

## **Guidance for volunteers giving out certificates**

Thank you for volunteering to help us give out waterway and boats in bloom certificates. This guidance note will help you your task. You can find more frequently asked questions on our website [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/boatsinbloom](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/boatsinbloom)

### **Who can I give certificates to?**

You can present a certificates to any boat, businesses, private garden or community spaces that is making a positive contribution – but they must be beside/adjoining the waterway and be visible to the public from the towpath to be eligible for a certificate.

### **Guidance on who should receive a certificate**

The following simple criteria should help you consider who to give certificates to.

Please remember, you're not judging one against another for the certificates – you will be considering what effort they have made individually. Someone might only have one pot, but if it looks nice and is making a positive contribution then they should get a certificate just as much as someone who's boat or garden is overflowing with plants.

### **General principles for giving out certificates**

- To receive a certificate, the boat or garden must be visible to the public from the towpath.
- Please reward all efforts, no matter how big or small. If they are making a positive contribution to the waterway then they are eligible for an certificate.

### **Some things to consider when you give out certificates**

- Does the planting on the boat/garden make a positive impact on the waterways?
- Has the gardener made good use of their different circumstances?
- Is there a 'wow factor' – would passers be likely to pause and admire the planting?
- Does the boat/garden exhibit a good use of colour, plant texture and shape?
- Is there variety and good design, perhaps with s sensitive use of non-plant material?
- Is this boat/garden likely to be attractive to wildlife, e.g. appropriate plants with flowers, fruit or berries for feeding birds and insects?

If you can answer yes to one or more of these questions, then they probably deserve to be given a certificate.

### **What if I see something extra special?**

If you see something that makes you think 'wow' then why not nominate them for one of the following 'special awards';

#### Boats in Bloom – special awards

- Most flower filled boat
- Most edible growing boat
- Most imaginative use of space

(Special prizes may be awarded to other non-boat floating structure)

#### Towpaths in Bloom – special awards

- Best towpath garden or open space (private or public)
- Best towpath business in bloom (pub/cafe/other business)
- Best wildlife friendly towpath gardening initiative

To nominate someone for consideration for a special award you can do this online at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/boats-in-bloom> - you will need to include the following information;

- A photo of your nomination
- The boat index number or (for non-boat nominations) the address
- A brief description of why you are making the nominating

### **How do I present the certificate if there is no one around to receive it?**

If possible please deliver the certificate in person, but if that's not possible you'll find in your pack along with the certificates some envelopes, waterproof bags (in case it's raining) and cable ties. If it is safe to do so you can use these to attach a certificate to the boat, please do not step onto the boat to attach a certificate and try and put it somewhere it will be seen (for example near the tiller). If there is a letter box you can deliver the certificate this way.

### **Any other questions?**

Contact our customer service team 0303 040 4040  
or email [boatsinbloom@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:boatsinbloom@canalrivertrust.org.uk)