

Marking Sheet 2014

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| Name of entry: WALDRIDGE | Judging Dates: 22 April and 23 July 2014 |
| Category: B1 | Judges: Eileen Burn and Ann Burns |
| Contact: Angela Foster, Parish Clerk, 3 Lomond Place, Garden Farm, Chester le Street, DH2 3HH. 0191 388 1417 / 07825 741936 waldridge.parish@gmail.com | |

Overall Summary: Waldridge is a delightful residential small town, set in lovely countryside. Waldridge Parish Council in partnership with the local community takes great pride in enhancing their natural assets through abundant floral and environmental developments.

Spring Judging 20% of maximum points

Max. 40

35

Areas of Achievement: The spring displays throughout Waldridge – both in communal areas and residential front gardens – were outstanding. The containers throughout the town were well filled with good varieties. We enjoyed our spring visit to Waldridge Fell.

Areas for Improvement:

The recovery from the major amenity work that has been taking place in the town will take some time, but this could provide a good opportunity to introduce some new features.

SECTION A – Horticultural Achievement

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

| | | Max. | |
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| A1. | Impact – e.g. design, colours, appropriate choice of plants, special features, presentation, innovation | 16 | 12 |
| A2. | Horticultural practice – e.g. cultivation and maintenance, quality of plants, sustainability, new planting | 16 | 13 |
| A3. | Residential and Community Gardening – e.g. residential, communal areas, allotments, public buildings (grounds of churches, schools etc.), car parks | 16 | 14 |
| A4. | Business Areas and Premises – 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. | 16 | 9 |
| A5. | Green Spaces – e.g. verges, parks and open public spaces | 16 | 13 |
| Total Points Awarded for Section A | | 80 | 61 |

40% of maximum points

WALDRIDGE FELL GAVE A PROFOUND POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE MAIN ROAD. THE RAISED BED AT WHITEHILL

was excellent and good fun. The children had made a very good job of providing this colourful smiley face, from design to planting. There is an impressive amount of sustainable planting in Waldrige which is establishing well, and provides lots of interest. We liked the short mowing regime around all the beds, which showed them off to great effect. There is generally a very high standard of residential front gardens with plenty of variety, and some outstanding examples. We enjoyed visiting St Barnabas Nursery, and David Stabler is to be commended on the excellence of the plants that he supplies to the village and to the public. It was a real pleasure to visit the allotments and to meet so many of the enthusiastic and enterprising allotment holders. The area looked well managed, with lovely plantings along the track fences, and a good selection of flowers and vegetables all in good heart.

Areas for Improvement: It is unfortunate that the Whitehill public house is going through exterior refurbishment, and it will be good to see the reinstatement of plants and shrubs in this very central and well utilised part of the village.

More herbaceous planting is to be encouraged, and will further enhance the village.

SECTION B – Environmental Responsibility

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

Areas of Achievement: Waldrige is blessed with its surrounding countryside and especially the Waldrige Fell, which supports a great variety of flora and fauna. It is well managed and used, is accessible for wheelchairs, has marked trails and is litter-free. The Millenium Park is also well used for community events, and is wildlife friendly. We were impressed by the recycling of plants and containers. There is pride in Waldrige, and the Wombles and their friends make a very good job of keeping things clean and tidy. Street furniture is generally in very good condition.

Areas for Improvement: The wetland area in the Millenium Park will be an excellent project, which is to be encouraged. In future it would be good to visit and see the work that has gone on in the Cong Burn. More opportunity should be given to visit Waldrige Fell, and we wish Mark Oliphant a good recovery from his unfortunate accident.

| | | Max. | |
|------------|---|-------------|----|
| C1. | Development and continuity - Development and sustainability of the local bloom initiative and evidence of on-going projects | 8 | 7 |
| C2. | Communication and education – e.g. community awareness and understanding of the campaign, engagement with schools and young people and/or other community groups, press coverage, publicity materials | 8 | 7 |
| C3. | Community participation – community involvement is representative of the community's size and diversity | 8 | 7 |
| C4. | Year-round involvement – schedules of events and supporting evidence of year-round activity (primary evidence to be presented in a portfolio and/or presentation) | 8 | 7 |
| C5. | Funding and Support – initiatives to secure on-going support for the local bloom campaign including local business support | 8 | 7 |
| | Total Points Awarded for Section C <i>20% of maximum points</i> | 40 | 35 |

Areas of Achievement: It is good to see the Community Officer is now involved in Bloom, and to hear of the part that she plays in community spirit and effort. The pupils of the Hermitage are to be commended on their super smiley face bed, sponsored by Costcutter, which was well designed and had a good cross section of healthy annual plants. The community events are well supported, and the judges particularly liked the idea of the Beating the Bounds walk, the Easter morning service on the Fell, and the annual events on the Millenium Green. It is good to hear of the support from Durham County Council, and in particular of the growing co-operation with the Haggrid project. Well done. It was a pleasure to meet so many people who are involved in Bloom in Waldrige, and have the opportunity to talk to them about their contributions and interests.

Areas for Improvement: The judges are happy to give advice on next year's tour. You are getting close to gold level and a more balanced tour, reflecting all the criteria of the competition, would be advantageous.

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| Total Points Awarded | 166 | 83% |
| MEDAL | SILVER GILT | |