

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MARLBOROUGH in BLOOM WINS GOLD!

Following our elevation to the Champion of Champions class in the South West in Bloom Competition, Marlborough was awarded GOLD in the main competition by judge Jon Wheatley, Chairman of SouthWest in Bloom.

Jon reported, "It was delight to walk around the many excellent horticultural and environment features that the Marlborough in Bloom group have developed over recent years. You are congratulated on your GOLD award and excellent standards that you have achieved throughout the year. There is a very strong commitment to improvement and it was so interesting to see how the town council uses Bloom to deliver its collective services in most constructive manner which achieves many outcomes. Above all we were impressed by the whole team approach and commitment of all involved. You are a credit to the south west."

As if this were not enough, six of our It's Your Neighbourhood entries received OUTSTANDING awards: Coopers Meadow, Marlborough College Gardens, Marlborough Community Orchard, The Merchants House Garden, Stonebridge Wild River Reserve, The Victorian Cemetery and The Waterfront Garden at Kennet Place. Jon reported: "The excellent water meadows and Victorian cemetery are fine examples of IYN projects which have major influence on the overall Bloom entry. The water meadows along the River Kennet demonstrate how with vision and leadership the involvement of volunteers can be used to great effect and have long term impact upon a town."

His final comment was, "You should be congratulated on your excellent Portfolio, your wonderful hospitality, you really make Bloom fun. One of the finest visits we have experienced."

Particular thanks go to Susan Wightman at Libanus Press. With text by Anne Crawley and photographs by Richard Beale, Anna Forbes, Charlotte Hitchmough, Nicola Salt and Richard Shaw, Susan has produced an outstanding Portfolio which is sent to the judges prior to their visit. This year we were delighted to be awarded The West Country Tourist Board Trophy for The Best Judge's Portfolio. As this covers the whole of the south west – Cornwall, Devon, Wiltshire and South Gloucestershire – this is a major achievement.

Anne Crawley, Chairman of Marlborough in Bloom says: "It is wonderful that the dedication and love for our beautiful town has been recognised by these awards. We will be presenting the certificates and trophies at the AGM on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30 p.m. in the Town Hall together with a display of the work of our volunteers and of the award winning portfolio."

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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Marlborough in Bloom on Facebook

Website: [marlboroughinbloom.org.uk](http://marlboroughinbloom.org.uk)