

School Garden Competition – Update written by Christopher Black, Chair of the Great Missenden & Prestwood Revitalisation Group.

During the past school year, Prestwood & Great Missenden Schools have been designing a bee and bug friendly garden for their school as part of a competition funded by the Missendens Community Board and led by the Great Missenden and Prestwood Revitalisation Group. Students.

Early Years Foundation / Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 4 have been working hard to think about how best to promote biodiversity and support the life cycle of pollinators right in their own local school grounds.

Earlier in the year, local botanist and educator Karen van Oostrum from Prestwood Nature visited each of the schools and engaged over 1300 students about how they might best think about their design entries. Teachers from participating schools then got to work with their students, aiming for meeting the design submission deadline by 31 March. The design entries came in on time for each of the three streams of the competition [EYFS/KS1, KS2 and KS3/KS4].

During April the judges, Karen van Oostrum, Helen Matthews (Missenden Walled Garden), Keith Pounder (The Plant Specialist in Great Missenden) and Christopher Black (GMPRG) reviewed all the designs carefully and selected the winners.

We are excited to announce that they are: EYFS / KS1 Hyde Heath Infant School KS2 Great Missenden CE Combined School and KS3 / KS4 Chiltern Way Academy.

All prize winners have received their prizes and we will be following their progress throughout the year. The project also afforded each participating entry a Buddleia plant. Each school has received theirs and we hope that they will take pride of place.

This has been a remarkable experience. We were truly impressed with each design and hope that each school might find ways to make them a reality.