

Changes in the Management Team at Cumbria in Bloom

We have a new Chairman, Administrator, Treasurer and Chair of the Competitions Sub-Committee

With the appointment of a new Administrator



Ronnie Auld took the chance to make way for a new Chairman after 4 years in the role. Ronnie took time to strengthen the relationship between Cumbria and the RHS ensuring that CiB had a strong voice at the RHS Federation. This period has also seen a record rise in the number of RHS It's Your Neighbourhood entries across Cumbria. Ronnie has succeeded Ali Gordon as Treasurer.

Our new Chairman is Keith McIntosh.



Keith, a Parish Councillor, is a native of Cumbria and lives near Carlisle. He is a lifelong gardener with interests in growing show leeks and vegetables; his favourite flowers are Red Geraniums, Begonias and Dahlias. Keith has been involved with CiB since 2010 after entering Pride in Your Community. He joined the Management Committee in 2013, chaired the Competitions sub-committee and is a Lead Judge/Assessor.

Liz Auld has retired as Administrator



after 14 years in the role. Liz oversaw many changes at CiB in that time and has been a safe pair of hands during a development period. Liz has been involved with Cumbria in Bloom for over 30 years and has seen the charity grow from relatively small beginnings to what it is today. Annually Liz has co-ordinated over 200 judged entities and managed numerous Award Ceremonies. She has worked closely with the RHS.

Our new Administrator is Helen Sale



Helen shares her time between Cumbria In Bloom, Garden Organic and her Companion Gardening clients. Garden Organic promotes organic growing and composting, citizen science and research, and seed conservation through our Heritage Seed Library. Helen is also Project Coordinator for the Cumbria Master Composters and runs a programme to recruit, train, and support a passionate team of volunteers who champion the cause of home composting at events, schools, and within the community. Helen is a great addition to the Cumbria in Bloom team and brings a wealth of experience.

A Vision for Cumbria in Bloom – Keith McIntosh, Chairman

- *Through community engagement we want to enrich everyone's quality of life, health and wellbeing through plants and wildlife, caring for our environment, and making Cumbria a greener and more beautiful place to live.*
- *We want to inspire and encourage more groups and communities to become involved in our various competitions.*
- *To give guidance and support to our entrants and provide constructive and positive feedback.*
- *Value and support our dedicated volunteers through, in particular our group of Judge/Assessors, through training and mentoring.*
- *Continue to attract and support our valued sponsors.*
- *Introduce new awards to inspire and celebrate current horticultural and community initiatives.*
- *Continually review and simplify our competition entry and assessment processes. In line with RHS Federation developments and advances in technology.*



Christine Baelz has taken on the Chairmanship of the very important Competitions Sub Committee. This group of volunteers is fundamental to the future success of Cumbria in Bloom and is at the heart of planning competitions, awards and activities. At the first meeting of 2025, this sub-committee drafted a great programme of events and activities for our 40th anniversary year.

Programme of Activities for Our 40th Anniversary Year

2025 is a special year for Cumbria in Bloom – it is our 40th Anniversary. As well as our normal range of competitions leading to many awards, we will have a couple of special awards by way of celebration – more on that below.



Summary of our 2025 Main Awards

CiB PRIDE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Entry Categories – Towns, Villages, BISs & Town Centres, Hamlets; Entry Charge - £90 Towns and BIDS, £45 Villages, Hamlets Free; Assessment Criteria – Horticulture, Environment, Community; Assessed by CiB Assessors during site visit, tour supported by portfolio evidence; for more information go to <https://cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk/comps/pride-in-your-community/>

CiB TOURISM AWARDS



Entry Categories – Self Catering Holiday Parks, Pubs, Bed and Breakfast, Small and Large Hotels, Visitor Attractions; Entry Charge - £30; Entries from Owners and/or managing organisations; Assessment Criteria – Pride of Place, Environmental Consideration, Horticultural Practice, Overall Impression, Heritage and Visitor Appeal; Assessed by CiB Assessors during a site visit, should be supported by portfolio/photographic evidence; for more information go to <https://cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk/comps/tourism/>

CiB SCHOOLS AWARDS

Open to all schools, Junior and Secondary; Entry Charge - £25; Assessed by CiB Assessors during site visit, tour supported by portfolio/photographic evidence; Assessment Criteria – Community Involvement, Curriculum/Syllabus, Enrichment, Edible Gardening, Decorative Features, Environmental Understanding, Biodiversity and Woodland Features



IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD – RHS SPONSORED AWARDS



Entries from established community groups delivering a wide range of projects aimed at personal well-being, enhancing enjoyment and pride in local communities, caring for the local environment, and focusing on Biodiversity; No entry charge; Assessed by CiB Assessors on-site in discussion and with visual evidence, explanation with group members; Awards: RHS Certificates of Merit; for more information go to <https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/its-your-neighbourhood>

SMALL WOODLAND COPSE – Special Award

Open to entrants of all CIB Competition categories including Schools and IYN Groups; No entry Fee

Assessed by CIB Assessors when judging a primary entry; Assessment Criteria: Layout, location of trees, plants, shrubs, wildlife, management and maintenance and quality of a site, and educational features; Awards Certificate of Merit overall winner.



CUMBRIA IN BLOOM 40TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL AWARDS 2025



**CiB is offering
40 trees to
plant in local
communities
to celebrate
our 40th
anniversary**

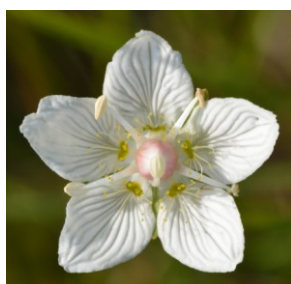
These will be available on request from entrants to any of our competitions, who must give details of where it will be planted and give an undertaking to look after the tree.

Trees will be available from March 2025 and provided free of charge and will be available to the first 40 requests.

Advice will be available on tree variety appropriate to the selected planting area.

The trees have kindly been sponsored for CIB by **Capsticks Nursery Garden** near Dalston, Carlisle which supports Cumbria in Bloom.

CUMBRIA COUNTY FLOWER AWARD



Parnassia palustris



This award is ideally suited to parishes not recently entering Cumbria in Bloom Awards but who take a great deal of pride in their community

We wish to invite entries from Town and Parish Councils for this very special award. The main objective is to encourage community involvement and enrich the local Town or Parish. This is a great opportunity for the work and commitment of volunteers and others who care for our local communities to be acknowledged.

This could also be a precursor to developing interest in a future group entry, to Pride In Your Community or IYN Competitions. Each entry will be awarded a participation certificate plus a Level of achievement award of 1 to 5. Cumbrian flower emblems. Plus, a special overall winner award.

The Cumbrian flower is called Parnassia palustris, commonly known as Bog Star. It is the county flower of our wonderful county of Cumbria. This flower has been adopted by CiB for this special award.

We are looking primarily to Town and Parish Councils to support and put forward entries to be considered for this award but who have not entered CiB for at least three years

Assessment criteria; Overall Impression taking account of; Horticultural impact, Cleanliness, maintenance and Provision of Public Amenities.

Assessed by CIB judges/assessors who will make an unannounced visit during a specified period as notified to the entrant. Feedback from the visits will be provided to all entrants.

Entry Charge: £25