

Press Release

Everything's Coming Up Roses For Town Council's Gardener

With a good response from members of the public, Hailsham town centre has once again been filled with colour this summer thanks to the maintenance of rose beds by a member of Hailsham Town Council's works staff.

As part of an initiative in recent years to brighten up the town centre, Hailsham Town Council's amenity warden Len Davies – a former UK National Champion Rose Exhibitor and rose-growing enthusiast - ensures that the rose beds in Vicarage Field and the adjacent churchyard are well maintained and visually appealing to the public.

Welcoming compliments from residents on how good this year's rose bed displays look, Len Davies said, "The roses certainly brighten up the area, and I hope they raise the confidence of people in the town centre by making it a more pleasant place to be."

"Being Welsh, my national flower is the daffodil, however I'm privileged to be given the opportunity to provide my expertise on rose growing in Hailsham, and I look forward to maintaining the town centre's rose beds to the best of my ability in years to come."

Town Mayor Councillor Nigel Coltman commented: "Hailsham Town Council currently maintains a number of rose beds in the town centre, including those in Hailsham Parish churchyard which are regularly pruned, watered, hand-weeded and litter picked at each visit by Len and his colleagues."

"It is good to receive positive feedback from people on the work undertaken by outdoor works staff, and residents can be assured that the rose beds which we maintain will continue to be kept attractive, tidy and litter-free."

Town Clerk John Harrison is also impressed by the effort put into the maintenance of rose beds. He said: "I'd like to pass my thanks to Len for the beautiful rose displays in the town centre. They are attractive, cheerful and well tended to help make the area very pleasant for residents and visitors, which I think is very important. They are a real credit to everyone concerned!"

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Notes to Editors

About Len Davies:

- Started growing and exhibiting roses locally in 1970 and has entered many local, regional and national competitions since then.
- Former member of the Royal National Rose Society (RNRS), East Sussex Rose Society and Hailsham Horticultural Society.
- Winner of many awards for Best Exhibit since 1970, including cups, trophies and medals for RNRS competitions held at St Albans, Cumbria, Westminster and Hampton Court.
- Received 24 trophies at the Bexley Heath Rose Society Show held in 1990.
- Winner of over 300 bronze medals at local exhibits, including the RNRS South of England Rose Show.
- UK National Champion (RNRS – Silver Award) in 1986.

- Since 1980, has grown four unique rose varieties which have been planted in trial ground at St Albans.
 - Written numerous articles on rose growing for the *Daily Mirror* and *Garden News*.
 - Given talks and illustrated presentations for numerous rose growing societies throughout the past 25 years.
 - Resided in Hailsham for over 50 years.
 - A former butcher, employed by Hailsham Town Council as part-time Gardener and Amenity Warden in 2005.
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