a wildlife club which gardens.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) A wide range of vegetables etc are being grown in the raised beds, but also some herbs and flowers such as Verbena / Poppies / Sunflowers / Marigolds. Year 6 cooked a meal for staff etc which included potatoes and other self grown produce.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Clean and well maintained. Benches etc in good order. Caretaker involved during the holidays.

The wildlife area appears to need a lot of work and is inaccessible.

Proposals / suggestions for future:- Continue to increase compost content of beds. Increase consumption of produce from raised beds – at home or in school and **provide a portfolio illustrating, in word and picture, the use made of garden in the curriculum and plant knowledge.** Renovate wildlife area- pond to bog garden.

Judged on 8th July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson

Award: **SILVER**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
19	14	19	18	70

9) School: Elizabeth Woodville Primary School.

Address: Glebe Road, Groby, Leicester. LE6 0GT

(Andrew Pridmore – HM. Margaret Purves / Mollie Matson – G in Bloom.

Rosemary).

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Every class is able to see and discuss planting, particularly summer planting at the front of the school; bulbs planted for spring. An "in-house Eco Committee works on environmental issues. Outdoor classroom used - among other things – for lessons on seed disposal etc and landscape painting etc. Fruit and veg remainders are collected and composted. Gardening club Friday after school (up to 20) – also go to local allotment.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment) Some bird boxes and fat feeders. Insect house. Raised pond with mesh and lock health and safety security – full of pond life. Future plans for 3-5 water butts. Two compost bins.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) Healthy eating posters emphasise need for balanced diet. In the school grounds is a raised bed with a range of veg and flowers – Veg tends to be eaten by garden club – not used systematically in school kitchen. Raised beds in main play area.

There is involvement in a local allotment with a good range of plants.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Involved with Wildlife trust on pond dipping. Display beds / containers in good condition at front of school. However general tidiness and maintenance at rear of school suffers from lack of barriers to play area.

Proposals / suggestions for future. Planned are solar powered fountain and water butts.

Suggest more bird boxes and feeders and bat boxes – also emphasis on plant recognition. Protect pond / raised bed area with barrier.

Portfolio of annual school gardening / allotment activities – and also bed planting plans.

Judged on 9th July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson.

Award: **BRONZE**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
16	16	15	10	57

10) School: Keyham Lodge School.
Address: Keyham Lane, Leicester. LE5 1FG.
(E.B.D. SCHOOL – 50 STUDENTS 11-16 YRS)
(Andy Hastie.)

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Teaching is very much one to one; there is an ad hoc gardening club and outdoors is much used in general support and education. In 09 summer the project was to design / clear and plant a run down area. (The pond will be the centre of the next project.) Any food grown is often used in the kitchen – including herbs. Students have visited the Botanic Gardens. Spring bulbs have been planted.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment) Wildlife area with pond, which is used for pond dipping. Bird feeders and a bird box. “Butterfly” plants grown. Will be planting new native trees on boundaries – and will be growing trees from seeds provided by “Trees for Schools” .

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) They grow some tomatoes and cucumbers and have four small raised beds which are maintained and watered by the small gardening club. Leeks / sweet-corn/beans/courgettes / strawberries – and cabbages for Autumn. Herbs are grown and used in the kitchen.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). There is a good design for garden renovation, and display boards in the corridors. Well stocked planters in evidence. Some photos from work were available.

The nature of the student intake makes consistent work and maintenance of the grounds etc, difficult to organise. Since 2007, when this school was last judged, the general standard has increased across all schools,

Proposals / suggestions for future. Water butts fed from roof; Create compost bins; many more bird and bat boxes; plans for veg planting in beds which can illustrate rotation of crops?; renovate pond. Portfolio of photos with text to place in year timescale. Judged on 9th July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson.

Award: **Silver**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
14	15	17	19	65

11) School: Water Leys Primary School.
Address: Guilford Drive, Wigston, Leicester, LE6 IHG
(Neil Elson, John Tomkins, Simon Lucas, Sally Spicer).
~370 pupils.

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Gardening club every lunchtime. 17 pupils. (2 groups per team). Watering club. Outdoor Classroom. Yrs 1-5 all involved in some gardening at some level. Affiliated to Allotment Association. Experiment with different fertilisers in African bag gardens. Outdoor learning even in winter.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment) Eco school. Children designed willow figures – excellent. External visits to Ashby resource centre. Pond area – pond dipping. Wormery. Recycle fruit waste. Comfrey fertiliser. Interactive foxes on the site! Native area for mini-beasts. Bird feeders, bird boxes. Water recycling . No bat boxes as yet.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) Two_“allotment sites” – one with raised beds No kitchen on site. Wide range of produce is grown and eaten on site or taken home, or sold. Over summer holiday harvested items are organised to go to homes of gardening club. Herb garden.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Good linkages with allotments association. First permanent Eco School in Leicestershire.

Well organised and well utilised garden site with attractive bedding.

Proposals / suggestions for future.

Judged on 9TH July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson.

Award: **SILVER GILT.**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
19	19	18	19	75

12) School: Creswell Infants School

Address: Gypsy Lane, off Elmton Road, Creswell, Worksop, Notts. S80 4JE

(Cllr Bob Glassey, Janet Sayles, Annette Pearson).

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Covered outdoor schoolroom – with plant boxes –well kept.

Gardening Club after school. Each class has its own raised bed, most plants grown from seed. Classes also have own pots etc near classroom. Aim is to grow veg that fits the school terms and the seasons. Pictures of gardens use don IT screensavers. New trees have had competition grass removed around them.

Produce use din education – example - pea pods used in sorting for maths.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment). The maturing, mainly native trees on filed edges have identification labels on them. Several bird feeders and bird boxes. Composting is now part of growing system. Bug homes / log piles. Netting for rabbits. Emphasis on bees and butterfly habitats. Water is being collected off shed roofs (New shed planned near the raised beds will have rain butts). Have collected through Morrison's and Tesco for mini –beast homes and water butts.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) A Healthy eating school, herbs, raspberries and black currants used in smoothies. Potatoes to home with pupils – methods of cooking reported. Salad leaves eaten in wraps. New small raised beds in 2008, to add to several already in place. Cookery classes use produce.

Classes do basic planting of veg..

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Good quality of care. Weeds controlled. Children protective of assets. Committed staff looking for new external connections. (Sadly sensory garden has had to be removed but is being replanted).

Proposals / suggestions for future. Involvement of Science classes, Art etc, in use of garden areas. Potting shed with water butts. More product from seed. Dedicated herb garden. New larger raised beds to practice and teach crop rotation. More external contacts.

Judged on 13th July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson

Award: **SILVER GILT**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
20	20	17	20	77

13) School: Greenfields Community School,.

Address: Orange Gardens, Nottingham, NG2 2JE.

(Terry Smith – HM. Sarah Thomas.)

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Gardening and cooking club Thursday., another Monday.(~14 per group). Produce is cooked. Nursery school has own garden – planted and grown from seed. Every class involved in garden – each has own bed. Every class has bins for compost materials. Outdoor areas used as classrooms.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment) Very good paper composting compounds-classes contribute compost. Nesting boxes with regular nesting birds / bird feeders-bath.

Water recycling minimal as yet. Wild flower meadow. Solar panelled weather station!

Through Greenwood project a native tree copse has been planted.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) Each class has own small raised bed. Mostly veg grown. Herbs used in the kitchen. Links with two farms. Working with Creative Partnerships. Lead school for food for life. "Responsible Schools initiative includes gardening. Wide range of veg etc grown.

The next door is the Arkwright Meadows Community Garden adds to the skill available.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Forest schools training. Involved in Building Schools for the Future initiative. There is gardener involved one day a week.

Throughout the school the beds appear well kept and the beds lining the school walls are excellent and full of colour; area near reception, and other areas, spring bulbs. Good use of grasses. Two excellent garden sheds.

The grounds enhance the whole environment of the school.

Proposals / suggestions for future. Excellent idea for three or four raised beds to illustrate crop rotation(in plans). Suggest develop woodland area with willow/hazel etc for “secret area”(in plan). Aim to be self sufficient in water and compost. Suggest pond to enhance wildlife curriculum.

Judged on 13TH July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson.

Award: **SILVER GILT**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
20	16	19	22	77

14) School: Keyworth Primary and Nursery School.

Address: Walton Drive, Keyworth, Nottinghamshire. NG12 5FN

Hazel Little, Jill Green. Peter Guest.

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Some experimentation on effects of types of manure on growth! Children planned “The Dragon”. Growing from seed and planted bulbs and tubers. T.A. supply 3 hrs per week of garden support.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment). Great scheme to utilise water from school roof, via underground pipe, over distance to feed new pond. Substantial new pond just created with platform used for classes. Willow bower. Bird feeders but no bat or bird boxes apparent. Bird table. Long planted bank feature in shape of dragon leads from school to pond. Have two water butts.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) Links with Keyworth Allotment Society. Beds growing veg and they sell produce to parents – in quantity beans/sweetcorn/potatoes/sprouts/broccoli/strawberries/beetroot/onions/pumpkins

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Dedicated balcony area for potting etc. Good paths have been created to open up grounds. Excellent pond scheme and hanging baskets as part of inventive grounds development. Involved in Food for Life. No portfolio available of annual activities.

Proposals / suggestions for future. Developments will continue, particularly to establish planting on dragon!. Portfolio needed.

Judged on 13TH July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson.

Award: **SILVER**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
14	20	17	17	68

15) School: Crossdale Drive Primary School.

Address: Crossdale Drive, Keyworth, Nottinham. NG12 5HP

(Peter Creswell. Susan Cutell.)

(Viewing of this school garden was arranged at short notice and hindered by rain storm!)

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.)

There is a green team for each class. Although there was no portfolio illustrating children’s involvement in the garden, there was evidence on class walls of interest and involvement. Outside classroom available.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment) Good pond, pond dipping, discovery area. Home made bird feeders, bird boxes, mini beast wall. Water butts interconnected- roof run off. More water butts with new poly-tunnel – linked with drip watering system. Compost bins. Native plants. Willows and other trees planted.

Eco school.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.)

5 raised beds – new area being constructed with poly-tunnel. Range of veg grown. Herbs in sensory area.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). The school holds a “Green Day” on 5th June. Tools from Morrisons scheme. Links to Wildlife Trust.

It is very clear that a lot of effort and good work has been put in; it should be interesting to see the new developments coming through next year – supported by a portfolio of activities.

(Judged on 13TH July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson.)

Award: **SILVER**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
15	18	15	17	65

16) School: Peele Community College.

Address: 84 Little London, Long Sutton, Lincolnshire, PE12 9LF

(Josh Reeve and Charlie Thomas – students. Pam Mellors- Teacher and Kay Jenkinson) 650 students.

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum). 20/30 boys in lunchtime club. 5 other pupils are deeply involved – working with mentors towards ASDAN award. There is a good garden project report drawn from their efforts. “The Glory Boys” have also adopted a raised bed! Container is used for light/growth project. Two of the raised beds are used by science classes – one class studying bed temperatures..

Section 2. (Value to wildlife and the environment.) Weather station with solar panels and windmill powers irrigation system on one of the beds. Pond used for pond dipping. Numerous bird boxes and feeders. Bat box. Bug hotel, wild area with buddleias etc – many insects. two new large compost bins, four large interconnected water butts (more planned). They have green site on the internet.

Section 3. (Contribution to Healthy Eating and Food Awareness.) Many raised beds growing a wide range of vegetables, much already harvested at time of visit. Produce is sold – raised over £500 this year – sales to staff , but the kitchen also uses herbs and will take lettuce and other veg. Soft fruit including blueberries grown – garden adjoins the cookery room and more produce will be used there in future. All plants are grown from seed in large greenhouse and there is a considerable 2/3 year old orchard area which should be very productive in the future.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Decorative shrubs / roses in good condition at locations round the site. Sensory garden in good order and generally the school site and garden is well maintained and supported by the whole school. There are strong links to the school form Long Sutton in Bloom, with active weekly support.

(the Nursery school: has own small beds, many with flowers but also small raised beds with radish / potatoes / salad products/and sweet-corn for later in the year. Kids plant / grow from seed/ eat! Sensory area with herbs – mini-beast hunts!)

Future Projects: As above ideas contained in text but also wormery planned, further development of the garden incorporating new Eco ideas alongside status as Science Technology College. There is a plan to heat the greenhouse from the solar panelled W. Station.

The garden has developed from the excellent start last year into a comprehensive site. There is now a feeling of permanence and integration into the school.

Judged on 14th July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson

Award: **GOLD**

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Total Marks
21	23	20	22	86

17) School: Donington Cowley Endowed Primary School

Address: Towndam Lane, Donington, Spalding, Lincs, PE11 4TR

(Julie Baxter, Ingrid Williams, Gill Lunn, Jenny Bailey)

236 Pupils.

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Gardening club meets weekly, for younger children who have mini-beasts on the curriculum. Sunflowers grown from seed. Children enthusiastically weed and maintain the main "Wildlife garden" and two children look after the major memorial garden. Some veg is grown and pupils take some home. Children have taken home pumpkins as part of size competition.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment). Well designed, impressive large pond with v good planting forms the centre-piece of the main garden area – given generally ver to wildlife. Bird box with remote camera. Buddleias. Bird boxes, bird feeders, "bee" house, insect houses. Hedgehog house. Log piles. Very big water butts. Compost bins should produce mulch this year. Pond used for pond dipping

Pond full of life already, frogs / whirly-gig beetles/water boatmen/pond snails.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) Hindered by having no kitchen. Limited veg etc growing, and no dedicated raised beds. Where available children take veg home or sell. Grow some strawberries / potatoes/carrots/ lettuce /radishes / courgettes/ pumpkins .There is young apple tree and a vine (with grapes forming).

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Gardens areas are all well maintained and organised. Pond area impressive in design and now mature. Garden looked after by staff in hols. Seven Rowan trees have been planted this year and are doing well.

Proposals / suggestions for future. In absence of kitchen, evidence herb / veg growing etc in a portfolio. More reporting evidence of activities generally and use of gardens in education It would be good if an area could be found to establish raised vegetable beds and rotation system?

Judged on 14th July by Rupert Atkinson

Award: **SILVER**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
16	24	10	20	70

18) School: Bourne Westfield Primary School.

Address: Westbourne Park, Bourne, Lincs, PE10 9QS

(Tim Bright, Maureen Cornell, Ivan Fuller)

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Gardening club evidenced involved in watering /composting/raising and planting sweet-corn also creating paper pots. Experimenting with shade/sun, growing media. Open air classroom and veg area now open at play-times. Pond used in habitat curriculum.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment). Pond well utilised – full of wildlife. Water butts in use – more being purchased. Native snowdrops / bluebells in woodland area.. Native bog and water plants. Composting (incl school collected waste) – used in the raised beds.. Birdfeeders / bird boxes / bat box.

Plant beds dotted round the site.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) More raised beds this year. Wide range of veg and salad products, plus strawberries etc grown. Aiming at rotation system. Veg almost all grown from seed in greenhouse, planted by pupils. Kitchen takes any product offered, including herbs. School has mobile ovens to allow cooking of items in classrooms.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Morrison vouchers used to buy gloves / spades/w. barrows. Joining food for life. Parents getting involved, and will be encouraged. U3A may get involved. A rota will be drawn up to tend gardens in the holiday. Links with Bourne Woods.

Portfolio of years activities not available.

Proposals / suggestions for future:- New wildflower area planned, and an orchard. More water butts. Raised beds will be introduced for each class. Further development of wildlife area.

Judged on 14th July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson

Award: **SILVER GILT**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
20	20	21	21	82

19) School: Caistor Cof E and Methodist Primary School.

Address: Southdale, Caistor, Lincs. LN7 6LY.

Mark Jacklin.

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Children have planted spring bulbs, helped plant a line of cherry trees, helped raise money by growing veg etc and potting veg and other plants, and were involved in willow bower.

Outside classroom possible in willow bower and woods.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment) Excellent willow bowers (best seen in East Midlands this year!) No water recycling as yet- but two butts now bought to install. Fruit composters near each classroom. Pond has frogs and newts.

There is an emphasis on eco / environ issues in the school.

Bird feeders / boxes / bat boxes. Eco school.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) Four raised beds which "produce loads of food" for children to take home. Green house is utilised to bring on plants. School has signed on for food for life. Compost utilised.

(The school has no kitchen), but recent exercise to emphasise healthy foods!

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Well kept sensory garden and fountain next to play area, with garden related mural. Raised beds did not appear well kept or maintained. Willow bowers v good. New trees need metre diameter areas cleared round them to prevent weed/ grass competition – for three years from planting.

The school has used Morrison Vouchers to obtain gardening equipment.

(No portfolio of activities available so difficult to assess full range of garden use in curriculum.)

Proposals / suggestions for future. Nectar area and thinning of woodland. Improve raised beds/ clear tree bases / self sufficiency in water for beds / portfolio of activities through year.

Judged on 16th July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson.

Award: **BRONZE**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
15	17	14	13	59

20) School: Woodlands Primary School.

Address: Pinewood Crescent, Grimsby. DN33 1RJ

Jayne Curtiss.

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) 2/3 times per week the gardening group meet – watering/plating/harvesting etc. Excellent display of model gardens, designed / constructed with / by children. Many trees and shrubs (all native!!) planted by pupils on school boundaries and in wildlife area. Outdoor classrooms being developed – in general the grounds are widely used. Many spring bulbs are used.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment)Eco "friends" in every class. Wildlife "park" now under construction, butterfly area and bog garden (many insects) constructed – pond will be built in 2009. Log piles. Many trees planted, every class has a bird feeder. There are bird and bat boxes. Compost bins are utilised – but not a large capacity. Water recycling minimal – only one water butt.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) There is no kitchen on site. Fruit trees have been planted, lots of potatoes grown in bags and containers; three raised beds – another planned. Greenhouse (will grow from seed next year); garden shed; Parents use product in adult cookery classes.

Good range of veg and soft fruit. Evidence that availability of fruit and veg to children has made some breakthrough in consumption.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Links to company Novatis and to Greenheart. Won Pot Council Northern Potato Harvest award 08! Many tools available (Morrisons' scheme). Pupils accompanied round site and were very aware. The site is clean and well maintained and the garden and wildlife area developments are being well planned with clear support from Head and Governors.

Landscape gardener acts as advisor.

Planned developments: Green roofs on new buildings, continued development of wild area – incl tree house and pond. Rotation practice. More use of food in cookery. More use of greenhouse.

Proposals / suggestions for future. keep portfolio record of yearly activities. More comprehensive water recycling.

Judged on 16TH July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson.

Award: **SILVER GILT**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
18	21	18	20	77

21) School: **Humberston Cloverfields Primary School.**

Address: Humberston, Cleethorpes.

(Pauline Heaton, and Jeff Blanchard – Cleethorpes in Bloom,)

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Pupils do arrange of planting, watering and weeding work. Gardening club every Tuesday – other classes have rotas. Full range of work done. Children worked on design of willow bower and I planting. Plants in seasonal planters on site grown from seed in greenhouse – including summer plantings. Weed problem in newly broken ground in 2008 combated by children measuring up, and putting in place plastic sheeting! In future each class will have own zone to look after. Experimented by growing hyacinths in various ways!

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment) Pond still in use but new pond liner needed and planned – part of old pond will be a bog area. Three water butts in bed area – more planned and will be needed. Home made bird food. Compost bins in place but more capacity needed – will use Morrisons' scheme. Bird boxes / feeders (no bat boxes as yet). Sensory garden well advanced in construction – good sculpture.

(It is advised that the cultivation and sale of Himalayan Balsam is discontinued!)

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) Low profile raised beds now in full production, operating a rotation system. Own signs produced for each veg – soft fruit area has been started – and a new greenhouse is being well utilised. New paths throughout raised beds area.

Onions and beetroot pickled and sold. Other produce sold or used in cookery classes e.g. even in pizzas / ratatouille / potato salads etc – some taken home by gardening club. Very wide range of veg etc grown!

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). In summer “kids club” get involved with watering. Good tool-shed.

There have been many significant advances since last years judging, and the site is in good condition and well kept. Photo Album. Organic accredited school. RHS level 3, working on level 4. The school is clearly committed to to, and focused on, improving the garden and its facilities.

Proposals / suggestions for future. Continue the good work – note various comments above.

Judged on 16TH July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson.

Award: **SILVER GILT**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
21	16	22	21	80

22) School: Spire Infant and Nursery School.

Address: Derby Road, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 2EU.

(Valerie Farrow, Jane Garnett, John Ramsey)

112 pupils. 5-7 years

WINNER 2009

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) The uses made of the gardens are too numerous to mention in detail but include plant life cycles / mini-beast hunts / designing of veg garden / making meals and fruit salads / Poems about fruit and veg! / counting veg and plants / measuring heights of plants / climates needed for growing / recycling / plant drawing / Respecting the environment / creating graphs. 5 gardening groups of 8 per week- doing tasks from growing from seed, to cleaning used seed trays. Successful cuttings taken from plants. Photos of gardens on table mats. Open days for the public. Outdoor classrooms in secret garden and, effectively, right across site.

Well dressing display of very good quality.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment) Bug houses and log piles. Hedgehog houses / bird feeders / bird boxes, blue tits nesting this year)/bird baths/ new bat boxes. Wildflower border (including teasels). Sunflowers and buddleia. Trees planted in earlier years in good condition. School uses next door community garden for pond dipping. Native plants in abundance. Extensive flower borders and "secret garden"

Composting and water recycling on "industrial " scale!

Bat boxes constructed with help of local "bat man".

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) Section 4 (Quality of care and maintenance). Soft fruit area / veg beds for each class / greenhouse / salad "bar" area, **new poly-tunnel with temperature control** and power points for winter propagation./ many interstitial plants and shrubs. Cold frames. Herbs grown – chives/ mint / parsley / oregano / rosemary etc – supplied to kitchen. High volume of vegetables used in cooking and meals on site.

Garden Organic Winner 2008 – " how does your garden grow" competition.

Chesterfield in Bloom Best School Garden.

Salad plates served at parents lunch.

Growing Brussels sprouts and parsnips for Christmas dinner.

Section 4 (Management and general quality of care and maintenance).

The gardens and fruit and vegetable areas of a very high quality and very well maintained. Slab paths service all the site, giving excellent access to all areas.

Proposals / suggestions for future.

Shelter planned for parents – us later for outdoor classes. Now trees are mature develop treed / wild are with adventure paths. Judges suggestion – pond!

"The Spire School garden exceptional by any standard, even when the standard of school gardens generally is rising!

The links with the curriculum, healthy eating, good garden practice, the environment and wildlife habitat, good management and the quality and care of the site, and the very wide range of plants grown mark it out as excellent."

Judged on 17TH July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson.

Award: **GOLD**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
24	23	24	24	95

23) School: All Saints C of E Junior School.

Address: Hurds Hollow, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3LA

(Caroline Newton – HM, Karen Jenkinson – Matlock in Bloom)

297 pupils.

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) Gardening Club. Year 3 science project. Outside classrooms available in the wildlife area and there is a stage in the centre of the site where classes take place.

New – courtyard inside school buildings with soft fruit bushes and even a fig!

Children have planted bulbs – daffs and native bluebells.

As yet propagation from seed is limited.

Section 2.. (Value to wild life and the environment) Hold annual Eco day. Bird boxes – one fitted with remote camera and pictures of chicks extensively viewed this year.

Bird feeders and bat boxes. Extensive wildlife area with willow tunnels. Hide area –food for feeders in bin.

Wild flower area. Bluebells and the apples are all native species.

Composting bins – wood frame and plastic. Some water recycling.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) Orchard of a number of apple and plum varieties now maturing and fruiting.

Kiwi fruit has been planted along the south facing boundary. Tudor herb garden is well tended with rosemary / fennel / sage / chives/ lily of the valley / thyme / fennel / mint etc. Veg area growing sweet-corn, courgettes, tomatoes, kidney beans , carrots, beetroot, mangetout, broad beans, radishes, lettuce bed and start of soft fruit area. Borage. Comfrey. Companion planting. Cooking apples cooked for crumbles etc. Some veg etc used in meals – others taken home.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance).

The site is well kept, well organised, and will be maintained by the caretaker through the summer holidays etc. The woodland area / willow bowers need some tending – the latter needs branches binding in.

Proposals / suggestions for future. Photo album with commentary as yearly record or links to curriculum. Substantial potting shed and store will be installed in 2009 summer hols. Greenhouse is being acquired.

A record of activities through the year was not available on the day of inspection.

Judged on 17TH July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson

Award: **GOLD**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
22	23	19	21	85

24) School: Buxton Junior School.

Address: Mosley Road, Buxton, SK17 9DR.

(Cecilia Minter, Dianne Smith, Jean Todd, Jane McGrother)

Section 1. (Usefulness in Education and Curriculum.) There is an enthusiastic gardening club of approx 25 who meet at lunchtimes with various visiting supporters!

All year groups now have a raised bed to work on.

There are two internal quadrangles that have been cleaned up (pressure washed) and used for a range of plants – some grown from seed. Crocus, hyacinths and daffodils have been used to brighten school entrance with some original planters.

In 2009 the run down rockery at the entrance has been completely cleared and replanted – children very involved with planting of all the above.

Generally seeds are not generally brought on for planting because of the lack of a greenhouse, but some children grow some seeds at home and full use is made of gift plants. Classes do utilise the gardens – a science project on growing beans, the measuring of plants, the study of the link from herbs, and their medicinal uses in Tudor times.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment). In the wildlife area nettles, habitat piles and two hedgehog houses are in place. An excellent plastic matting track allows easy access. Logs have been put in place for an outdoor classroom. The Wild life trust were involved with the planning. They are actively making and using composting and have bat boxes, bird boxes and feeders, some of which they have made themselves.

A wildflower meadow area has been sown successfully.

An attractive new shrub bed has been planted t the side of the buildings.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) Four high raised beds have and a herb bed "wheel" have been added to the four low level raised beds . carrots, peas, lettuce, garlic, potatoes, strawberries, herbs, cabbage, and courgettes and pumpkins have been / are being grown.

A mini orchard has been planted, although will need some more maintenance.

A new cookery class has been started for parents and pupils – this will begin to use some of the produce. Currently there is a combination of eating raw on site or taking home.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). Planted areas have few weeds and generally the planted areas are very well kept, clean and organised. The renovated rockery at the entrance and other planting at the front, are particularly effective.

Proposals / suggestions for future: All last years plans and suggestions have been followed up – apart from the greenhouse, which is the next logical step to allow the full process from seed to eating the plant to be followed through. The use of product in cooking and eating, in house.

Judged on 17th July 2009 by Rupert Atkinson

Award: **SILVER GILT.**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
20	20	18	20	78

25). SCHOOL: HERBERT STRUTT PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Address: Thornhill Avenue. Belper.

(Roz Bullimore)

Section 1.(Usefulness in education and curriculum.) Outdoor classroom and performance areas. Vegetable garden with green house and 8 raised planters – one for each class. Reasonable well stocked beds.

Section 2. (Value to wild life and the environment). Composting taking place for recycling in raised beds. Ornamental pond (steep sides for wildlife) Hedgehog boxes and bug huts. Some native planting and small wildflower meadow. Eco school with grey water and solar panels.

Section 3. (Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness.) Small amount of produce is used in the school kitchens. Special children's kitchen for cooking.

Section 4 (Management and quality of care and maintenance). New building and new school grounds are very well landscaped, beds well mulched. Caretaker manages site over school holidays.

Judged on 14th July by Doug Stacey and Jo Tarrant.

Award: **SILVER**

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4	TOTAL MARKS
20	20	18	20	78

SPECIAL AWARDS 2009

Category: Best hotel/pub garden or display

A Special Awards Entry form has to be completed prior to the closing date (end of April) in order to be eligible for consideration of this award. A maximum of 15 minutes is allowed for judging and this time is in addition to that allocated to a Bloom Entry (if applicable). It does not need to be attached to a 'Bloom' entry and is judged by the following criteria:

- SECTION 1: Attractiveness of planting; maximum marks **40**
e.g. Colour schemes; design to function; use of scent;
duration of attractiveness across seasons; innovation
- SECTION 2: Sustainability; maximum marks **20**
e.g. use of low-peat composts; mulching; composting;
water retaining gels; use of species tolerant of dry conditions
- SECTION 3: Quality of care and maintenance; maximum marks **40**
e.g. edged up lawns; minimal weeds; mulching;
health of plants; lack of pests and diseases

Total maximum marks obtainable = **100%**

Awards

85%+	Gold
75-84%	Silver Gilt
60-74%	Silver
50-59%	Bronze
0-49%	Certificate of achievement

Entries in alphabetical order:

Browtoft House Bed & Breakfast

Browtoft Lane, Donington, Lincolnshire PE11 4TQ

This pub/hotel was entered by Gill Lunn and is linked to Donington in Bloom's entry.

SECTION 1:

The attractive and varied gardens extend to about one acre around three sides of the old house. A good variety of shrubs, trees fruit trees, herbaceous material brings much interest.

Photo gallery on Web-site showing the garden in its full splendour is a credit to the owner.

SECTION 2:

Good use of composting for all waste produced from the hotel. Evidence of mulching used within the shrub borders to assist with water retention and weed suppression.

SECTION 3:

Good use of composting for all waste produced from the hotel. Evidence of mulching used within the shrub borders to assist with water retention and weed suppression.

Judged on 17th July by Martin Latimer and Richard Stephen

78 % Silver Gilt award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
30	18	30	78

Cross Inn Guest House, Mablethorpe

Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire

This pub/hotel was entered by Irene Daw and is linked to Mablethorpe in Bloom's entry.

SECTION 1:

Pleasing courtyard garden giving a warm welcome to the guest house. Raised planters with Mediterranean planting. The Mablethorpe boat was well planted,

SECTION 2:

Raised planters planted with drought tolerant species and mulched with gravel and pebbles.

SECTION 3:

Boat feature and courtyard garden well maintained.

Judged on 7th July by Doug Stacey and Jo Tarrant

80 % Silver Gilt Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
35	15	30	80

Millfields Hotel, Grimsby

Grimsby

This hotel was entered by Jacquie Brown and is linked to Grimsby's entry.

SECTION 1:

A colourful floral display of hanging baskets and planters was present on the front of the hotel, complementing the bed of Impatiens beneath a cherry tree in the car park. Well kept sloping lawns below the terrace gave an attractive ambience to the shady frontage. To the side of the hotel there was also an attractive formal garden featuring Phormiums, Pittosporum and clipped hedging /shrubbery, in an attractive overall setting, giving the location an all year round interest.

SECTION 2:

The plant selection for the situation and location was good; the mainly shady area made full and suitable use of Impatiens as the main floral colour and good use of drought tolerant and 'seaside' adapted shrubbery.

For future reference it would be useful to the judges if information on e.g. composts used in containers etc could be provided.

SECTION 3:

All aspects were well cared for, with plants clearly in good health, well-fed and effectively watered. There is scope to improve the pruning and care of the formal planting to the side of the hotel; the paths are somewhat overgrown and the hedging may be best renewed completely in the fairly near future.

Judged on 14th July by Jeff Bates and Debbie Scott

67% - Silver Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
25	12	30	67

Queen Victoria Public House, Syston

This pub/hotel was entered by and is linked to Syston's entry. An entry form should have been received prior to judging.

SECTION 1:

This pub had a delightful garden with a good range of permanent plants well punctuated with floral highlights in the higher footfall areas. Space was utilised well making a welcoming relaxing atmosphere.

SECTION 2:

A range of measures were undertaken at this pub including good use of plants to create habitats and encourage wildlife. A short summary of these activities would be useful for future judges.

SECTION 3:

The standard of maintenance was high adding to the quality experience of the pub.

Judged on 15th July by Mel Henley

80% - Silver Gilt award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
34	14	32	80

Red Lion Hotel

Spalding, Lincolnshire

This pub/hotel was entered by Angela Newton and is linked to Spalding's entry.

SECTION 1:

To the front of the Hotel there are a number of colourful troughs to welcome you. While the plants are very seasonal, they undoubtedly add a splash of colour to the Town Centre through the use of bold colours. Space is very limited.

SECTION 2:

I was told that the plants had been grown in peat free compost, but I could not ascertain if they had made use of Gels to reduce the need to water.

SECTION 3:

The quality of the plants was very good with the baskets full to overflowing with healthy vibrant plants.

Judged on 16th July by John Simpson

47% - Certificate of Achievement

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
25	10	12	47

Ringwood Hall

Brimington, Chesterfield S43 1DQ

This hotel was entered by John Ramsey, Chesterfield, and is linked to their entry.

♥ **Winner, 2009 Best Pub/Hotel Garden or Display**

Gold Award

A special winners' plaque sponsored by Civic Pride is presented.

SECTION 1:

Last year's winner in this category is showing every sign of maintaining the exceptionally high quality that took it to the top in 2008.

With nearly 7 acres to look after, the Head Gardener Derek Edwards and his small team do a wonderful job of maintaining and developing the area. The owners' investment in the future of the grounds is apparent through the recent refurbishments and these will undoubtedly pay dividends in future.

The range of planting styles to suit different areas around the hotel is impressive from formal beds at the front to more relaxed gardens alongside, topiary beds and the splendidly productive vegetable gardens, providing produce in abundance for the hotel kitchens.

SECTION 2:

Throughout the grounds, we saw the emphasis was on manageability and sustainability with appropriate plants for each condition. The area has naturally good water retention and this is reinforced by appropriate mulching.

Please inform the judges in future visits of the composts used in baskets and containers and any actions taken to reduce the resource demands of gardening at the Hotel.

SECTION 3:

The gardens are extremely well maintained with no evidence of weeds or rubbish. All plants seemed gloriously healthy and all areas tidy, and this combined with the attractiveness of the planting described in section 1 above, makes the grounds the perfect backdrop for the photographs of the hotel's booming wedding business, evidenced on the day of our visit, despite the dismal weather.

Judged on 17th July by Jeff Bates and Debbie Scott

90% Gold Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
37	16	37	90

Spinney Hill Public House, Northampton

Kettering Road, Northampton

This pub/hotel was entered by Northampton Borough Council and is linked to Northampton's entry.

SECTION 1:

Colourful baskets, wild area to side (badger sett). Lawn to rear with many pot plants and borders.

SECTION 2:

Little indication of use of gels or recycled material.

SECTION 3:

Generally clean and tidy, all maintained by one person.

Judged on 10th July by Geoff Spate, Barry Bedford and Frank Constable

60% - Silver Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
26	11	23	60

The Adelaide Hotel, Cleethorpes

41 Isaacs Hill, Cleethorpes, DN35 8JT

This hotel was entered by Lee Beckett and is linked to Cleethorpes' entry.

SECTION 1:

A pleasing, colourful planting scheme with planters, large baskets and beds all bursting with plants. Mainly summer bedding.

SECTION 2:

SECTION 3:

Lawns in very good condition and well tended. Plants were large and well cared for.

Judged on 8th July by Doug Stacey and Jo Tarrant

84% - Silver Gilt award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
36	16	32	84

The Black Swan, Belper

44 Market Place, Belper DE56 1FZ

This pub/hotel was entered by Belper Town Council and is linked to Belper's entry.

SECTION 1:

10 Colour themed baskets, Blue and yellow theme of good quality. Very well filled. Sponsored baskets provided by Town Council

SECTION 2:

Baskets – peat free and reservoir baskets with water retaining gels.

SECTION 3:

Baskets very well maintained. Planting areas by outside seating of a somewhat lower standard, done by the pub still some spring bedding in place and weeds present as well as litter.

Judged on 14th July by Doug Stacey and Jo Tarrant

65% - Silver Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
31	16	18	65

The Bulls Head Public House

Burton Road, Rosliston, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE12 8JY

Entered by Caroline Alston and is linked to Rosliston's entry.

SECTION 1:

The frontage of the building was very attractive with planters and hanging baskets. The car park and rear of the premises were well planted with a good range of interesting climbing plants.

SECTION 2:

Some sustainable planting evident with trees / shrubs and climbers.

Resident gardener indicated that water retention granules were used in baskets and troughs. Little need for mulching in this entry.

SECTION 3:

Floral displays were maintained to a good standard. Planting appeared in good health

Judged on 14th July by Martin Latimer and Richard Stephen

58% Bronze award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
25	10	23	58

The Elmtree, Elmton

Elmton, Derbyshire

Entered by Mr D McGregor and Cllr R H Glassey and is linked to Elmton's entry.

SECTION 1:

Baskets and planters on display were very colourful and a credit to the public house. Stone Troughs along the front enhanced the visual appearance of the Elm Tree. Nice Herb garden by kitchen.

Beer garden, picnic tables and children's play area were an attractive feature including many trees and shrubs.

SECTION 2:

No representative was available from the Elm Tree to advise the judges on planting techniques and use of water retentive gels.

SECTION 3:

Lawned areas were well maintained. Trees and shrubs appeared in good health and over all the site had few weeds.

Judged on 10th July by Martin Latimer and Richard Stephen

61% - Silver award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
27	9	25	61

The Garden Hotel, Uppingham

High Street West, Uppingham, Rutland

Entered by Karen Emery and is linked to Uppingham's entry.

SECTION 1:

The colour scheme of pink and pastels of the annuals supplemented the colour span exhibited by the permanent planting.

Scent is provided by a mix of honeysuckle and roses.

This garden has planting to give all year round attractiveness with much of the wall space covered with climbers.

SECTION 2:

The plants were growing in a peat based compost with no evidence of water retaining gel. The species within the shrub beds were suitable for drought conditions. The beds were mulched to retain moisture and suppress weed growth.

SECTION 3:

The lawn edges were all tidily cut, there was no evidence of weed growth and no signs of pests and disease.

Judged on 8th July by Chris Beal and Ian Cooke

66% - Silver award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
28	12	26	66

The Rose and Crown, Creswell

Elmton, Derbyshire

Entered by Mr D McGregor and Cllr R H Glassey and is linked to Elmton's entry.

SECTION 1:

The frontage of the pub is attractively planted using a small amount of planters and baskets.

The planting is attractive and mixed, it can only be assumed that similar planting is carried out for the winter / spring season.

SECTION 2:

There is no permanent planting on this scheme which makes it less sustainable. No evidence could be found of water retention gel.

SECTION 3:

The annual plants appear healthy and flourishing well. The lawned area around the rear lacked attention to detail in the maintenance.

Judged on 10th July by Chris Beal and Ian Cooke

48% - Certificate of Achievement

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
22	10	16	48

Three Swans Hotel

High Street, Market Harborough, Leicestershire

Entered by Chris Etherington and is linked to Market Harborough's entry.

SECTION 1:

The floral displays around the hotel and thoroughfare to the town were superb. The numerous baskets and bedding displays have been used to good effect and help to disguise the less desirable aspects of the hotel.

SECTION 2:

We would have liked to have known a little more about the compost used for hanging baskets, the use of water retaining gels and watering regime. However, we were informed that peat free compost was being used.

SECTION 3:

The display was generally limited to baskets and other containerised floral displays. However, the standard of presentation, water features & lack of pests & diseases was evident.

Judged on 13th July by Tim Sharp and John Simpson

74% - Silver award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
32	10	32	74

SPECIAL AWARDS 2009

Category: Best retail/commercial premises

A Special Awards Entry form has to be completed prior to the closing date (end of April) in order to be eligible for consideration of this award. A maximum of 15 minutes is allowed for judging and this time is in addition to that allocated to a Bloom Entry (if applicable). It does not need to be attached to a 'Bloom' entry and is judged by the following criteria:

- SECTION 1: Attractiveness of planting (temporary/permanent) maximum marks **40**
e.g. Colour schemes; design to function; duration of attractiveness across seasons; innovation
- SECTION 2: Sustainability; maximum marks **20**
e.g. use of low-peat composts; mulching; composting; water retaining gels; use of species tolerant of dry conditions
- SECTION 3: Quality of care and maintenance; maximum marks **40**
e.g. edged up grassed areas; minimal weeds; mulching; health of plants; lack of pests and diseases; quality of pruning

Total maximum marks obtainable = **100%**

Awards

85%+	Gold
75-84%	Silver Gilt
60-74%	Silver
50-59%	Bronze
0-49%	Certificate of achievement

Entries in alphabetical order:

Cable Taxis, Grimsby

Grimsby

These commercial premises were entered by Jacquie Brown and are linked to Grimsby's entry.

SECTION 1:

This is a quite remarkable sight! A wall of Impatiens is supplemented by swags, baskets and a fascinating range of containers (including dustbin lids and scrap dustbins), all dripping with floral colour. As a means to enliven a potentially boring space, create colour and bring a smile to the face of everyone who sees it, this is truly a tremendous effort.

It would be helpful to the judges for future reference – as well as adding pleasure to the vista for all visitors and viewers – if it could be confirmed whether some colour is kept through the winter months also.

SECTION 2:

Virtually the whole amazing display of colour is growing in waste materials, whether it be bin liners, dustbins, dustbin lids or whatever.

For future reference could you provide information on the composts used in the containers; if these are already low-peat and contain water-retaining gels –well done – and if not this would be an area to look to.

SECTION 3:

Absolutely all the plants appeared to be in the pink (literally in many cases!) of condition. Clearly, there is little maintenance to be done other than watering, feeding and dead-heading so the challenge is limited, but nonetheless well done for what is being achieved.

Judged on 14th July by Jeff Bates and Debbie Scott

76% Silver Gilt Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
30	12	34	76

Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway

Cleethorpes N E Lincolnshire DN35 0DP

These commercial premises were entered by Lee Beckett and are linked to Cleethorpes' entry.

SECTION 1:

Well maintained garden area. Due to a change in maintenance there is more limited variety of plants in the beds. The baskets are colourful and well maintained

SECTION 2:

Species selected for the open planted areas were mostly low maintenance and drought resistant. Mulching of beds would add to their appeal and keep the weeds at bay.

SECTION 3:

The whole garden was neat and tidy and added to the visitor experience of the site.

Judged on 8th July by Doug Stacey and Jo Tarrant

64% Silver Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
30	10	24	64

Chapman's Nurseries, Rosliston

Rosliston, Derbyshire

These commercial premises were entered by Caroline Alston and are linked to Rosliston's entry.

SECTION 1:

Good colourful displays of Geraniums , Cannas and mixed herbaceous plants located on either side of the entrance.

Overall the Nursery was welcoming to visitors with the car park displaying a range of plants that could be purchased.

SECTION 2:

Owner confirmed with the judges that water retentive gels had been used in the display troughs and baskets. Some mulching was evident on the beds bordering the entrance

SECTION 3:

Generally weed free, plants in pretty good condition and what lawns were on show had been maintained to a good standard.

Judged on 14th July by Martin Latimer and Richard Stephen

61% Silver Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
27	11	23	61

Cromwell Tools Distribution Centre

Chartwell Drive, Wigston, Leicestershire

These commercial premises were entered by Simon Lucas and are linked to Oadby & Wigston's entry.

SECTION 1:

The site is a large distribution warehouse and administration complex, around 8 years old. The extensive areas of car parking are screened and segregated by well-maintained shrubbery, that is functional but shows a good range of diversity. A 'staff picnic site has been created in one corner, screened from the main open area to create a peaceful and pleasant spot. There is a very large pond, which has a main function as a water source in the event of a fire, but has been planted and maintained to encourage wildlife – and does so effectively. Trevor, the enthusiastic site gardener / handyman, has recently included a splash of seasonal colour in the form of a small area of annual planting on a previously unmanaged and difficult corner.

For future development there may be scope to improve the control of some of the invasive plants along Bakers Way, without compromising the basis of a natural site.

SECTION 2:

Excellent use of waste materials to create virtually every new feature on the site, with benches, picnic tables etc all made from scrap racking, pallets and whatever else can be salvaged from the overall enterprises that take place on the site.

SECTION 3:

Maintenance is good, with paved areas almost free of any weed and all planted areas maintained effectively within the parameters of the main use of the site.

There may be scope to change a little of the permanent planting in due course to introduce some greater diversity and as a consequence further enhance to colour and wildlife value of the site.

Judged on 13th July by Jeff Bates and Debbie Scott

77% Silver Gilt Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
32	15	30	77

5 Donington Feed Business

Donington, Lincolnshire

These commercial premises were entered by Gill Lunn and Margaret Smith and are linked to Donington's entry.

SECTION 1:

Buildings were nicely complimented with a range of baskets and troughs showing a variety of colourful displays.

A small attractive orchard on the right side of the drive greeted the judges as they arrived to view the entry. These were adorned with propagated Mistletoe.

The visitor was also able to view a wide range of wildlife – Rheas, Wallabies, Ducks, Geese, Chickens etc

SECTION 2:

A well used Greenhouse was being used by the 'In Bloom' Committee for planting and establishing their baskets. A range of crops was also on view – Tomatoes etc.

Water retentive gels were being used in the planting of baskets and troughs etc.

SECTION 3:

Orchard area was well maintained (other lawned areas being maintained by wildlife), generally plantings in quite good condition. Judges not shown evidence of mulching.

Judged on 17th July by Martin Latimer and Richard Stephen

59% Bronze Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
27	10	22	59

Long Sutton Butterfly and Wildlife Park

Little London, Long Sutton, Lincolnshire

These commercial premises were entered by Kay Jenkinson and are linked to Long Sutton's entry.

SECTION 1:

The planting has been designed to attract predominantly butterflies but other wildlife also; this makes it particularly appropriate to this setting.

Plants in one part are predominantly herbs and are clearly labelled as to their name and their uses.

There is a good mix of plants giving colour and feature throughout the year.

SECTION 2:

The planting consists predominantly of sustainable planting, use of containers is kept to a minimum and even those had permanent planting within them

SECTION 3:

The area was hoed with minimal weed growth, there was no mulching of the beds.

Lawns were edged and although there was much weed growth in the grass areas this may be beneficial to wildlife considering the location we were in.

Some weeds were left on purpose as a food source and were clearly identified as such. There was no evidence of pests and diseases, this may be due to the natural balance as this is a garden aimed at wildlife.

Judged on 16th July by Chris Beal and Ian Cooke
60% Silver Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
25	12	23	60

Nelson Distribution, Belper

Goods Road, Belper, Derbyshire DE56

These commercial premises were entered by Belper Town Council and are linked to Belper's entry.

SECTION 1:

Approach to depot adopted and maintained by owner, verges, trees supplemented by entrance bed of begonias. Inside, around office are borders, beds and baskets of seasonal plants. Looking very attractive. Same for spring. Plans to extend gardens being implemented.

SECTION 2:

Low peat compost used, plastic inserts to baskets to minimise water use. All plants removed and composted.

SECTION 3:

Immaculately maintained, no weeds healthy plants grown by owner.

Judged on 14th July by Doug Stacey and Jo Tarrant
73% Silver Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
28	15	30	73

Market Rasen Racecourse

Legsby Road, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire LN8 3EA

♥ Winner, 2009 Best Retail/Commercial Premises

Gold Award-

A special winners' plaque sponsored by Civic Pride is presented.

Entered by Hannah Mollett, Operations Manager Market Rasen

SECTION 1:

The careful use of ephemeral & permanent planting worked extremely well. The hanging baskets were well conceived and in-house propagation ensured that there were sufficient plants to create a superb display. The Dahlias were particularly striking as were the beds of Lavender and white roses.

SECTION 2:

Old compost is being used as mulch for beds. All green waste is being composted. Baskets were filled with a peat free compost mix that is clearly a very productive growth medium.

SECTION 3:

Lawns and hedges were immaculate with no signs of weed or pests. Regular pruning and attention to new planting was evident around the racecourse.

Judged on 6th July by Tim Sharp and John Simpson
91% Gold Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
34	20	37	91

Mill Street, Oakham

Mill Street, Oakham, Rutland

These commercial premises were entered by Oakham in Bloom.

SECTION 1:

Colourful baskets and planters greeted shoppers and visitors and made a beautiful picture postcard scene complimenting the town. It is acknowledged that the constraints of the street only allowed for limited permanent planting.

SECTION 2:

Every suitable effort was being made in this area however again the restrictions of this entrant (beyond their control) meant that all areas of the criteria could not be fully demonstrated.

SECTION 3:

The quality of maintenance was excellent with all of the displays at their very best.

Judged on 16th July by Mel Henley

72% Silver Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
30	12	30	72

Plumtree Road Hairdressers, Keyworth

High Street, Keyworth

These commercial premises were entered by Keyworth in Bloom.

SECTION 1:

This lovely hair-dressers had a wonderful frontage full of permanent planting and floral highlights. Excellent use of space combined with a good choice of plants welcomed customers and would delight any passer by

SECTION 2:

A lot of effort was being made in this area of frontage, including good choice of wild life friendly plants and habitat creation

SECTION 3:

The quality of maintenance of this frontage was excellent with not a blade of grass out of place. Plants were healthy and at their best with no weed or pests of any significance

Judged on 15th July by Mel Henley

83% Silver Gilt Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
34	13	36	83

Shoosmiths

5 The Lakes, Northampton

These commercial premises were entered by Northampton Borough Council and are linked to Northampton's entry.

SECTION 1:

Water and fountains, marginal waterside planting, shrubs, trees and aquatics.

SECTION 2:

Recycling of water. Permanent planting. Wildlife friendly.

SECTION 3:

Well maintained.

Judged on 10th July by Geoff Spate, Barry Bedford and Frank Constable

82% - Silver Gilt Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
35	14	33	82

Spire Walk Business Park, Chesterfield

Chesterfield

These commercial premises were entered by John Ramsey, Chesterfield Borough Council and are linked to Chesterfield's entry.

SECTION 1:

This is a new site and the building are currently only partially occupied. Despite that the site has a nice cared for ambiance and is surrounded by recent extensive planting. In time this will grow and provide a strong green separation from the nearby main road, giving a pleasant outlook from the ground floor offices/showrooms. The planting is predominantly shrubbery and it might have given more diversity to the area to have included some specimen trees to give height to that boundary, but nonetheless there is a good variety of colour amongst the shrubs and it shows great promise.

SECTION 2:

The planting is very well mulched, even to the extent of causing concern for some evidence of overflow on to the pathways. Hopefully it will continue to be cared for and the mulch persuaded to stay on the shrub beds.

SECTION 3:

The whole site is well looked after but there was some evidence of litter and weeds particularly at the edges of the site.

In future, as the shrubs grow, more attention will obviously need to be given to pruning to maintain the natural shapes of the shrubs and bring out the best in the range of colours throughout the year

Judged on 17th July by Jeff Bates and Debbie Scott
69% Silver Gilt Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
27	12	30	69

Springfields Retail Shopping Outlet and Festival Gardens

Spalding, Lincolnshire

These commercial premises were entered by Angela Newton and are linked to Spalding's entry.

SECTION 1:

Once again the Springfields shopping outlet was a joy to behold. The quality of the Baskets, general bedding, and permanent planting were of the highest standard. The colour of the planting had been well thought out, and the diverse range of planting means that visitors have something to see throughout the year. The Rabbit fencing has now disappeared. And new this year is a water feature that dances to all styles of Music.

SECTION 2:

The use of plants tolerant of dry conditions has reduced the need to water certain areas of the site. These areas require very little additional watering. The minimal use of bedding plants around the gardens has also meant a reduction in the amount of watering required.

SECTION 3:

All aspects of the maintenance on this site are of the highest standards. There is a total lack of weed and the plants are disease free and healthy.

I was also very impressed with the educational aspects to the site.

I can pay no greater complement than to say that a visit to these gardens is a must, and by the way you can then do some shopping after.

Judged on 6th July by John Simpson
84% - Silver Gilt Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
36	13	35	84

Saint Mark's Place Shopping Precinct, Newark

St. Mark's Place, Newark, Nottinghamshire, Ng 24 1XT, including Clinton Arms Court, St. Mark's Lane and Saracen's Head Yard.

These commercial premises were entered independently by Stewart Basford, Centre Office, Unit A2, St Mark's Place, Newark, Notts. NG 24 1XT

SECTION 1:

Florally, this area was limited to the profusion of hanging baskets. These were good and in sufficient numbers to give impact to this area. The surrounding hard landscaped areas were tidy and free from litter. However, there was little evidence of all year round colour.

SECTION 2:

The judges were informed that the hanging baskets were supplied with peat free compost with the addition of water retaining gels. However, as these baskets were bought in and there were no staff on hand to verify this statement, the judges were unable to confirm this fact.

SECTION 3:

The hanging baskets were the only ornamental feature to be judged as there were no shrubberies or lawned areas. The plants in the hanging baskets were good and pest free. Perhaps the themed effect could have been improved upon with more dramatic use of trailing and unusual planting.

Judged on 6th July by Tim Sharp and John Simpson

56% - Bronze Award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
28	10	18	56

Seal Sanctuary and Nature Centre North End, Mablethorpe

Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire

This retail/commercial was entered by Irene Daw and is linked to Mablethorpe in Bloom's entry.

SECTION 1:

Pleasing grounds to this wildlife sanctuary. Areas planted to the benefit of the animals and visitors. Nice area of seating outside the tea shop.

SECTION 2:

Beds well planted and in parts, mulched. Lovely bug house by entrance to centre.

SECTION 3:

Areas were generally well maintained and grass areas nicely cut. Good educational and conservation bias to work.

Judged on 7th July by Doug Stacey and Jo Tarrant

76 % Silver Gilt award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
30	11	35	76

Systematic Print Management, Caistor

Caistor, Lincolnshire

This retail/commercial entry was entered by Caistor in Bloom.

SECTION 1:

Excellent Hanging baskets supported with a further 2 raised brick beds and 6 free standing tubs. Excellent variety of plants in each Hanging Baskets / tubs. Overall a wonderful display, full of colour throughout the summer.

SECTION 2:

Peat free compost was used in all the baskets and free standing tubs. Watering carried out by staff. Good team work.

SECTION 3:

Lawn area to the front of the building was well maintained, edged and obviously well cared for. All plants were in excellent health, disease free and were of an excellent quality.

Judged on 16th July by Martin Latimer and Richard Stephen

79 % Silver Gilt award

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	TOTAL MARKS
34	12	33	79

CRITERION

Category B: School Garden

Criterion

1. Usefulness in education and curriculum
e.g. clear links evident to use in teaching; use as an outdoor classroom; observation 'hides'; recycling
2. Value to wildlife and environment
e.g. presence of native plants; bird feeders; composting
3. Contribution to healthy eating and food awareness
e.g. vegetables and fruit grown and studied; clear links to food awareness issues; produce eaten in school or taken home.
4. Quality of Care and Maintenance
e.g. appropriately tidy; mulched; management during school holidays

Category C: Hotel/Pub Garden or display

Criterion

1. Attractiveness of planting
e.g. Colour schemes; design to function; use of scent; duration of attractiveness across seasons; innovation
2. Sustainability
e.g. use of low-peat composts; mulching; composting; water retaining gels; use of species tolerant of dry conditions
3. Quality of Care and Maintenance
e.g. edged up lawns; minimal weeds; mulching; health of plants; lack of pests and diseases

Category D: Retail/Commercial

Criterion

1. Attractiveness of planting (temporary / permanent)
e.g. Colour schemes; design to function; duration of attractiveness across seasons; innovation
2. Sustainability
e.g. use of low-peat composts; mulching; composting; water retaining gels; use of species tolerant of dry conditions
3. Quality of Care and Maintenance
e.g. edged up grassed areas; minimal weeds; mulching; health of plants; lack of pests and diseases; quality of pruning