

COMMUNITY SERVICES

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District Schools in Bloom 2022!

St Albans City and District Council's Parks and Green Spaces Team are once again running the District Schools in Bloom competition for 2022! This is now in its 9th year, and we are really pleased to be running the competition in partnership with Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, John O'Conner, Burston Garden Centre and Carpenters Nursery.

Why take part in District Schools in Bloom 2022?

The District Schools in Bloom competition is aimed at schools within St Albans City and District that are delivering the KS1 and KS2 Curriculum. The competition will complement elements of the Curriculum and will support children with their learning and development.



The competition provides an opportunity for pupils to learn about the principles of gardening and to develop their gardening skills. All the categories in this competition are based on the themes of wildlife gardening and sustainability. This will help pupils to understand the vital role that gardens play in providing habitats and refuge for nature and wildlife, as well as the importance of maintaining these in a sustainable way. These wildlife havens are essential, especially in the face of habitat loss and fragmentation in the wider landscape, and also as climate change becomes more evident.

District Schools in Bloom has been very successful over the last eight years, even despite the Covid-19 restrictions over the last two years. It has been thoroughly enjoyed by all the children and teachers who have taken part.



How will the competition be run this year?

Due to the ongoing uncertainty with Covid-19, this year we have decided to run the competition in a hybrid format. This means that we will be offering a choice of in-person school visits to judge the entries (depending on Government regulations and your school preference), as well as the option to submit digital entries only.

Wildlife gardening is a great opportunity to help our local wildlife. Getting outdoors and engaging with nature is also essential for our health and well-being. So let's get gardening!

The categories

There are **SIX** categories to choose from, and you can enter as many of these categories as you wish!

✿ **Crafting Nature**

✿ **Plant to Plate**

✿ **Scrapyard Scarecrow**

✿ **Super Sunflowers!**

✿ **The Wilder Award! (*NEW!*)** ✿ **Water for Wildlife (*NEW!*)**

This year, we will also be awarding a new **Sustainable School Award**, to the school that can demonstrate use of the most sustainable practices overall! Full details on each of these categories, and the Sustainable School Award, are outlined in the '**District Schools in Bloom 2022 - Categories**' document.

Please encourage as many children as possible from your school to take part! We'd love for children to get outdoors and get gardening, both at school, and also at home if they are having to isolate.



The judging

This year, we are hoping to visit schools in person for judging at the beginning of July (depending on Government regulations and your school preference). If this is possible, then we will be in contact later in the year to confirm dates / times.

Please continue to take photos of all your entries in the event that school visits cannot take place in July.

However, for those that would still prefer just to submit digital entries, without an in-person school visit, we will still be accepting digital entries as well.

Please confirm your judging preferences (school visit or digital entries) when submitting your entry form.

If submitting digital entries again this year, please collate and submit all entries by the deadlines overleaf. Please email all entries to greenspaces@stalbans.gov.uk

Please note, that the deadline for the **Super Sunflowers** category **ONLY** has been extended until **September**, to give the Sunflowers chance to grow to their tallest! Please send us your photos and measurements of your **TALLEST** Sunflowers as well, by the September deadline overleaf. Please also email these to greenspaces@stalbans.gov.uk



Awards Ceremony!

We are hoping to hold our annual Awards Ceremony in September, depending on Government regulations. The Awards Ceremony is an opportunity to thank all schools for taking part in the competition. The Winners and Runners Up for each category will be announced, and certificates will be presented to these schools. Goodie bags will also be presented to all other schools taking part in the competition. Prizes will be delivered to the winning schools shortly after the Awards Ceremony.

How do I enter District Schools in Bloom 2022?

Entering the competition couldn't be easier!

Please confirm which categories you would like to enter, by completing the online entry form, and emailing this to greenspaces@stalbans.gov.uk by the date shown overleaf.

Ideas and activities

For ideas on how you can get involved, and for possible activities, please see the following links below on Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust website:

- 🌸 [Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust - Actions](#)
- 🌸 [Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust - Wildlife Gardening](#)
- 🌸 [Wildlife Watch - Activities](#)

You may wish to visit the [Grebe House Wildlife Garden](#), which is located next to Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust Head Office in Verulamium Park, St Albans. This is an excellent example of a wildlife garden. Please note that you will need to check the current opening times in line with the latest Government regulations.

Dates for your diary

We really hope that you will be able to take part in **District Schools in Bloom 2022**. Please see below some important dates for your diary:



- 🌸 **Confirm whether taking part by: Friday 1st April 2022**
- 🌸 **Judging (in-person school visits): Monday 4th July to Friday 8th July 2022** (depending on Government regulations and school preference)
- 🌸 **Deadline for digital entries ONLY: Friday 8th July 2022.** Please collate and email your digital entries to greenspaces@stalbans.gov.uk
- 🌸 **Deadline for Super Sunflowers ONLY: Friday 16th September 2022.** Please email your photos and measurements of your **TALLEST** Sunflowers to greenspaces@stalbans.gov.uk
- 🌸 **Awards Ceremony: Provisional date - Friday 30th September 2022, 5:30pm to 7pm** (to be confirmed later in the year, depending on Government regulations).

For further details please visit our [website](#)

We look forward to receiving your entries!