



**RHS Britain in Bloom
UK Finals Marking Sheet 2019**

Name of entry: Penrith	Judging Date: 2 August 2019
Category: Large Town	Judges: Rae Beckwith and Dale Hector

Horticultural Achievement (40%)	Silver Gilt
Environmental Responsibility (30%)	Gold
Community Participation (30%)	Gold
Overall	Gold

Introduction and Overall Impression

The judges were delighted with the warm welcome they received on arrival. The judges talked about having fun at the introduction and that was indeed what happened. Please pass on our thanks to Colin, Chair of Cumbria in Bloom, for attending the end of tour lunch.

For quite a new entry great things have been achieved, which have in turn changed the face of Penrith. Special mention must be made of the contribution that the Business Improvement District (BID) offer has made. David was very clear how this has changed Penrith and all for the good. So many more people are visiting just to enjoy the shopping and atmosphere created throughout the year.

The whole day was well delivered by Carol Grey and Anna Malina. Thank you so much for all the hard work that went into the planning.

Recycling remains a key element of the Penrith entry. This has brought together so many people and the stories that were told relating to the many ways that recycling is carried out was thought-provoking.

SECTION A – Horticulture

The judges were impressed by the overall quality of horticulture seen throughout the year. The wide variety of plant material used worked in almost all locations. The open space grass areas were in good condition as was the stock. Your various selections of fruit and veg were very good and enjoyed by a wide range of people. Overall your baskets and containers were good and bring colour to so many locations.

The judges would like to draw your attention to the use of bedding petunias. Petunias do not work well in wet locations and the judges would therefore suggest that an alternative plant choice be

considered. We also noticed evidence of weeds in the beds of begonias. This was mostly chickweed, which requires regular attention and can be quite troublesome.

SECTION B – Environment

The clean, litter-free streets impressed the judges. Thacka Beck Nature Reserve is a gem and was a delight to visit. The Bee Keepers and their story was of high interest.

The judges were impressed by the seat and lamp-post painting programme, and what a joy to find such clean seats. The knitted decorations attached to those posts and seats awaiting their turn in the painting programme were a delight.

The judges must mention the railway station. This is a stand-out feature. It is all about thinking outside the box, and the judges doubt that there is another like it anywhere. Well done Joan for managing this super project that is enjoyed by so many people when passing through the station.

The judges commend the changes that have occurred in the BID area and are driven by Louise who has a skill to make things happen and bring people on board. Everyone respects her work.

SECTION C – Community

This section is so well managed. Having many groups working to the same end is your strength. The judges were impressed by Laura and her work connected with the Salvation Army and the Gardening and Foodbank programmes. Ongoing training sessions are further proof of a connected entry.

The overall involvement 52 weeks a year is to be applauded. There can be little doubt that what the judges saw was a commitment not often seen. The contribution of the Mencap group is further evidence of an entry going forward.

The school gardening project at St Catherine's Catholic Primary School was first class. Well done to the pupils and Dave and Maggie.

The polytunnel programme is well managed by Malcolm – what a huge amount of produce has been grown.

If it were possible to have had the press on the day, it would have been a great way to further promote your efforts.