

Rushmoor In Bloom 2012

Two tribes: West Indian folk tales in a Farnborough garden



The worthy winner this year is Jonathan Cooke, seen here receiving his award from TFS Secretary Barbara Hurst, with the Mayor of Rushmoor Cllr Peter Crerar and Rushmoor in Bloom Chairman Frank Rust in attendance.



West Indian folk tales in a Farnborough garden Nominated by Rona Jennings, Jonathan's garden, which has a wonderful faux-jungle feel to it, is truly remarkable in its originality.

Conscious that his children were losing touch with their West Indian Heritage, Jonathan drew on the stories he remembered from his childhood to create two tribes, the Sun tribe and the Earth tribe, tiny figures made out of wire and string, who can be found throughout the garden, engaging in all manner of activities, not least waging war against each other.

So delighted were the local children, that they asked to contribute stories of their own, hence, for example, the huge spider who has ensnared several unwary tribesmen. The idea has really taken hold in the street and small tribes are now to be found in the garden next door and the one opposite.

Jonathan's garden is beautiful by any standards, but his use of narrative gives it another dimension entirely. It is thought-provoking and fun, and we hope that it will inspire others to allow their imagination to soar.