

Dalston in Cumbria & Britain in Bloom 2016

Cumbria In Bloom Results 2016



Part of RHS BRITAIN IN BLOOM

For the third year running Dalston village has won the National Park Trophy Gold award in the Cumbria in Bloom Best Large Village competition. The trophy was presented by the Mayor of Penrith at the ceremony at The North Lakes Hotel, Penrith on 8th September 2016. Volunteer representatives from the village attended the event and saw slides from around the county to show Schools, Tourism and It's Your Neighbourhood categories.

Amongst the judges remarked were an immaculate bowling green enhanced by beautiful begonia displays and a recently planted perennial border, which added to the



existing shrub structure. They thought we had a unique bridge at the end of the Kingsway. The churchyard was commented on as an excellent example of improving and creating wildlife habitat, the preservation of the Slow Worm area is particularly vigorous. They also mentioned the horticultural and private gardens being of a high standard with enhancing displays by commercial premises.

The Gold award was far from all that Dalston collected. In addition the Parish Council won, on behalf of St Michael's Churchyard Group, the Provincial Insurance trophy for



Churchyards in the Pride in Your Community category. This is a great tribute to all those volunteers and contractors (Wigton Town Council) who work so hard to keep our cemetery and churchyard looking so good.



Dalston Village were winners of the Cumbria County Council Carlisle Local Committee Award for Achievement in the District and joint winners of the Sellafield License Co. trophy for the best large tidy village.

These major awards were supplemented by the Cumbria in Bloom It's Your Neighbourhood Awards as follows - Indian King Court and 4 The Square (level 4 Thriving), Dalston Gardening Club (level 3 Advancing) and Dalston Station Gardeners (level 4 Thriving).

This year we have gained more volunteers and all these awards are proof to them and also the contractors who have worked tirelessly and particularly hard this year to keep Dalston Village looking particularly good. Dalston Parish Council is very grateful to them all.

Ann Byers, Chairman Dalston Parish Council



It's a Silver Gilt for Dalston in Britain in Bloom



BRITAIN IN BLOOM® UK FINALIST 2016
with the RHS

Our Britain in Bloom judging day was 8th August so it has felt a very long time until we could attend the Britain and Bloom Awards Ceremony to hear our results on October 14th. In a way we didn't know what to expect as first timers in the national competition. We would have been happy with a Silver Award and over the moon with a Silver Gilt. We knew that a Gold was not really possible this time. So, when Chris Beardshaw announced a Silver Gilt as Bobby Nichol and I stood on the edge of the stage, we were delighted. We didn't seem to hear the applause from over 500 finalists as we moved onto the stage to receive our certificate from Roger Burnett, Chairman of the RHS UK Judges, followed by a picture and then handshakes with Chris Beardshaw. We had done it. Dalston had exceeded expectations. Every single one of our volunteers had handsomely contributed to this success and everyone should be extremely proud of our achievement.

We have been invited to take part in the national finals again in 2017 and I will be writing to all of our volunteers soon to seek their agreement to have a go for a Gold award, which I believe is well within our capability. The Parish Council too will have to agree as the entry needs to be funded as well as it was in 2016.

While thanks are due to all our volunteers friends and sponsors, this is a good place to mention our principle contractor, Mike Capstick. The troughs, baskets and planters that he and his team are responsible for were fantastic this year and have lasted well into the autumn. We thank them for all their attention to detail and much of the credit for this national award should be go Mike. Thanks also to Wigton Town Council, our grass cutting contractor and to Carlisle City Council for road sweeping and other work at all the crucial times.

Back to the Award Ceremony - it was held at the Edgbaston Cricket ground. We were surrounded by pictures of cricketing icons, past and present. The event was sponsored by Birmingham City Council (did you know that Birmingham has more trees than Paris and claims to have more canals than Venice?). After the proceedings were introduced by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, garden designer and TV presenter Chris Beardshaw ran the rest of the evening. He introduced all the finalist groups with some sort of anecdote about the village, town etc. In our case it was our motto and cock fighting history. He also had some good stories to tell - ask me sometime why lettuce makes a good contraceptive and why water melon might be more potent for men than a certain little blue pill which has become available in recent years!

Ronnie Auld