

The Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition launches for 2019!

The 2018 Young Horticulturist of the Year Grand Final was held at the Harrogate Spring Flower Show (www.flowershow.org.uk) on April 28th, giving many of the eight competitors and their families and supporters their first opportunity to see this fabulous flower show.



The winner, after a tense competition, was won by the South East Branch Regional winner, Tim Miles who is currently working at the National Trust Garden at Sissinghurst Castle in Kent.

Tim said, after the competition, *'The entire journey towards winning the YHoY 2018 competition has been fun. I have enjoyed meeting members of the CIH as well as my peers from across the UK and Ireland. With the Percy Thrower Travel Bursary, I plan to go to Japan. I have a particular interest in Japanese Woodland flora and I am keen to learn more about Japanese horticultural tools and practices.'*

Stephen Kynaston, of Platinum Sponsor the Shropshire Horticulture Society said of the competition *"The health of anything in society can be gauged by the enthusiasm and commitment of young people, and so today shows how verdant the horticulture industry is."*

We are thrilled to be launching the 2019 Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition. Our 8 regional organisers are eager to get the ball rolling and encourage any young horticulturists under the age of 30 on July 31st, 2019 to sign up. The first round of heats will be held at various locations around the country or via a Skype call. From here, the top 8 competitors are selected to go through to battle against each other in

a Regional Final. Both prizes and prize money are awarded at these two stages, provided generously by our regional and national sponsors.

The Grand Final for the 2019 Competition is being held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew on May 11th. Martin Staniforth, the Training Manager at the School of Horticulture, Learning and Operations at Kew commented:

“Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew has promoted the furtherance of horticultural knowledge to facilitate the growing and research of plants and fungi and their conservation and display. Since 1859 Kew has been a leading employer training horticulturists with a dedicated School of Horticulture since 1990. Kew is very honoured to host the 2019 YHOY Grand Final in conjunction with the Shropshire Horticultural Society and the Chartered Institute of Horticulture. The Young Horticulturist of the Year is a fantastic competition allowing the future generation of horticulturists to demonstrate the extent of their study and prowess of knowledge enhancing the profession’s reputation. For many youngsters the taking part will increase their networks and experience as well as giving valuable exposure to their talent and the possibility of prizes and publicity along the journey.”



Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew

To find out more about the competition and how to take part, visit the Young Horticulturist of the Year page at <https://www.horticulture.org.uk/young-horticulturist-of-the-year/> . Applications are now open.

For updates and to join the discussion, follow us on Twitter @CIHort #YHOY



Shropshire Horticultural Society



Charity Number: 501564

Organisers of
The Shrewsbury Flower Show

EDITORS NOTES.

1. **The competition**

- This annual competition is organised by the Chartered Institute of Horticulture, the only professional body representing all aspects of horticulture. The Institute founded the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition in 1990 as a way of encouraging and rewarding excellence among those starting out in a career in horticulture and today around 2000 young people under the age of 30 participate each year.
- The 2019 competition will be free to enter and is open to any horticulturist who is below the age of 30 on 31 July 2019.
- The competition is run in three phases: heats which take place in January and February, followed by eight Regional Finals held in March and the Grand Final in May.
- Heats are based on multi-choice questions covering a wide range of horticultural topics, run through a PowerPoint presentation. The heats are organised by eight CIH Regional Organisers and take place at colleges, garden centres and anywhere else where competitors may gather. To take part contact your university, college or workplace in the first instance.
- The Secretariat's contact email is - cih@horticulture.org.uk
 - Heat winners go forward to one of eight Regional Finals held in March, when a Question Master asks a wide range of horticultural questions, some through a buzzer round, and some directed to individual contestants. In addition, there are two identification rounds to further test their depth and breadth of knowledge on a range of plants as well as pests, diseases, disorders and weeds.
 - The winner of each Regional Final progresses to the Grand Final where the format is the same as for the Regional Finals with questions covering all sectors of horticulture.
 - The winner of the Grand Final receives the £2,500 Percy Thrower Travel Bursary, provided by the Shropshire Horticultural Society, Percy Thrower Trust. This funds a horticultural trip anywhere in the world. Previous winners have visited Borneo, China, New Zealand, South Africa, the Himalayas, the Galapagos Islands, Madeira, the United States of America, South America and Europe.

2. **2018 national competition sponsor**

- Shropshire Horticultural Society/Percy Thrower Trust, they provide the £2,500 Travel Bursary and sponsorship of the Grand Final

3. **The Chartered Institute of Horticulture** is interested to hear from companies who would be willing to offer financial, or other sponsorship, at all levels of the 2019 competition. Email: cih@horticulture.org.uk

4. **The Institute of Horticulture** was established in 1984 with the aim of fostering a close relationship between all sectors of professional horticulture (advisory and research, amenity, commercial and education and training) throughout the UK and Ireland. It is the only professional body representing those who work in all aspects of horticulture. It founded the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition shortly after it was established as a way of encouraging and rewarding excellence among those starting out in a career in horticulture.

On 21 July 2014 the Institute was granted a Royal Charter by her Majesty the Queen and became the **Chartered Institute of Horticulture** (CIH), with many new plans and initiatives to enhance its standing and that of its members both inside and outside the horticultural industry.

The Chartered Institute of Horticulture is represented on, and works collaboratively with, other horticultural organisations throughout the industry to unite a growing profession.

The Chartered Institute of Horticulture also administers and supports the **Grow Careers** initiative set up in 2006 by some of the UK's leading horticulture organisations to promote horticulture as a challenging, dynamic, exciting and rewarding career. <https://www.horticulture.org.uk/grow-careers/>

The Chartered Institute of Horticulture has [eight branches](#) throughout the UK and Ireland, as well as overseas members. Members are linked to the branch where they live but are encouraged to attend meetings arranged in any other branch area.

5. **Media enquiries and photos to:-**
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