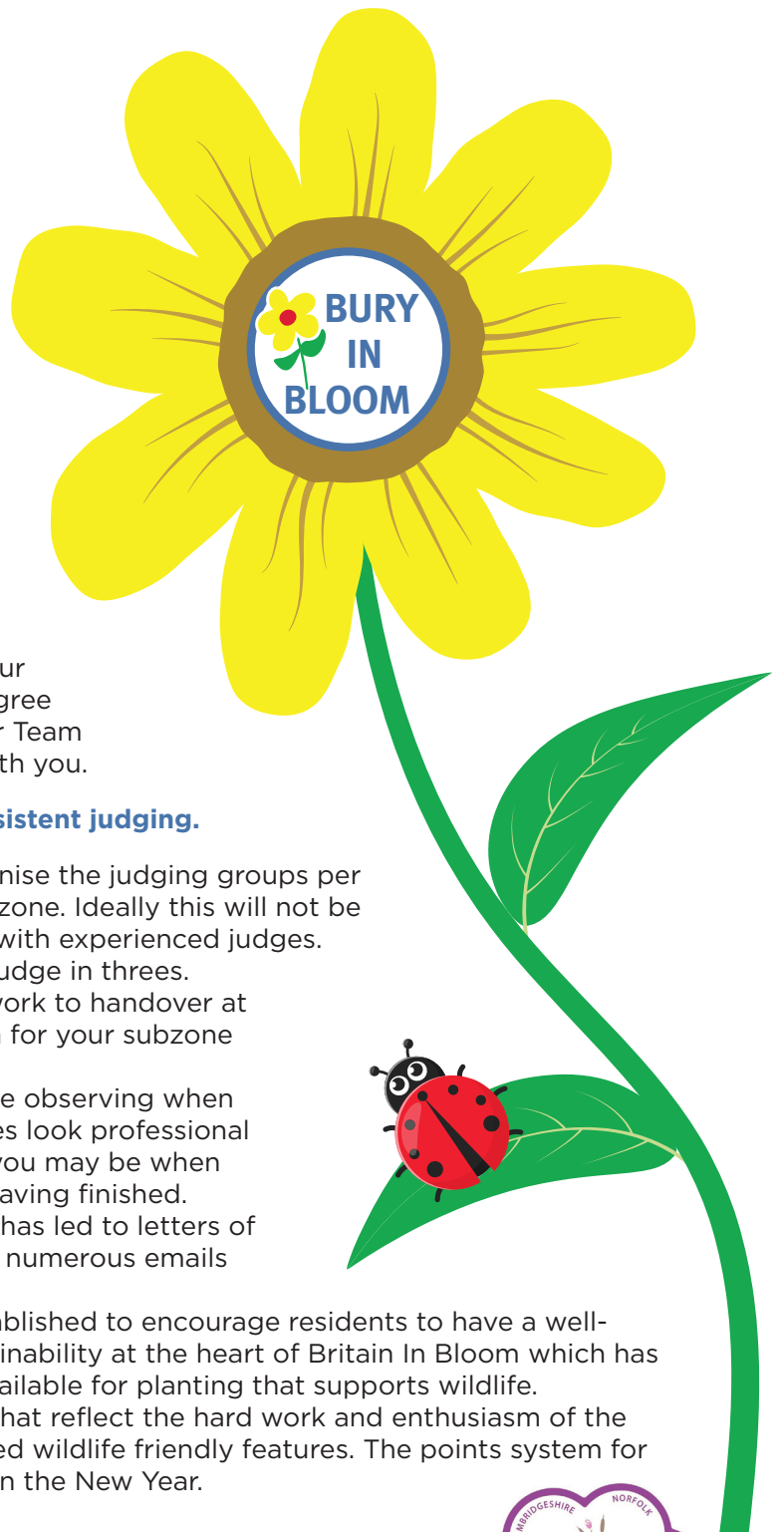


Certificates of Merit Judges Guidelines 2024

Many thanks for volunteering to be a Front Garden Judge. The following should give you a clearer idea of what that will involve. Residents of Bury St Edmunds are very keen to be awarded a Certificate of Merit so I cannot stress enough how important your role is. To ensure the good reputation of Bury in Bloom is maintained everyone involved with Certificates of Merit is focused on delivering consistent scoring. The power of social media can be very destructive so it is really important no residents feel a need to give negative feedback on any social media sites.

- Judging dates are in July to link in with Anglia in Bloom timelines and ideally not to clash with Hidden Gardens. Certificates will be awarded over 11 days which includes two weekends. Judges are encouraged to have sufficient time available to be flexible in arranging judging timings with fellow judges and also being realistic on how many coffee stops might be required to respect the stamina of some of the judges.
- The nature of the judging does involve plenty of walking – 10,000 steps might be an underestimate or judges might decide to spread judging over two sessions. Trying to judge from a car is not an option whatever the weather. If the day you planned to judge the weather is poor it makes sense to have an agreed back up date.
- Every judge will be encouraged to attend the briefing on Monday 24th June at Moreton Hall Community Centre.
- This year all judges will be expected to review their subzone after judges briefing in June and before awarding Certificates. Some zones are loved more than others so before handing out any certificates walking some of the roads in your subzone will enable your judging team to agree the baseline standard of your subzone. Your Team Leader will be very happy to discuss this with you.



This is part of the strategy to deliver more consistent judging.

- Every zone has a team leader who will organise the judging groups per subzone. Every judge will be allocated to a zone. Ideally this will not be where you live. New judges will be teamed with experienced judges. Some experienced judges will be asked to judge in threes.
- Team leaders will have Certificates+ paperwork to handover at briefing. They also have previous years data for your subzone which will be part of their briefing.
- Please be aware that numerous residents are observing when judging is taking place. It is important judges look professional and remember the first-time residents see you may be when you are walking back to your car or home having finished. Misunderstandings by public seeing judges has led to letters of complaint published in Bury Free Press and numerous emails to Bury In Bloom organisers.
- Bury in Bloom Certificates of Merit was established to encourage residents to have a well-maintained front garden. RHS has put sustainability at the heart of Britain In Bloom which has been reflected in additional points being available for planting that supports wildlife.
- In 2024 the aim is to reward front gardens that reflect the hard work and enthusiasm of the resident especially ones that have also added wildlife friendly features. The points system for 2024 will be on the Bury in Bloom website in the New Year.

Updated December 2023

If you are interested in joining the judging team please contact **Lynne Wright** certificates@buryinbloom.org.uk

