

Marking Sheet 2013

Name of entry: Waldrige	Judging Dates: Spring – 23rd April 2013 Summer – 19th July 2013
Category: B1 Small Town	Judges: Spring – Eileen Burn and Anthony Spiers Summer – Liz Lazenby and Anthony Spiers
Contact: Angela Foster, 3 Lomond Place, Chester-le-Street DH2 3HH. Tel: 0191 3881417. Mobile: 07825 741936. Email: waldrige.parish@gmail.com	

Overall Summary:

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit and the enthusiastic reception to Waldrige on a very hot sunny day on the top of the world! We saw many lovely domestic gardens in a huge range of gardening styles, visited your allotment site and wide grassed public areas. We enjoyed our walk on Waldrige fell. A well thought out route for a very good entry.

Spring Judging *20% of maximum points*

Max. 40

32

Areas of Achievement:

“We are volunteers improving where we live” is what the volunteers tell passersby – and encourage them to join in. There is a very positive attitude in Waldrige in Bloom and the results are visible. The village green was very attractive with bulbs and sustainable planting. It was good to meet David Stabler who grows and provides their plants, including violets to be naturalised on the fell. There were numerous beds and tubs in the town, all well-stocked with good varieties and well maintained.

Areas for Improvement:

Use the NIB posters to raise local awareness. Where possible, allow the judges to meet volunteers and residents along the judging route.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

Assessing year-round horticultural achievement including conservation and natural areas.

		Max.	
A1.	<i>Impact – e.g. design, colours, appropriate choice of plants, special features, presentation, innovation</i>	16	13
A2.	<i>Horticultural practice – e.g. cultivation and maintenance, quality of plants, sustainability, new planting</i>	16	12
A3.	<i>Residential and Community Gardening – e.g. residential, communal areas, allotments, public buildings (grounds of churches, schools etc.), car parks</i>	16	14

A4.	Business Areas and Premises – <i>e.g. retail and shopping areas, leisure sites, transport terminals, car parks, farms, rural businesses, pubs, post offices, tourist areas/attractions, offices, estate agents etc.</i>	16	10
A5.	Green Spaces – <i>e.g. verges, parks and open public spaces</i>	16	12
	Total Points Awarded for Section A <i>40% of maximum points</i>	80	61

Areas of Achievement:

There are many very attractive and well maintained gardens in Waldridge and a lot of roadside beds planted by the local bloom group. Both the terraced streets and the large estate have some excellent gardens. The pub has much colourful planting along its frontage. The allotment site is well looked after and has a wide variety of allotments.

Areas for Improvement:

Your begonia beds on open grassland by roadsides were lovely but desperately needed water. We realise that there had been little or no rainfall for quite a while before our visit but it is a shame that you made so much effort in choosing and planting to then lose your plants. We suggest you co-opt local residents to take charge of watering the beds near their homes, whether in exceptionally dry weather such as 2013 or, indeed, on a regular basis. You will recruit more helpers this way and they will take more pride in their neighbourhood if they have personal input. Another way to restrict water loss would be to mulch your flower beds.

We suggest that you replant your roadside wildflower bed as a conventional flower bed; another wildflower bed could be created in a more rural spot away from the main road.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

		Max.	
B1.	Conservation and biodiversity – <i>e.g. wildlife areas, natural habitat</i>	8	8
B2.	Resource management – <i>including recycling and minimising any harmful impact on the environment</i>	8	6
B3.	Local heritage – <i>management and development of local and natural heritage</i>	8	6
B4.	Local environmental quality – <i>litter, graffiti, fly-posting, dog fouling, management of vacant premises and areas etc.</i>	8	7
B5.	Pride of place – <i>e.g. management of street furniture, signage, art in the landscape and hard landscaping</i>	8	7
	Total Points Awarded for Section B <i>20% of maximum points</i>	40	34

Areas of Achievement:

Local pride is demonstrated at the various entrances to Waldridge with the beautiful planted signs. We look forward to seeing the newly commissioned wooden and metal sculptures to be placed around the parish. We commend your efforts to eliminate dog fouling on the Community Green. The whole place was clean and almost litter free thanks in great part to The Waldridge Wombles!

Waldridge is fortunate to have on its doorstep an SSSI site, Walridge Fell, managed very ably by Mark Oliphant, a Durham Countryside Ranger.

Areas for Improvement:

Information about resource management should be given in the portfolio.

SECTION C – Community Participation

Assessing year-round community participation

		Max.	
C1.	Development and continuity - <i>Development and sustainability of the local bloom initiative and evidence of on-going projects</i>	8	7
C2.	Communication and education – <i>e.g. community awareness and understanding of the campaign, engagement with schools and young people and/or other community groups, press coverage, publicity materials</i>	8	6
C3.	Community participation – <i>community involvement is representative of the community's size and diversity</i>	8	6
C4.	Year-round involvement – <i>schedules of events and supporting evidence of year-round activity (primary evidence to be presented in a portfolio and/or presentation)</i>	8	7
C5.	Funding and Support – <i>initiatives to secure on-going support for the local bloom campaign including local business support</i>	8	7
Total Points Awarded for Section C <i>20% of maximum points</i>		40	33

Areas of Achievement:

We received a helpful portfolio explaining your activities, community and fund raising efforts.

Areas for Improvement:

Continue your efforts to recruit new supporters and helpers.

Total Points Awarded	160	80%
MEDAL	SILVER GILT	