

News Release:
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Blooming gardens in Eden competition

The winners of the “Gardens of Eden” gardening competition organised by Eden Housing Association impressed judges with their ingenuity, colourful blooms and fantastic vegetables. The competition recognised the efforts of tenants who keep their garden looking good and encouraged more tenants to have a go at gardening. The judges felt there was a good standard, but a few gardens really stood out.

Mr Little from Penrith was a clear winner of the flower garden category and was described by judges as “exceptional, an oasis in the heart of Penrith”. He had glorious colourful flower beds that demonstrated great design skills and an immaculate lawn, with crisp, clean edges, showing the time and effort involved. Mr Little had also cleverly used Espalier apples and pears to create a screen for a large neighbouring shed and even had a miniature rockery.

The vegetable garden winner Trudie Smith from Kirkland was described by judges as “an inspiration, showing that a productive and attractive garden doesn’t have to cost the earth. Trudie made use of a wide variety of recycled containers to grow her veg, including old car tyres and plastic tubs discarded by local farmers. She had also made her own nettle fertiliser to keep her wide variety of veg growing strongly.” Her enthusiasm has also rubbed off onto her daughter Lauren who has her own vegetable plot and took runner up honours in the young gardener section.

Jessica Worlock, Community Development Officer for Eden Housing Association said “the young people who entered really impressed the judges with their knowledge and enthusiasm for their gardens. Both the young prize-winners had grown vegetables, and knew the names of all the vegetables they had grown and were also learning to cook using their own produce. Siobhan Wells from Ivegill won the young gardener award - she has been using her prize-winning broccoli and courgettes to cook soups with her Dad, and was full of ideas for delicious recipes. Runner up was Lauren who joined her Mum Trudie to be presented with their awards from Gary Atkinson, Branch Manager at J T Atkinson’s Penrith.

Gary said “We actively support young people in the community and it was great to see Lauren taking such pride in her gardening and embracing the competition whole-heartedly. It is inspiring to see young people so enthusiastic about gardening.”

The winner of Pots and Planters, Mr McHugh from Appleby, doesn’t only keep his own garden looking amazing, but also voluntarily helps in his local Age Concern garden and keeps his mother-in-laws garden at Rampkin House looking as impressive as his own. Due to a back injury Mr McHugh has to do most of his gardening on his hands and knees, but this hasn’t stop him from excelling at creating perfect pots and planters.

Jessica summed up the competition by saying “there were so many fantastic stories when we went to judge. It is great to see so many people getting so much pleasure out of their gardens and enjoying the fruit and veg they grow. It is a great way to keep fit, enjoy fresh veg and have a well cared for garden that improves the look of the estates - our prize-winning gardeners are definitely an inspiration.”

Vegetable Garden runners up – Miss Burgess and Mr Yourell, Kirkby Thore
Rebecca and Stephen both took part in the introduction to growing veg training course in March and were delighted that their skills were put to good use, saving money and enjoying fresh veg.

Runner Up, Pots and Planters – Miss Mary Rainsbury, Shap
Mary really impressed the judges with what she achieved in a short time. When many keen gardeners were preparing their soil in early spring, Mary's garden was still a building site. But once the newly remodelled Wasdale Supported Housing scheme was complete she got to work, making use of her new raised platform which created an accessible space for gardening.

Mary also impressed with the fact that she grew both flowers and vegetables in her pots and planters, creating a garden that was attractive and practical at the same time.

Winners

Best Young Gardener - Miss Siobahn Wells, Ivegill

Best Flower Garden - Mr G Little, Penrith

Best Vegetable Garden - Mrs T Smith, Kirkland

Best Pots, Planters or Baskets - Mr and Mrs McHugh, Appleby

Runners Up

Young Gardener – Miss Lauren Smith, Kirkland

Flower Garden - Mrs L Sowerby, Penrith

Vegetable Garden – Miss Burgess and Mr Yourell, Kirkby Thore

Pots, Planters or Baskets – Miss M Rainsbury, Shap

Pictured below:

- Lauren Smith with Mum Trudie and Gary Atkinson, Manager of J T Atkinson's Penrith Branch the main sponsor of the competition. Trudie won best veg garden and daughter Lauren took runner up honours in the young people section.
- Jessica Worlock presents Mr Little with his £100 voucher in his blooming garden.
- Runner up veg garden - Mary Rainsbury, Shap
- Winning pot display from Mr and Mrs McHugh, Appleby.
- Winner of best Young Gardener - Miss Siobahn Wells, Ivegill

