

Anglia in Bloom judges Julia Smith and Joan Gibson visited Rayleigh on Friday 20th July 2018 to judge the Town Council's entry into this year's annual competition. The Town Council Chairman, Cllr Jack Lawmon, and Rayleigh in Bloom Chairman, Cllr Ian Ward and Vice Chairman, Cllr Mrs Margaret Spencer, accompanied them on their tour. Cllr Mrs Cheryl Roe, Chairman of Environment Committee provided transport for the tour.

The pictures attached shows some entries that have been nominated for the Anglia in Bloom Special Awards: the Best Sheltered Housing and Garden for Special Needs, Rawreth Court, Wildlife Habitat for Biodiversity with Rayleigh Primary School, Best Young People's project (12-18) – The FitzWimarc school with their nomination "String Art/Food for Senses", The Roebuck Public House (joint Rayleigh in Bloom Public House winners with Marcos Tapas Bar) and Mrs Jean Adams – Best Floral display by an Individual. Our hopes are high for the nominations into the Special Award categories.



Judging Party at Rawreth Court for Best Garden for Special Needs and Sheltered Housing
From left to right: Cllrs Ian Ward, Mrs Margaret Spencer (Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Rayleigh in Bloom sub-committee, Anglia in Bloom Judge, Mrs Joan Gibson, Yvonne Lewis, Manager of Rawreth Court Sheltered Housing, Anglia in Bloom Judge, Mrs Julia Smith, care assistant, Cllr Jack Lawmon, Chairman of Rayleigh Town Council.



Wildlife Habitat - Rayleigh Primary and judges



Part of the tour visiting one of the winners of Rayleigh's Public House competition - The Roebuck, who were joint winners with Marcos Tapas Bar— have both been entered into the AIB special awards nomination for Best Commercial Premises.



GCSE FitzWimarc School students displaying their nomination for Best Young People's project for Anglia in Bloom awards with judges Mrs Julia Smith(left) and Mrs Joan Gibson(right)



Rayleigh Town Council Chairman, Cllr Jack Lawman, Neil Dowzall, Mrs Joan Gibson, Mrs Jean Adams (Best Individual Garden nominee for Anglia in Bloom Special Awards) Mrs Julia Smith and Rayleigh in Bloom sub committee chairman, Cllr Ian Ward

Rayleigh achieved Gold last year and Town Council members, staff and volunteers have been working tirelessly over the last few months to try to maintain this prestigious accolade.

The day started off with a presentation from some of FitzWimarc's GCSE students who showed off their "String Art" project and explained their entry to the judges. The judges were also shown pictures of "Food for Senses" which was part of the 2018 Art Trail which have been entered as a joint project in the 12-18 Young Peoples special award. The judges visited the town centre and viewed the winning entries in the various competitions that are run by the Town Council including best allotment, school garden, front garden, public house (joint winners), shared garden and religious grounds. The judges also paid a visit to the Castle Road Recycling Centre and Rayleigh Windmill.

The Town Council has entered 10 nominations to be put forward for the Anglia in Bloom Special Awards categories. Current categories are Biodiversity, Best Community Project, Best Conservation Project, Best Floral Display by Individual or Community, Best Public Open Space, Best Drought Garden, Grow your Own, Best Young Peoples project (U12), Best Public Open Space, Best Local Authority Floral Display and Best Garden for Special Needs.

In the afternoon, the judges inspected Lower Wyburns Woodland, King George V Playing Field and Holy Trinity Church which were all entries to Anglia in Bloom in separate categories to the town entry.

Cllr Jack Lawmon, Chairman of the Town Council said “My thanks to Cllr. Ian Ward as Chairman of the Rayleigh in Bloom Committee and to the other Councillors and to the many people of Rayleigh involved in making Rayleigh look its best for the annual Anglia in Bloom judging day; It was such a pleasure to see the participants from various organisations of the community such as the schools and businesses who presented their premises with such enthusiasm and who made themselves available to meet and speak to the judges, describing their project in person during the visit. I was very proud to witness the Town’s inclusive response and I believe that it presented the best of our Town and impressed the judges, so well done to everybody.

Anglia in Bloom will announce the awards at a ceremony on 12th September and Rayleigh Town Council will hold its own presentation evening at Rayleigh Baptist Church in October.

For further information or pictures contact:

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