



2011 National Judge



MAURICE EDWARD BAREN
Horticulturist and author
West Yorkshire, England

General Background

I was born in Harrogate in Yorkshire – a town famous for its floral displays. My father was a nurseryman, so horticulture is in the blood! We later moved to Ilkley, also in Yorkshire where I went to Grammar School, and where later I started to work in the Parks Department as a gardener. After the completion of two years National Service in the Royal Air Force I attended Horticultural College at Askham Bryan, near York, and then went on to study at the Royal botanic Gardens, Kew in London for two years. Following this I attended the one year course at the Staff College of the Institute of Park and Recreation Administration. Much later in 1990 I attended Manchester University on a part-time basis and hold their diploma in Landscape Management.

Professional Career

I started my technical/professional career in Burnley in Lancashire, before moving to be a Lecturer at the City of Birmingham Parks Department's Horticultural Training School for six years. In 1974 I moved to the City of Bradford in Yorkshire where I headed up the Parks Department, having a manual staff of over 600 – we were responsible for all green areas, including parks, school playing fields, housing areas, cemeteries, etc. I retired from there in 1988 and have since been involved in checking standards in colleges covering Land Based subjects, and have also written ten books, covering many different aspects of social history. I have experience of both radio and television.

Professional Recognition

- Fellow of the Institute of Leisure & Amenity Management
- Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture
- Awarded the Harlow Carr Medal for outstanding service to Horticulture in North of England
- Awarded the Moran Memorial Award for outstanding contribution to Britain in Bloom
- Former Chairman of Yorkshire in Bloom – about 100 communities involved – and I have been associated with the regional campaign for 35 years
- Former judge of Britain in Bloom
- Former Entente Florale judge – having judges in Ireland, Holland, Germany, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Slovenia, Austria, Belgium and Croatia
- Former member of the National Executive of Britain in Bloom and Britain in Bloom Nations/Regions Committee.
- Former judge of Communities in bloom in 2006 and 2010.