



## THAMES AND CHILTERN'S IN BLOOM 2026 THEMES AND REGIONAL AWARDS

### REGIONAL AWARDS

Regional Awards celebrate the work that groups are doing in the context of our changing world, around the most pressing issues, including the need to support biodiversity, the increasing importance of a connection to nature for wellbeing and the changing climate.

TCIB has now merged the RHS National Community Awards into their Regional Awards. The RHS National Community Awards were promoted in 2024 for the first time and proved very successful. By incorporating them into the TCIB Regional Awards it saves on duplication and provides the opportunity for more entries to participate in a national competition. **The Awards are open to both Britain in Bloom** (including cities, towns & villages, parks and business landscapes) **and It's Your Neighbourhood entries**. Outstanding entries from the Regional Awards will be selected and nominated by TCIB for the RHS National Community Awards.

If selected to be put forward for one of these Awards, entrants must provide a **short video** showcasing the activities of the community gardening group and changes to the green spaces and surrounding areas.

We will continue to present Regional Awards to entrants that **demonstrate excellence in a particular area**. They are only given when there is a deserving recipient, so it may be that not all awards are presented every year. Both BiB and IYN entrants are encouraged to suggest to the judges those awards for which they would like to be considered, while judges can nominate groups who have not put themselves forward to help ensure the very best projects are not overlooked. The judges retain the discretion on whether the nominations meet the necessary standard.

The Regional Awards are listed below. Please note, the Mark Mattock Schools Challenge has now been removed. Work with Children and Young People can be recognised in the Gardening with Young People Award.

[\\*RHS National Community Awards](#)

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD\*

Community gardening is a great way for people to connect with others and improve where they live; it can provide people without gardens access to green space. The whole community benefits from improved public spaces that people can take pride in, a greener environment, safer streets and healthier people.

This award recognises the efforts that groups are making to engage their wider communities, creating positive and long-lasting benefits.

### GARDENING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AWARD\*

Gardening with young people is a great way to spark interest in the natural world. For children, it can serve as the first window into the fascinating workings of our planet, discovering where our food comes from and learning about how gardening can help nature to thrive. Whilst for our young people gardening can support their health and well-being, looking after the environment is a known motivator for younger generations.

This award recognises the efforts of a group in engaging with, supporting and inspiring the younger members of the community to participate in gardening. For the purposes of this award, "young people" is defined as those aged 24 and under; it includes working with schools, youth groups, those with special needs both physical & mental and apprenticeships.

### **GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE AWARD\***

Nature is in crisis. Across the UK, species and their habitats are in severe decline. Groups can help reverse this destruction in gardens and community green spaces around the country by protecting and improving conditions for pollinators and other wildlife. Every single outdoor space can be an important habitat for wildlife, and gardening in a nature-friendly way does not mean compromising on quality.

This award recognises the work groups are doing to make the green spaces they care for, wildlife-friendly.

### **SUSTAINABLE GARDENING AWARD\***

Gardens are an increasingly important part of the natural environment. Gardening for the environment can help tackle both the causes and effects of climate change. By making community gardens as green as possible, groups can reduce their own carbon footprint and provide vital habitats for wildlife.

This award recognises the commitment of a group to sustainable environmental practices in horticulture and supporting wildlife through gardening.

### **GARDENING FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING AWARD\***

Natural outdoor spaces, gardens and gardening make people feel better and anyone, anywhere, can enjoy their healing power. It is increasingly acknowledged that green spaces are associated with better physical, social and mental health. As the population ages and healthcare costs spiral, social prescribing and preventative healthcare will take on renewed importance. There is an opportunity for gardening to play a central role in improving our nation's mental health and wellbeing.

This award recognises the efforts of a group in creating a community outdoor space that maximises the health benefits for those taking part and their wider community.

### **HERITAGE AWARD**

Presented to the entrant that best demonstrates excellent commitment to the ongoing care and development of their local heritage, creating a sense of place and sharing this knowledge and understanding with the local community.

### **VISUAL IMPACT OR "WOW" AWARD**

This award represents the "icing on the cake". Something that creates an outstanding impact and stops you in your tracks; it is usually related to the entrants' pride in their physical environment. As examples, this may be a horticultural display, art in the landscape or overall cleanliness.



## **CPRE CENTENARY BIODIVERSITY AWARD 2026**

We are delighted to announce that the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire branches of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) have joined forces with RHS Thames and Chilterns in Bloom to create a major new award to highlight the importance of wildlife habitat creation and biodiversity in gardens, green spaces and community amenities.

Formed in 1926 by a group of far-sighted individuals with a shared concern for England's countryside, for 100 years CPRE has been campaigning to preserve our precious landscapes, villages and rural communities – protecting, promoting and celebrating our wonderful countryside, for the sake of nature and for people to enjoy, forever.

RHS Thames and Chilterns in Bloom and Campaign to Protect Rural England Berks, Bucks and Oxon will be announcing further details on this exciting collaboration and the CPRE Centenary Biodiversity Award 2026 in March 2026.

To learn more about CPRE in your area go to:

[www.cpreberkshire.org.uk](http://www.cpreberkshire.org.uk)

[www.cprebucks.org.uk](http://www.cprebucks.org.uk)

[www.cpreoxon.org.uk](http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk)