



*Figure 1 Russell Best, owner of The Spread Eagle Public House who was winner of the Best Commercial Premises, with AIB judges*



*Anglia in Bloom judges with Town Council Chairman, Cllr Mrs Carol Pavelin, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the RAyleigh in Bloom sub committee, Cllrs I Ward and Mrs M Spencer*



*Downhall Primary pupils, Aib judges, Chairman and Town Councillors viewing new flowerbed at top of Rayleigh High Street*



*AIB judges, Joan, gardener and resident for Homeregal House, nominees for Special Award for Best Sheltered Housing, and Chairman and Town Councillor representatives*



*Sweyne Park School pupils, Chairman of the Town Council, Cllr Mrs Carol Pavelin, and the rocket project.*

Anglia in Bloom judges Brian Thornton and Phillip Feller visited Rayleigh on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017 to judge the Town Council's entry into this year's

annual competition. The Town Council Chairman, Cllr Mrs Carol Pavelin, and Chairman, Cllr Ian Ward and Vice Chairman, Cllr Mrs Margaret Spencer, of the Rayleigh in Bloom sub-committee accompanied them on their tour. Cllr Mrs Cheryl Roe, Chairman of Environment provided transport for the tour.

The pictures attached shows the Best Young People's Project (U12's), "The Chickens" and participants from Downhall Primary School with the Anglia in Bloom judges and Town Council representatives, another special award entry pictured above, are Best Sheltered Housing, Homeregal House and other nominations are The Spread Eagle for Best Industrial/Commercial, Rayleigh Primary School for Biodiversity with their Eco Pond, Best Community Project – "Commemorative Poppies", Best young people's project (12-18yrs) – Sweyne Park School and their "Rocket" project, Grow Your Own - allotment winner, Rayleigh Mount for Best Conservation Project and KGV Playing Field for Best Public Open Space. Our hopes are high for the nominations into the Special Award categories.

Rayleigh has attained Silver Gilt for the last few years and Town Council members, staff and volunteers have been working tirelessly over the last few months to try to better this to gold.

The day started off with a presentation from Year 9 Sweyne Park School students who showed off their "Rocket" project and explained their entry to an International competition. 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, shared garden and religious grounds. The judges also paid a visit to the Rayleigh Town Museum, Castle Road Recycling Centre and Rayleigh Mount and met with Downhall Primary School's pupils and their chickens.

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 Mrs Carol Pavelin, 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 it’s best for the annual Anglia in Bloom judging day; It was so nice to see the participants from various organisations of the community, who made themselves available to meet and speak to the judges and describe their project in person and I believe it all combined in impressing the judges, so well done to everybody.”

Anglia in Bloom will announce the awards at a ceremony on 14th September and Rayleigh Town Council will hold its own presentation evening at Rayleigh Baptist Church in October.

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