



THAMES & CHILTERN'S IN BLOOM
VIRTUAL SPRING SEMINAR



Virtual Seminar 2023

Plans for Bloom 2023, Talks and Q&A



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Agenda

Topic	Who	Details	Time/ Duration	
Introduction	Victoria Newton – Vice Chair	Welcome everyone to seminar and go through running order and seminar etiquette	2.00	5 min
Welcome	Ted Smith - Chair	Welcome and introduction to T and C In Bloom	2.05	5 min
The journey to ‘Best Overall’	Amersham in Bloom	Hear how Amersham in Bloom worked hard to become Best Overall RHS entry 2022	2.10	10 min
Regional categories for 2023	Julie Graham – Treasurer/Judge	A run through all our regional award categories, including a new one for 2023 – Doing More With less	2.20	10 min
Tour Planning and How to Improve Your Marks	Kate Dagnall – Head of Judges Victoria Newton – Vice Chair	Want to know how to improve your marks? We will give you some hints and tips Do you run out of tour time? Here’s how to get the most out of your tour	2.30	20 min
Question and Answer session	All	An opportunity to ask anything on this year’s judging or any other topics of interest	2.50	20 min
Break	All	Ten minute comfort break (rolling show from around Wokingham in Bloom YouTube channel)	10 mins	
Getting started with IYN	Margaret Mortlock – Lower Earley Salvation Army	Hear how the Salvation Army got started on their restoration journey and what they got out of joining It’s Your Neighbourhood	3.20	10 min
RHS Update	Kirsty Gentle - RHS Senior Community Engagement Officer	News from the RHS	3.30	10 min
Going No Dig	Judy Deveson – Thames & Chilterns Ambassador	Hear how the York House project in Stony Stratford is trialling the No Dig method	3.40	10 min
Close	Ted Smith - Chair	Ted to thank everyone for attending	3.50	5 min



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Zoom Etiquette

- Please stay on mute unless invited to unmute
- Indicate name of group or job title against your name
- Video allowed unless we encounter internet issues in which case we will ask you to switch off your video
- Use Chat function if you wish to ask questions
 - We'll monitor and answer during Q+A
- All sessions will be recorded for viewing later
- We will be doing some snap polls at times through the seminar

We recommend **SPEAKER VIEW** setting



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Welcome
Ted Smith



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Poll 1



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The Journey to Best Overall Amersham in Bloom

Michelle Catanach



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Regional Plans for 2023

Julie Graham





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Regional Awards

“Caring for the Environment”

- Compost – peat free
- Water
- Recycling
- The Community
- Green spaces





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Regional Awards

“Doing More With Less”

- Making the most of limited resources
- Creative ways to maintain high standards





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- **Community Involvement**
- **Conservation & Wildlife**
- **Doing More With Less**
- **Heritage**
- **Horticulture**
- **Involving Children & Young People**
- **Pride of Place**



You can apply
for max 3





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Mark Mattock Schools Challenge

- A local school
- One entry per c t v entry
- School visit forms part of the overall tour schedule – plan carefully
- Meet & talk with the children

Activities related to:

- RHS Schools Gardening Awards
- Eco-Schools
- Forest Schools





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Poll 2



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Tour Planning & How to Improve Your Marks

Kate Dagnall & Victoria Newton

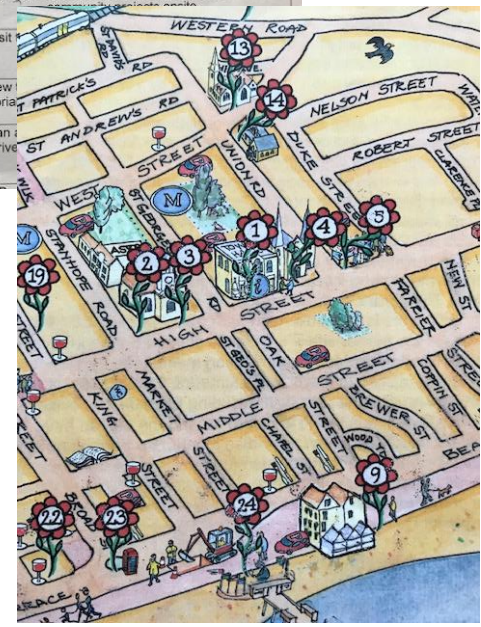


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- Treat every tour as a new tour
- Itinerary (and a map)
- Tour guides
- Self assessment against the marking criteria
- Look at the previous years report

Time	Location	Information
9.00am	The Greenhouse Centre	Welcome reception and Presentation from the In Bloom Team.
9.30am	The Potting Shed	Visit Fountains High School retail and Horticultural Project.
9.40am	Stapenhill Cemetery	View the Floral displays and hanging baskets created and maintained by volunteers.
9.45am	The Community Well-Being garden	Meet Volunteers and view the Social and Therapeutic project.
10:15am	Visit Burton Miniature Railway	Meet local enthusiasts who maintain this popular local visitor attraction. View their tree planting project.
10.45am	Newton Road Park <i>Sue's</i>	Visit one of our IYN Park entries and meet enthusiastic volunteers who are developing exciting environmental
11.20am	Mill Hill Lane Peace Wood <i>Catman VC</i>	Visit
12.00pm	Visit the new Reflection Arboretum	View memorials
12.10pm	View the Burton Mail Woodland and Washlands From footbridge	View an the river





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- **Start and finish with a highlight**
- **Compromise!**
- **Make the most of every opportunity / stop**





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Focus on the detail!





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Including other elements in your tour

- Schools
- Parks
- Its Your Neighbourhood
- Business Landscape



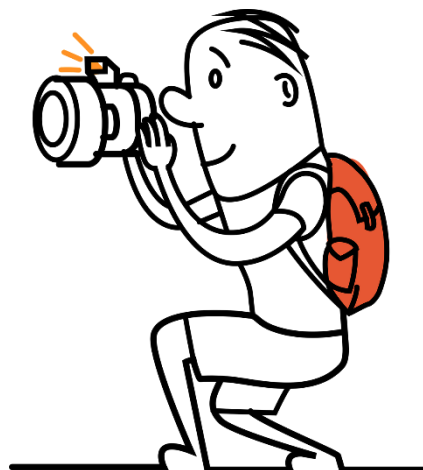


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Make the most of the extra time

- Presentation
- Media





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Poll 3



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Any Questions?



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Tea Break

[Wokingham in Bloom Projects](#)



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Getting Started With
'It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme'
Community Garden –
Lower Earley Salvation Army

Margaret Mortlock



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In the beginning:

- Weeds
- Brambles
- Rubbish





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How we went about clearing the grounds and making it a garden to be proud of:

- In the beginning there were just a few of us trying to clear the garden. We realized that we needed to have some structure to our work
- We set out a 3 year gardening plan
 - Clear all areas – this took 18 months
 - Zone the areas: Flower garden, woodland, rockery
 - Start to fundraise
 - Secure funding for cutting back the trees
 - Establish a Garden Club
 - Enlist volunteers



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It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme:

- By coincidence I met Victoria at a gardening event and she informed me about the IYN scheme the RHS ran and encouraged me to apply
- I love an application form and the thought of professional help was very appealing
- We now had a time-line which spurred us on ready for our RHS visit
- The RHS visit was amazing, the enthusiasm for our little project filled us with pride. The practical advice from the RHS was invaluable and motivated us at a time when we needed it most



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IYN continued

- Don't underestimate this event, the RHS certificate gave our work credibility.
- Following the visit we reviewed our strategic plan to include the advice we had been given
- We have already applied for the 2023 IYN



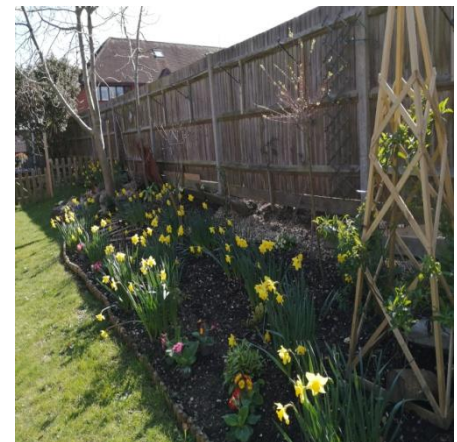
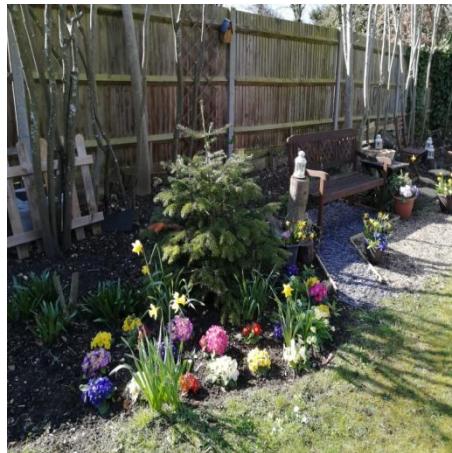


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Where we are now

- We have realized that a garden evolves and so must we
- Garden Club established
- Volunteers enlisted
- Budget for tree pollarding agreed
- Fundraising events essential for funding





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Take away lessons:

- It all takes time
- Establish a plan and refer back to it to see what you have achieved
- Enlist the help of others; Town Councils, local refuse collection for compost – Don't be shy
- The support from the RHS is really motivational
- Find ways of raising funds – gardens are expensive even with donations and volunteers
- Apply to the RHS for IYN if you have a community garden

Unanswered Questions?

- Succession planning – how do you do this?
- How to write a successful bid?



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Would I do it again?



Yes – we all would!



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RHS Update
Kirsty Gentle
Senior Community Engagement
Officer



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Poll 4



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Going No Dig Stony Stratford in Bloom

Judy Deveson



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Continued Success of the York House Community Gardens Veg for the Food Bank Project





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More beds to cultivate > decided to move towards No-Dig Gardening
Lots of cardboard + weeds!





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More woody stems used to build a dead hedge to encourage wildlife





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Importance of Mulching A Mound of Chippings!





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New volunteers > a weekly work party at York House Community Gardens > Makes such a difference!





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Beds mulched with leaf mould, chippings and home-made compost





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Poll 5



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Virtual Seminar 2023

Thank you
for attending

Last Date to Register for 2023
31st March 2023

Awards Seminar
27th Sept @ Oakwood Centre, Woodley

Recordings will be loaded to:

[https://tandcinbloom4.wixsite.com/tandcinbloom/
spring-seminar-2023](https://tandcinbloom4.wixsite.com/tandcinbloom/spring-seminar-2023)

Entry materials can be found at:

[https://tandcinbloom4.wixsite.com/tandcinbloom/
entry-info](https://tandcinbloom4.wixsite.com/tandcinbloom/entry-info)