

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Yeovil's gardeners get goldfingers!**

Yeovil Town has scooped the honours at this year's South West Regional Britain in Bloom contest by winning a record-breaking 10 awards. Almost 60 towns, villages and cities took part in the contest - from Devizes down to Penzance.

For the third time, Yeovil has achieved a gold award, which is the highest category, for all of its efforts and achievements in this prestigious annual competition. The Town's gardeners can now officially say that they have goldfingers rather than greenfingers!

In addition, Neighbourhood Awards were made to 8 groups of residents and local community projects for the efforts that they made to brighten up their areas –

- Kenmore Drive Residents' Association
- Rustywell Park
- Westfield Community Association
- Tewksbury Residents
- Larkhill Open Space
- Goar Knap Allotments
- Time out Together Allotment
- Inside out People

These awards are part of the Government's Cleaner, Safer, Greener Communities Campaign.

The Town also received a RHS "Local Roots" discretionary award for the stunning displays in St John's Churchyard, known locally as "The Beach".

The awards were made at the Annual South West in Bloom Presentations, which this year took place in Yeovil and were attended by around 450 representatives from all over the South West. Vicar of Dibley star, Trevor Peacock helped present the awards.

The Britain in Bloom competition is run each year by the Royal Horticultural Society. Tough standards are applied, and judges from the Society travelled the length and breadth of the West Country to consider the multitude of entries.

As well as floral displays, the judges looked at the extent to which local schools, shops and the local community are involved in helping to improve the appearance of their town. They also took into account the steps being taken to help people develop a better knowledge of conservation and the environment, and to encourage the adoption of sustainable horticultural practices.

In Yeovil, the initiative is funded and managed by the Town Council, with the support of the District Council's horticultural team.

David Recardo, Chairman of the Town Council's Yeovil in Bloom Steering Group said, "I am extremely pleased that the tremendous efforts made by everyone in the Town have been officially endorsed. Achieving a further gold award is a superb result, which reflects the exceptionally high quality of all the floral displays throughout the Town.

I am also pleased that the judges recognised the outstanding quality of the contributions made by a growing number of residents and local community projects."

He added, "These 10 awards demonstrate that we are working together to achieve the high standards that we have set ourselves, and that Yeovil is an attractive place in which to live and to visit."

**END**

*(For further information contact Alan Tawse, Town Clerk on 01935 382424)*