



ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS IN BLOOM

Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom 2020 – Celebrating 10 Years of RTW in Bloom

Update 25 March 2020

Following the Government's latest guidance and the ongoing situation with COVID-19, the Royal Horticultural Society is suspending the Britain in Bloom UK Finals for 2020.

This decision has not been taken lightly. RHS know how much hard work we and other finalists have already put in and how much joy the campaign brings to people, but the health and wellbeing of the judges, volunteers and communities is the most important thing.

South & South East in Bloom is planning to continue in 2020 but with a much-reduced format. After taking Government advice they have decided to recommend desktop judging as a means of maintaining involvement and momentum this year. This desktop judging will, hopefully, mean the year is not a complete loss and recognise what has been achieved.

Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom committee decided to cancel the main Bloom social events of 2020 and to reduce the scale of the local gardening competition:

- Launch events in April are cancelled
- Monday Volunteers sessions at Dunorlan Park are suspended
- Kent High Weald Partnership (KHWP) volunteering sessions are suspended
- Volunteers Week celebration in June is cancelled
- Open Gardens tour in June is cancelled
- School garden and Giant Radish competitions are cancelled
- RTW in Bloom Awards Ceremony in September – under review

KHWP (Kent High Weald Project) are keeping up with social media platforms and are in contact with the volunteers; they will do any emergency works on the nature reserves as required. Please check their website and social media for updates: <https://khtwp.org.uk>

Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom competition will continue as follow

(please note that this decision will be revised accordingly to the Government advice):

RTW in Bloom committee decided to continue the Bloom competition this summer but **only for the residential entries that are visible from the street** and do not require appointment arrangements.

Unfortunately we cannot carry on with the competition for businesses and the Best Back Garden category.

We anticipate carrying out the judging in July/August but this will be under review.

We will keep everyone updated.

RTW in Bloom Competition Categories: email your entry to competition@royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk

- **Best Basket**
- **Planter/Tub/Container**
- **Best Street and Flats**
- **Best Front Patio/ Balcony**
- **Best Front Garden**
- **Best Wildlife Garden**
- **Best Allotments**

We still are running the **following competitions for children and adults:**

- **Blooming Marvellous Photo Competition**

This year's theme of our photo competition is **Trees of Tunbridge Wells**.

We invite children and adults alike to capture beauty of trees growing in our town and parks. Considering current situation we will accept photographs from previous years.

If you decide to have a stroll in a park to take photos, please respect the current Government guidance on social distancing. Photographs can be taken in both landscape or portrait but we require high resolution.

Please submit the photos in digital format on email BloomPhoto@tunbridgewells.gov.uk

Maximum 3 pictures per person please. Please include the photographer's name, age, title of the image and where was it taken in your email.

Closing Date: 11 September 2020.

- **Weekly Photo Competition**

on Bloom social media (Facebook and Twitter).

Please post on our platforms your update on your garden, windowsill, basket or a pot.

Every Friday we will select a winner.

- **Art Competition for children: "Mighty Moths"**

Moths are sometimes overlooked in wildlife gardening, compared to more iconic pollinators like butterflies and bees. They are a major part of our biodiversity and play vital roles in the ecosystem, affecting many other types of wildlife. They are also beautiful!

Encourage children to explore various art media to create amazing Moths posters.

Please scan/photo the artwork and email to BloomPhoto@tunbridgewells.gov.uk stating child's name and age.

Closing Date: 1 June 2020.

- **Writing Competition for children: "Being 10"**

The Writing competition is for children who are 10 years old.

RTW in Bloom campaign, revived in 2010, is celebrating 10 years in 2020!

We would like to encourage all children born in 2010 to share their experience of Being 10 years old – in a form of a poem or a short narrative.

Please email the poems to competition@royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk

Closing Date: 31 July 2020.

Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom reserve the right to use winning entries in any promotional publicity. Entered work should not have won any previous competitions.

We thank you all for your ongoing support.

Website: www.royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk

Facebook: [@RoyalTunbridgeWellsinBloom](https://www.facebook.com/RoyalTunbridgeWellsinBloom)

Twitter: [@RTWinBloom](https://twitter.com/RTWinBloom)

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