



16 June 2023

British Garden Centres help young Woodley gardeners bloom in school gardening competition

Budding gardeners from Woodley have been feeling royal after a Coronation-themed school garden tray competition.

Groups of Year 1 children from South Lake, Highwood, Rivermead, Beechwood and St Dominic's Savio Catholic Primary School took part in the annual competition as part of the Woodley Cluster Project. This project was initiated to bring schools across Woodley together to enjoy exciting extra-curricular activities for primary pupils, hosted by local secondary schools. These events have teachers collaborating on content and children working together to complete their challenges, and they provide the opportunity for primary pupils to see and use the fantastic facilities available to them at secondary school.

Pairs of children from each school join with a pair from a different school to design and create a tray garden, this year with the theme of the King's Coronation. They have workshops in the morning where they make items such as twig furniture and paper insects to put in their gardens.

With Winnersh Garden Centre providing the young, green-fingered pupils with plants and compost for the competition, the children came up with entertaining and colourful garden designs to celebrate the King's recent coronation. They not only learnt about the plants and how to place them in the gardens but made cut-out members of the Royal Family, bunting, crowns, bridges and paths to adorn their horticultural creations of a royal garden party.

The schools were judged on the creativity of the gardens, and also on how well the children worked together as a team. Parents were invited to join the pupils in the afternoon, to see what the children have been working on and for the award ceremony.

The winners of the gardens were as follows:

1st: Highwood and South Lake: "King Charles Garden Party"

2nd: St Dominic's Savio and South Lake: "Coronation Super Garden"

3rd: Highwood and St Dominic's Savio: "Spectacular Crown"



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Teamwork awards were also given to groups from Beechwood and St Dominic's Savio, as well as Highwood and South Lake. Each participant received some flower and vegetable seeds from British Garden Centres with tomato plants being presented to the top three entries.

Judges included Councillor **Janet Anderson, Deputy Woodley Town Mayor, Brenda Milton, Secretary at Woodley Flower Club and Cassie King, PR Officer at British Garden Centres.**

The gardens were then moved to take pride of place at the Woodley Carnival and were displayed alongside displays by the Woodley Flower Club. The plants will then be repotted and returned to schools to participate in the Britain in Bloom competition.

Cassie King, PR Officer at British Garden Centres who runs the Winnersh store said; "I was honoured to be asked to judge the garden tray competition. It is always a joy to see the children's enthusiasm for gardening and this is a great way to teach them about teamwork, as well raising the awareness of the pupils about the importance of protecting the environment and encouraging biodiversity. Well done to all participants, King Charles would be proud of the gardens created!"

ENDS:

WORD COUNT: 498

Notes to Editors:

About the business:

British Garden Centres (BGC) is the UK's largest family-owned garden centre group with 62 centres around the country. The group is owned and led by The Stubbs family, who also own and operate Woodthorpe Leisure Park in Lincolnshire. BGC was launched in 1987 with the opening of Woodthorpe Garden Centre funded by brothers Charles and Robert Stubbs. Since 2018 it has expanded rapidly with the acquisition of 50 garden centres allowing it to grow from its heartland to the business it is now with 62 garden centres spread from Carmarthen to Ramsgate, Wimborne to East Durham. The group has a team of 2,700 colleagues working across the garden centres, restaurants, 2 growing nurseries, 4 distribution centres and Woodthorpe Leisure Park and Woody's Restaurant & Bar.

Social Media

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