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Cultivation Street winners 2015

PETAL POWER:
 Laura and
 Charlotte
 Graggs



Flower and the GLORY



Neighbours scoop £10k garden gong

by Lewis Panther

A ROAD transformed from a grotty building site into a slice of heaven has won the £10,000 first prize in the Sunday People's Cultivation Street contest.

A few years ago road improvement work turned a narrow Victorian terraced street into an obstacle course of signs and bollards. The residents of Bedford Road in St Albans, Herts, were so fed up that they decided to improve the place.

They had no traditional front gardens so they decked out pavements, hanging baskets and window sills with beautiful flower arrangements and their efforts inspired even more streets take part.

Four roads joined the project and there is a real community spirit in the area, which has started its own informal neighbourhood watch and babysitting circle.

They now also have £10,000 of national garden gift vouchers to keep it blooming. David Glanville, 61, who inspired the revival, had tears in his eyes when he received the prize. He said: "All we were doing was



BLOOMING BRILLIANT:
 Winners from Bedford
 Road waving vouchers



gardening. It's immensely moving. It's a lovely neighbourhood. It was a complete surprise to win not only the south region but also the overall prize. Everyone in our street is absolutely delighted."

The 35 houses in the street that took part have now shared the vouchers and are busy buying more plants. David, who

also runs a local gardening competition, wants the council to mark the achievement with a plaque.

Sunday People gardening expert David Domoney said: "Entrants in Cultivation Street exceeded all our expectations.

"They've come from across the spectrum, including projects that have

reclaimed waste land, improved old people's homes and clubs and societies. All of them have found the quality of life has been improved through gardening.

"Bedford Road was really inspiring. David and his neighbours joined together and what started as one or two houses ended up with streets behind it.

"They teamed up with their local garden centre for support to assist them with plants and products because their combined buying power inspired many others too. Many of those didn't have gardens but the use of window boxes made the street look amazing.

"It crossed the generations, too. The way they got on so well together was so nice to see.

"It has also inspired them to keep watch on other people's properties when they're away and even to babysit."

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STREETS APART:
 Domoney and
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