

The judges met the Belper in Bloom committee at St John's Chapel, the oldest building in the town. They proceeded to the Market Place where their presence was announced by the traditional town crier. Belper has some notable attractive areas, including the wildflower meadow so close to the town centre. The colourful array of hanging baskets and beds planted with the patriotic colours of red, white and blue along with the recently restored Belper River Gardens were a treat to see

Well done, Belper!

The judges were particularly impressed by:

SECTION A

- The excellent quality and design of the colourful floral displays throughout the town.
- The judges were impressed by the "hands on" gardening expertise by the elderly residents of Meadow Court.
- It was pleasing to see the number and variety of commercial premises that had attractive floral displays.

SECTION B

- The wildflower meadow at the Deer park being freely accessible with footpaths meandering through it was a lovely experience so close to the town centre.
- The judges were very impressed by the cleanliness of the streets and noted the involvement of the Scouts doing a litter pick prior to judging.

SECTION C

- The judges were impressed by the way the Bloom continues to evolve in Belper. You now have an established Bloom Committee that must bode well for the future.
- It was clear that there is a great deal of enthusiasm for the Bloom covering a wide spectrum of organisations and individuals.
- Your communication with all households and businesses clearly reaped rewards.

Areas suggested for future development:

SECTION A

- Consideration should be given to widening the boundaries of the "town centre" to include a greater number of streets within the Bloom initiative.

SECTION B

- We suggest a small interpretation panel be provided in the wildlife border in The Coppice car park.

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- Belper has much to commend it for its heritage with elements already incorporated within the Town's image. We suggest you could build further on your historical reputation as a theme for a future year.

SECTION C

- If the boundaries of the "Town Centre" can be widened sponsorship should increase enabling you to further enhance the attractiveness of the town.

A=89 B=44 C=42 TOTAL 175