Photonew focus on the prize-winning villages of Leicestershire



Chairman of the Bosworth in Bloom committee Mr. Dick Symonds receives the plaque for best intermed-iate village from Mrs Pat Butler, former chair of the rural community council.



Mr. Alan Luntley (left) vice chairman of Waltham -in-the -Wolds parish council accepts the prize for best small village from Mr. Maurice Pettifor, chairman of the Rural Community Council.

All the very best

by John Marsden

JUBILANT residents in four communities are celebrating pride of place in Leicestershire.

Judges in the county's annual Best Kept Village Award competition inspected about 90 villages – and declared the standard of entries exceptionally high.

Winners in the closely fought event were: Bitteswell in the hamlet category, Waltham-on-the-Wolds in the small category, Market Bosworth in the intermdediate category and Newbold Verdon in the large village category.

Representatives from the organisers, Leicestershire Rural Community Council, inspected the standard of many aspects of village life – ranging from the quality of floral displays to the cleanliness of community facilities such as bus shelters and telephone kiosks.

A spokeswoman said: "They were looking for everything really. They were interested in what sort of effort the community put into their villages."

Representatives from the communities received their awards at the weekend.

Run of success

They were handed a plaque, to keep, and a trophy which they hold for one year.

Market Bosworth has particular reason to celebrate. The village is continuing its reign as a best kept village for the sixth consecutive year.

Runners up in this year's competition, sponsored by the Leicester Mercury, were Wing, Mowsley, Barrowden, Medbourne, Bottesford, Ravenstone, Kibworth Beauchamp, Cosby and Fleckney.

The runners-up were awarded certificates.







Mr. Michael Preston (left) chairman of Newbold Verdon parish council receives the plaque for best kept large village from Mr. Peter Gilbey of the Leicester Mercury (right). Also pictured are parish councillors Mr. David Colledge, Mr. Arthur Hurst and Mrs Sue Spence.





Bitteswell parish councillor Mrs. Jill Smith is presented with the trophy for the hamlet category by organiser Mrs. Daphne Brown. Runners -up certificates were presented to Mr. Alisdair Orr representing Wing and Mrs. Sheila Ball of Mowsley.