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Dear In Bloom Group

Cumbria in Bloom Pride in Your Community Competition - Invitation to Villages and Hamlets

Towards the end of last year a communication was sent out asking you to consider taking part in our competitions in 2012. We would like to invite you to enter this year's Cumbria in Bloom – Pride in Your Community competition, offering all entrants recognition for taking visible pride in their local area and surroundings. Today's competition is all about individuals, organisations and businesses in communities working together to improve the quality of life and making the environment a greener, safer and re-invigorated locality in which to live. It has been agreed to introduce a new 'Special Category' during 2012 to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee/Olympic Games – see separate sheet for details. If you would like any advice/guidance before completing your application, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will pass any queries on to our Cumbria in Bloom advisors, who will be pleased to help.

The RHS 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Scheme can be an addition to your entry or, if the main competition is too big a challenge, a way of taking part in a non-competitive way but with an assessment along with suggestions to encourage you. Most villages and hamlets have areas which could be improved so why not form a community group (or this could already be up and running), enter a project and receive a separate award.

In 2011 a new School Garden Competition was introduced as a trial and this is being extended to the whole county in 2012. Please encourage your local school to enter in its own right, but also be part of your community effort.

Cumbria in Bloom judging criteria are simple to follow for Villages and Hamlets. Within the competition criteria of overall appearance, horticultural activity, consideration of the environment and community participation, the judges will focus on what the community has achieved, the specialness of the village/hamlet, unique features and interpretation of heritage. The guidance notes give an indication of what you might show the judges. You will not lose marks if you do not have these features. Only show the best you have to the judges. A brief portfolio, including a route map, will enhance your presentation and show your yearly activities. Our judging in 2012 will be from **Monday 2nd to Friday 13th July inclusive**, with our Awards Ceremony taking place in the week commencing 3rd September (*details to follow*).

Please take a few moments to read through all the attached information, giving particular attention to the guidelines and see for yourselfit's easy and beneficial to enter.

The deadline for entries is 30th April 2012.

An early reply will greatly assist in the coordination of entries. Our website can provide you with up-to-date information about the competition; our volunteers; news, judging categories and much more. There is a new events diary on the website: http://www.cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk/events_diary.htm If you have any comments, please email a.g.faulkner@gmail.com or afheath@talktalk.net

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Auld
Administrator



**RHS BRITAIN
IN BLOOM**



Patrons: The Lord Cavendish of Furness DL Mrs Olive Clarke OBE. JP. DL. Mr Peter Howarth, Mr Eric Robson DL