

PARISH MATTERS

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Beau Vallon is judged best floral business



Beau Vallon has been selected as having the best floral business in the parish in this year's Floral St Peter's award. Pictured at the back are, standing left to right, judge Phil Merrien, Paul Domaille and Jane Russell. Seated are apartment owners Natasha Bannister and Corrina Walker. (Picture by Adrian Miller, 1336107)

IN BRIEF...

FOREST

KNITTERS are being asked to create little penguins for a Forest-based author's new book. The Rev. Linda Le Vasseur will launch her children's publication, Percy's Penguin Party, in October. She hopes to sell the books with miniature knitted penguins. 'Ideally we would need around 250 penguins. We have a group of people who have started to knit them, but we need more. They don't have to be black and white, they can be any colour and have any extras like a scarf or hat. Balls for the heads of the penguins can be provided.'

■ **Anybody who is interested in helping is asked to contact Mrs Le Vasseur on 07781 126459 or Anne Shakerley on 236492.**

AFTER seven years of trial-and-error gardening, a pair of holiday apartment owners have had their hard work recognised. Beau Vallon owners Corrina Walker, 43, and Natasha Bannister, 44, have been named as having the best floral business in the parish in this year's Floral St Peter's award. Mrs Walker said they did not even know they were being considered. 'We were a bit surprised,' she said. Phil Merrien and Rosie Wheeler judged the competition, which was sponsored by Classic Flowers.

ST PETER'S

Mr Merrien said the standard of local businesses' flowers had been very high, but they had both liked Beau Vallon's blooms. 'It really was the wow factor,' he said. 'It looks so healthy and well looked after.' He said it was amazing that businesses in the parish had done so well with their flowers, considering the cold, wet spring. Mrs Walker and Mrs Bannister said their garden took a lot

of work. When they took on the business in Route des Adams, they had very little gardening experience. 'The people who had owned it before had a really nice garden, so there was pressure from the beginning,' Mrs Walker said. 'The business's blue agapanthus have become particularly popular with guests. 'They do grow beautifully here,' Mrs Walker said. 'People are amazed when they see them. Most people have a small one at home as a pot plant, but they don't have them outside. We cut them back each year, but they keep coming back.'

The site's bright-red cosmosia flowers are also a favourite with guests. Each year the business partners, with help from friends and family, spend days planting up the beds and tidying them each spring. In the past the pair have tried colour schemes, but Mrs Walker said she preferred the space to be a riot of colour. However it is not the easiest place to grow plants. 'We try to get hardy things, because of the salt and the wind,' she said. It takes a couple hours each day to maintain the flowers, including watering and deadheading.