

Tiphereth Pallet Garden Challenge

In the times before the pandemic, Tiphereth would take part in an annual pallet competition that was part of the Gardening Scotland at Ingliston. The challenge was to design a garden in a tiny 1m x 1m space (no actual pallets necessary), and our members would plan and work for it for months and months before. Our many certificates are proudly displayed in our garden shed. Sadly, while the exhibit started up again this year, we discovered that the pallet competition was being retired.

So, we made the decision to run our own mini event, here at Tiphereth, and reached out to The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society (aka the Caley), who we knew had previously been involved in the original competitions. They put us in touch with the absolutely wonderful Kathryn Pitts, from the Scottish Gardener's Forum, who provided us with so much incredible help and support! We sent out invitations to day services in Edinburgh, like ourselves, and to local schools and garden groups. In the end we had 6 individual pallet entries, 4 from within Tiphereth, and 2 from Edinburgh day-services Upmo and Columcille. We were deeply honoured when Kathryn volunteered her services as judge and over the moon when she also arranged for Colin Ainsworth, the President of the Caley, to join her.

On the 15th of June, all the pallets were set up at Tiphereth, and there was such a joyful and excited buzz around it. Each and every pallet was amazing, individual and wonderfully creative. On June 16th, the judges set to work, and the results were as follows:

UPMO – GOLD for their Frog Sensory Garden; a beautiful array of herbs, edible flowers and wooden spoons and stones painted with fun and interesting frogs.



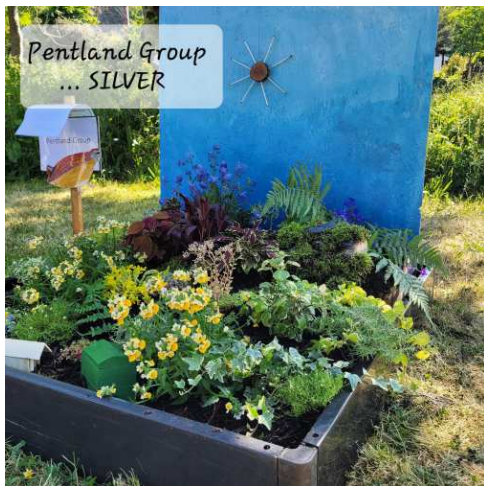
Tiphereth Garden and Pottery Group – GOLD or their 'Sun and Rain' garden; a mixture of orange, yellow, and blue flowers, in welly boots and an umbrella, displayed against a painted rainbow backdrop.



Tiphereth sensory Garden – SILVER for 'Give me just a little more Thyme'; a zen-like rockery design of herbs in clay pots with beautifully painted stones.



Tiphereth Pentland group – SILVER; for their 'Pentland Hills' inspired garden; a breath-taking mix of plants arranged on a specially built hillside, in the design of the Pentland hills including tiny wooden landmarks such as Edinburgh castle and Tiphereth.



Columcille – BRONZE for their 'Wild Mountain Thyme' landscape; whole highland landscape within a tiny garden! Heathers, thymes, ferns around a river valley, including deer, a fox and even a highland cow!



Tiphereth Print Studio – BRONZE for their 'Dye Plant' garden; a colourful range of painted sticks and cloth banners amongst a range of plants grown specifically for their use as dye plants.



Each entry received a certificate, a rosette, and a handwritten note from the judges. On the 17th of June, Tiphereth held it's Summer Fayre and the pallets were on display to all who came along. There were many enthusiastic comments and compliments and even some enquiries as to how others might enter next year. Next year!?! Are we going to run it again? Possibly. Maybe. Why not? I think so! Would you be interested in taking part? Are you part of a community garden, school, or day service? If so, please reach out to us. It would be lovely to hear from you.

**Barbra and Amy
Garden Group, Tiphereth**