

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For immediate release**

### **BLOOMING MARVELLOUS AWARDS FOR GODALMING TOWN CENTRE AND NIGHTINGALE CEMETERY**

Having in 2019, for the first time ever, entered the South & South East in Bloom (SSEIB) competition, Godalming Town Council was delighted, in early July, to welcome the competition judges when they toured the town and looked at the town centre Floral Godalming displays, the Godalming Museum garden and the approaches to Boarden Bridge planting area as well as Nightingale Cemetery.

As first time entrants, expectations were not high, which is why, at the SSEIB awards ceremony held on Friday, 13 September, Mayor of Godalming Cllr Penny Rivers was so delighted when the BBC Radio Surrey Gardening expert Joe Talbot presented her with a Silver Gilt Award in the small cemeteries category for Nightingale Cemetery.

The cemetery, which is managed by the Town Council on behalf of the Godalming Joint Burial Committee, scored near maximum points for 'Pride of Place' in the local environmental quality of the cemetery, with the judges being especially impressed with the areas that had been allowed to grow to encourage native species, wildflowers and bees. The judges also commended the Memorial Garden designed by Michele Clackson to commemorate the 281 men who died in the Great War. The judges praised the high standard of maintenance and judged that a lovely area had been created to sit in quiet contemplation and for visitors to enjoy the colour and interest it had added to the cemetery.

The Council picked up a second award, this time a Silver Award for the town centre. The judges said they enjoyed walking through the town centre on judging day and noted that Floral Godalming's displays were well planted and maintained and "made the area more inviting". They were also encouraged by the level of support from local businesses who have this year sponsored the troughs, planters and hanging baskets as well as the businesses and outlets who participated in helping to create some extremely good displays around the centre. Of particular note were the displays at The Sun Public House.

The Godalming Museum garden received commendable comments and the judges were impressed with the sustainable planting and high standard of maintenance in the garden. The new planting at the approach to Boarden Bridge also received favourable comments from the judges who were pleased to note the planting had been well executed and was thriving despite shady conditions. Godalming Town Council is grateful to the many volunteers who helped to achieve this much appreciated award for the town centre.

Mayor, Cllr Rivers said “the beauty of the flowers organised by Godalming Town Council have been recognised by South & South East in Bloom with not one but two awards – blooming marvellous!”

Special thanks and congratulations to The Peter Caudle Memorial Trust for its support in initiating this project in 2018 and to the sponsors and the many volunteers who have helped sustain it in 2019.

Ends...

For more information on this release or images,  
please contact: Suzie Gortler  
Email: [community@godalming-tc.gov.uk](mailto:community@godalming-tc.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01483 523075  
Release Date: 18 September 2019

Follow Us on:

