

## Eastenders' garden blooms bright on Shanklin's Eastcliff

By Richard Wright - Friday, August 14, 2009



Bob and Anne Knight, in their prize-winning garden at the Carlton Hotel, Shanklin.

### GARDENING

**EASTCLIFF Promenade, at Shanklin, is about as far removed from the gritty East End of London as could be imagined.**

And Eastenders Bob Knight and his wife, Anne, have underlined that contrast with gardens that are truly special.

The gardens of Shanklin's Carlton Hotel, created and meticulously cared for by Bob, Anne and mum-in-law Joyce Walton, were officially recognised just recently by Wight in Bloom judges who awarded the best business prize to the Carlton.

Now the Carlton, as a family-run 12-bedroom hotel, is a busy place.

Just running the business alone occupies the family a good part of each day and maintaining the garden adds a fair bit to that but they spread the load.

And what they have ended up with is a magnificent garden with a Mediterranean feel for guests and a handful of locals who know the secret. It's a grand place to stroll and enjoy the Channel panorama.

Bob gave up a pub in the East End to come for a quiet life in Shanklin 13 years ago, not quite realising how busy life would be as a small hotelier.

Twice winner in Shanklin in Bloom, it's the first time he has won the top Wight in Bloom accolade.

I Next week I plan to have a look at Linda Ryan's Sandown garden.

She also scooped Wight in Bloom glory in her category. It was created by Linda as a beautiful memorial to her friend, the acclaimed author and Sandown resident Edward Upward — sadly no longer with us.

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