

# Kingsbridge in Bloom 2009





## Contents

<a href="#">Welcome to Kingsbridge.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Introduction to Our Entry.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Horticultural Achievement.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Environmental Responsibility.....</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Community Participation.....</a>	<a href="#">13</a>
<a href="#">In Conclusion.....</a>	<a href="#">18</a>
<a href="#">Appendices.....</a>	<a href="#">19</a>
Committee.....	19
Sponsors.....	20
Scrapbook.....	21
Flower Festival 7-10 July.....	31

## Welcome to Kingsbridge

Welcome to Kingsbridge, a town with an enviable position on the South Devon coast in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It has its origins in Dodbrooke, mentioned in the Domesday Book, and Kingsbridge, founded by the Abbot of Buckfast Abbey in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It has only existed as a single town since 1893.



**Springtime on the Quay**

*The front cover is by Jim Brown of the Kingsbridge Camera Club.*



During the 16th to 18th centuries, Devon's golden farming era, Kingsbridge became the focal point in the South Hams for the transport of local agricultural produce by sailing schooners.

Today, Kingsbridge's primary role is as a small market town, serving the local villages and countryside. However, its position at the head of the Kingsbridge Estuary makes it an attractive tourist destination for marine leisure activities, wildlife



**A 19<sup>th</sup> Century Painting of Kingsbridge**



open sea. At high tide it is a pretty harbour-side scene of moored boats, whereas low tide exposes mud flats attractive to birds.

Around 40 species of waders, wildfowl and seabirds have been recorded on the Estuary, and huge numbers of some species feed and over-winter here. The little egret can often be seen within the town boundary. It has expanded its range from southern Europe, was first seen on the Estuary in 1989 and bred here for the first time in 2002. Cattle egrets are now visiting the area.

watchers and coastal walkers.

The Estuary is more precisely a ria, or drowned valley, with no significant water flow from inland. This means that virtually all of the variation in water level and water renewal is driven by the tide, even though Kingsbridge is more than four miles from



**Little Egret and Gull at low tide (winter)**

## Introduction to Our Entry

We first entered South West in Bloom in 2008. Having started late, our first effort had to be a mixture of opportunism, taking advantage of current community projects and direct actions which required minimum co-ordination. In particular, the South Hams District Council (SHDC) plans were to a large extent fixed before we started, and had been made without allowing for the possibility of a SWIB entry.



**ur 2008 Entry Cover Picture**

For 2009, Kingsbridge in Bloom remains community-led. While retaining the support of the Town Council, we have been able to co-ordinate with SHDC to a much greater

extent, and have benefited from the experience and enthusiasm of their Green Spaces team.. At the same time, the townspeople and the business community have expressed their appreciation and support for Kingsbridge in Bloom.

## Horticultural Achievement

### Design and Practice

Last year we had set up an agreement for purchase and installation of hanging baskets and other planters with a common theme. This year we have built on that, to co-ordinate with



SHDC on their planting schemes (and to do some trading between SHDC and community plantings to achieve best value and overall effect.). The basic intention was to use “hot” colours to improve on the impact.

Having experimented last year with



“planting for drought”, this year we have repeated some of the drought plantings, and re-used baskets from last year. The Oxfam Shop was particularly pleased to be able to hang a “sustainable”, recycled drought-resistant basket. They have also set up a recycling window display to support our campaign.



**Recycled Oxfam basket**

### Residential and Community

We have altered our route to include different residential areas, both to give other residents a chance to show their achievements, and to link the other areas we want to feature.







We cover small traditional town centre borders, through to more typical modern plots.



**The Twinning Association planted a farm cart for their Gateway display**



**resillian Garden**



**Tumbly Hill Day Centre**

Community-run places include our award-winning Community Garden, sheltered housing such as Windsor Court, and facilities such as the Tumbly Hill Day Centre and Age Concern adjacent to the Quay. The Kingsbridge Twinning Association were loaned a a farm cart, reflecting the farming history of the area.



## Businesses

Three businesses have taken on the other town gateways, while others have either undertaken their own displays or sponsored community displays and projects.

The delayed arrival of a planned new Tesco store has left a difficult area which we expect to tackle if and when the store arrives in town.



**WI Boat by the Quay Garage**

The Quay Car Park has received additional baskets this year, including some restored ones (see “Resource Management”, later). The raised beds in the Car Park have been planted by volunteers, which freed SHDC staff to be deployed elsewhere (see under “Community”).



Where planning permits, most Fore Street traders have baskets on display. Where not, many have other planters, or have sponsored plantings such as the new double-basket posts which have been installed in conjunction with the Fore Street traffic calming.

Some premises accessed from Fore Street have interesting corners and alleyways.







**Planters sponsored by business –Jewsons are reusing the old town baskets**

## Green Spaces

The Open Spaces Plan for Kingsbridge is progressing more slowly than we had hoped, so we have concentrated on other areas.

There are a number of small leafy corners around the town which we have worked on. The corner of Duncombe Street and Fore Street has been revived by The Lions and the adjacent Funeral Directors, and remains a favoured sitting area. The Old Market at the foot of Church street has a small play area.







**SHDC – Duncombe Street**



On the edge of town, Brittons Field is a plot which was given by the Date family for public enjoyment and which had become neglected. We are developing this as a viewpoint over the estuary, a wild flower meadow and wild life corridor. The local Natural History Society are taking an interest and offering advice. So far, the

overgrown trees and ivy have been cut back, to restore the view. Seats have been repaired and a compost bin installed.



*Work has started on Brittons Field to take advantage of the views...*



## Environmental Responsibility

### Resource Management

#### Local Authority

Kingsbridge takes waste recycling seriously. South Hams District Council are second from highest at recycling in the UK with 57% of all waste being recycled and composted.

We also throw the least amount of waste to landfill per household.



Last financial year South Hams recycled

- ❑ 4450 tonnes of paper
- ❑ 2504 tonnes of glass
- ❑ 1600 tonnes of card
- ❑ 306 tonnes of plastic bottles
- ❑ 500 tonnes of cans

200 tonnes of textiles

9904 tonnes of food and garden waste in - vessel composted (used as a peat-free substitute soil conditioner on local farms)

A number of community groups have recycling initiatives, supported by



to starry panoramas.

### Business and Community

One of our sponsors, Lethbridges, regularly supports us with their "Greencrop" compost made from recycled plant material.

And this year thirty flower baskets purchased many years ago by the Chamber of Commerce for mounting on lamp-posts have been extracted from the brambly bank where they had been stored (dumped?), and about half



*ew Waste truck with logo competition winner*

charities and local house-holders.

One of the "green" priorities is to use more efficient street lighting and County engineers are in the process of introducing new white light technology. The Waterside Park area of Kingsbridge has already received this lighting

On standard lighting, the Kingsbridge carbon footprint from street lighting is about 120 tons per annum. A switch to the new white light technology will mean a saving of at least a third, that is about 40 tons per year. It will also reduce "light pollution" and help restore our night skies





have been restored by working parties, for use on the Quay Car Park lamps; the Fire Station and elsewhere round town.



## Local Heritage

This year we have two projects to make features of local historic sites.

The railway link from South Brent to Kingsbridge was lost in the Beeching cuts. It was known as "The Primrose Line", because of the profusion of wild primroses growing along the track. The Kingsbridge Information Centre together with Kingsbridge in Bloom is working on a long-term project to produce a town gateway feature based on the arches of the old Plymouth Road railway bridge.



To the right of the Quay, the old Lime Kiln used in making fertiliser has been given a face-lift and is now a beautiful and tranquil niche.



## Local Environment

Examples of our initiatives for the local environment include taking part in “The Big Tidy-Up”, maintaining areas on the Backways (ancient footways running parallel with Fore Street), and the clearance of the Tresillian patio by RAKE.



## Pride of Place



Along the embankment, you will find a wonderful poppy picture, painted by local artist, Gill Cox, and displayed on the town face of the War Memorial Shelter. This has received much acclaim from visitors and townspeople alike.

Recently there has been a programme of replacement and refurbishment of benches around the town. Some more

attractive ones have been placed in the Quay/Embankment area, while those at Brittons Field and Duncombe Street Corner have been refurbished.

A tree trail around the Quay area is under development and a leaflet will be available through Kingsbridge Information Centre next year. This is part of a movement to promote Kingsbridge as a centre for walking and for observing wildlife. There will also be a quiz about trees and a “head of the Estuary” trail.

## Community Participation

### Development and Continuity

A number of projects are on-going. These include the historical Railway Bridge Project, which will provide an attractive gateway to the town, highlighting some of its history and the Brittons Field project featuring the estuary link and local wildlife.

We continue to monitor the District Open Spaces project to inform our future plans.

### Communication and Education

This year, we have considerably expanded the scope of direct publicity and information activities, and are co-operating with several related activities across the community. Last





year we took advantage of existing news websites, but this year we have started our own [www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk](http://www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk).

The scrapbook appendix shows our local press coverage, via papers and magazines.

The Community Garden remains closely involved in our campaign and has a key role as a demonstrator of sustainable, organic gardening practice, but also fulfils its community role through a programme which includes support for the “citizenship” curriculum for the local secondary school, and for teenagers and adults with special needs. It is also used for educational/ecology visits by local schools and play-groups. The garden is currently working with the local college to develop a children’s trail, which will be available next year.



The Primary School, which has co-operated with us over art projects, has now developed its own environmental area, which includes a picnic area where children can have their lunch, enjoy watching the bird boxes which they helped to build, and use the recycling boxes to dispose of the left-overs. They are also developing a Pictorial Meadow, using local wildflowers.



Once again this year we have been able to mount displays in the Kingsbridge Information Centre (who also hold forms, sell tickets and post notices for us); and Windeatts, a local firm of solicitors who offer their Fore street windows to worthwhile causes.

## Community Involvement

Good links exist with other community groups, including the “Newcomers Group” for people moving into the area, the Country Market and Destination Kingsbridge, a campaign designed to encourage people to shop locally. Talks are offered to these and other groups, on behalf of KIB and the Community Garden.



After the success last year of displaying the primary school entries for the Art Competition at the local Agenda 21 Youth Market it was repeated this year.

We have called on local groups to help with planting. Planting of the raised beds in the Quay Car Park, that we took on from SHDC, was shared by the Meadow Project, based at Coombe Royal, the Kingsbridge Gardeners Club and KIB.

Displays have also been mounted at the local library to keep library users up to date with what we are doing.

The Community Garden continues to be a major asset to our campaign, demonstrating, as it does, so many of the targets of SWIB.



*Plant Sale*



*Citizenship Students*



*Playgroup*



*Frogspawn in the pond*

### **The Kingsbridge Community Garden has something for all ages**

This year, however, the major event in the Kingsbridge In Bloom calendar has been the four-day Flower and Arts Festival, at St. Edmunds, the Kingsbridge Parish Church, which is much under-used.

In addition to some stunning floral exhibits, the Festival involved a wide range of local societies, businesses, schools and individuals, showing their crafts and skills, and playing their music. The WI exhibit showcased their Save our Bees campaign, with a bee-keeper in attendance.

The festival was supported by all the churches and numerous volunteers new to the campaign took part as stewards. Also, many local people loaned plants for display on the church path. As this event took place very shortly before judging, it is illustrated separately in an appendix. It led to an interview on BBC Radio Devon publicising our campaign, and a further spin-off came in the form of sales of postcards and posters, based on the map in the programme.

### **Local Competition**

We are building on the success of last year's local competition by involving more gardens, businesses and gateways. We find this a good way to include gardens which cannot be seen from the judging route, and are pleased by the level of support.



## Year-Round Involvement

Events and fund-raising initiatives are spaced out through the year to maintain our local profile. Events this year included a stall at the Fore Street Christmas Market; a Quiz Evening, Library display, Barn Dance, a tea stall for the local Country Market, sponsoring the poppy painting on the War Memorial Shelter, and participating in the "Big Tidy-Up".

All of these help to keep our name before the people of Kingsbridge, and remind them of the campaign in progress.



**ur Fore Street Christmas Market Stall  
(night-time)**

## Funding and Support

Kingsbridge in Bloom has an active co-operative relationship with local government. The Town Council has granted funds, and supports us generously in services such as loan of equipment and premises, and storage of our equipment (in particular, our two bowzers used for watering the baskets in the Quay area are stored in the council garage). SHDC is now planning its work to support our campaign, and supports working together where appropriate. Our two Devon County Council members have granted us funds.



The Chamber of Commerce has offered generous funding, and in addition, individual businesses fund and maintain their own baskets or other floral decorations on their premises. Some businesses sponsor other displays, particularly where baskets or other floral features are not possible or appropriate on their site.

The programme for the Flower Festival, which is a map of the town featuring the judging route and local eating places, was funded by advertising by the different eating

establishments around town, many of whom also contributed raffle prizes.

Public donation is encouraged with our colourful collecting tins, on display at events and working parties, by ticket sales and by the growing 100 Club, our monthly lottery, which brings in a small but regular income.

Groups have taken on particular displays. For example, the Twinning Association has sponsored the Belle Cross Gateway with a planted farm cart, while the Womens' Institute and the Estuary Boat Club have both replanted their boats from last year's campaign.

Most of the local churches, and many arts and crafts groups have participated in the Flower Festival.

One evening the patio to the rear of Tresillian House (home to the Community Garden) was cleared by a local group known as RAKE ("Random Acts of Kindness to the Environment"), having become severely overgrown. It is now due to be grassed over for use by the local nursery, as a play-space.

## In Conclusion

Kingsbridge in Bloom has had a very successful year, especially measured in terms of community support and teamwork. The final displays are a credit to all concerned.



**Calling on everyone**



**...including children**



**...to brighten up the Town!**



# Appendices

## Committee

Graham Price – project manager, overall project management for KIB, working parties, seeking business participation/sponsorship. Tel 01548 854488.

Alison Marshall (Provence Gift Shop) – ideas, encouraging companies and institutions to participate, The Memorial Poppy Painting.

Angela Taylor (Community Garden) – publicity, fund-raising, children's art, working parties, the Flower and Arts Festival

Anne Balkwill (Kingsbridge Town Council) – Committee Chair recruiting gateway sponsors, liaison with SHDC and DCC, working parties, fund-raising

Grenville Taylor (Cookworthy Museum) – secretary, working parties, portfolio. Tel:01548 854407.

Irene Jeeninga (Chamber of Commerce) – route checking, business and resident engagement, coordinating working parties.

Jackie Case (Kingsbridge WI) – Working parties, gardening and planting expert.

John Speed (Community Garden/Agenda 21) – Liaison, business & resident engagement, working parties, watering lead.

Rob Harkness (SHDC Green Spaces Operations Manager) – liaison. Leads the team of SHDC grounds staff responsible for Kingsbridge

Liz Willars (Community Garden) – treasurer, fund-raising, working parties, 100 Club.

Jan Finbow (Gardeners Club) – community liaison, working parties

The committee would like to acknowledge the significant contribution made by the many community members at our working parties, fund-raising and community events.

Key:

SHDC	South Hams District Council
DCC	Devon County Council
KIB	Kingsbridge in Bloom (Our entry for South West in Bloom)
CoC	Kingsbridge Chamber of Commerce

## Sponsors

We are grateful for sponsorship and help from the following businesses.

Arrow Cars	Kingsbridge Estuary Rotary
Avon Mill Garden Centre	Kingsbridge Lions
Bags of Choice	Kingsbridge Rotary
Bartons Solicitors	Kingsbridge Tourist Information Centre
Beers Solicitors	Kingsbridge Town Council
Bloomers	Malborough Forge
Charles Head and Son Estate Agents	Mayne Gallery
Cornwall Farmers	Noyce's Garden Centre
Creeks End pub	Otter Nurseries
Devonshire Landscaping	Potters Nurseries
Dodbrook Feoffees	Provence
Robert Ellis (Tailors)	Quay Auto Centre
Greencrop	Reel Cinema
Haden Building Services	Reeves Florists
Harbour Bookshop	Selworthy Vets
Health Wise	Southface Outdoor
Helping Hands	South Hams Newspapers
Herring Shoes	South Hams Signs
The Hire Shop Kingsbridge	Studio Flowers
Kimberley Nurseries	Toad Hall Cottages
King Print	Steve Tucker
Kingsbridge Chamber of Commerce	Wills Marine
Kingsbridge Feoffees	Windeatts' Solicitors
Kingsbridge Market Traders	Nick Walker Printing
We are also grateful for the help of the following individuals and organisations:	
Mary Boreham (botanical illustrator)	Kingsbridge Flower Club
Gill Cox (Artist)	Kingsbridge Twinning Association
Kingsbridge Camera Club (John Roberts)	Womens Institute
Kingsbridge and South Hams Art Club	Mike Glanville (map design)



## Scrapbook

From the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Gazette

Friday, June 12, 2009 (KBG)

# All we need is the right weather!

KINGSBRIDGE took its first steps this week to the upcoming Kingsbridge In Bloom event.

Kingsbridge won the prestigious Silver Gilt in 2008 at the first attempt of being entered for excellence standards and the hope is to repeat that feat again this year.

Twelve local volunteers joined in the big job of basket hanging and tub planting and the group was led by Irene Jeeninga, from Health Wise, who is a founder member and staunch supporter of Kingsbridge in Bloom.

Mayor Cllr Phil Yates lent his support as did Cllr Robin Griffin.

The volunteers were all provided with tea by the Creek's End Inn, who support KIB in many ways including their own floral displays.

Fore Street and Town Square baskets were hung over the weekend, adding a splash of colour.

Graham Price and the KIB team would like to thank everyone who joined in or helped out in any way.

Mr Price added: 'In Bloom is all about



Hoping for a clean sweep of the silverware?

working together for the good of the community, so do take part because we all believe that what's good for Kingsbridge is good for us all.'

With judging just over four weeks away, help is needed with a range of things, such as the weekend working parties, which meet every Sunday at 2pm.

New recruits are also urgently needed to help with the new watering rota.

To volunteer contact Anne Balkwill via Quay House, or phone 01548 854407.

Angela Taylor who is running the Flower

Festival at St Edmund's from July 7 - 10 is looking for help, in the form of people to join the stewarding team, and she would like to hear from anyone who can lend a planted pot to decorate the church path for the four days of the festival.

Please contact her on 01548 854407 or via kib@gandat.co.uk.

All donations and volunteers are welcome and there are collecting tins at the Tourist Information Centre and elsewhere.

For further information, see the website [www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk](http://www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk)

[www.southhams-today.co.uk](http://www.southhams-today.co.uk)



High visibility - the team of enthusiastic gardeners line-up in their bright green t



The gardener's friend - the hand trowel - comes in, er, handy



Giving the floral tubs some TLC

## Brickbats - and a bouquet

DEREK HAKEN of Embankment Road, Kingsbridge, writes:

Our councils have received a lot of stick lately as to how they spend our money on Kingsbridge.

Some of it is, of course justified, like the £85,000 renovation of the toilet block that everyone told them should be moved elsewhere to help preserve the beauty of our estuary, the sleeping policemen in a mas-

sively inconvenient resurfacing of Fore Street, a steep hill where traffic always crawls up with no danger to pedestrians, and now the new awful proposal for a skateboard park on a site that is quite central to the estuary's beauty and the reason why we attract so many people who come to enjoy the quiet and lovely walk around it.

But those are the brickbats, all of which they seem to ignore. Let's have a bouquet

May I thank those who spent our money for the wonderful flower beds along the Embankment. They really are very beautiful this year, after a cold and bleak winter and spring. Well done!

Those who artistically planned the mixture of purple hyacinths to show up the colours of other spring flowers deserve the gratitude of all those who enjoy this splendid and peaceful walk.

**Barn dance** 27/3/2009  
 KINGSBRIDGE In and tickets include a light supper. There will be a bar and a raffle. Tickets are available from the Kingsbridge Information Centre on 01548 854407. Adults £7 and children £5.  
 Bloom are holding a barn dance tonight to raise funds for this year's floral displays. The dance will take place at Sherford Village Hall at 7.30pm.

# It's judgement day

**Will all the months of work pay dividends?**



Volunteers hard at work among the flower beds

JUDGES will arrive in Kingsbridge on July 15 to assess the town's entry to South West in the Kingsbridge competition will be judged. New baskets have been hung in Jewson's yard and new plants were arranged on the

started at Plymouth Road bridge in addition to the Poppies mural at the Memorial Shelter. Posters have been put out for the Flower Festival on July 7 to 10. In addition to the flowers, there will be music, art and photography, plus quilting and Save our Bees.

Several new people have now joined the working parties, but we still hope for more so that we can show the town off at its best.

On Sunday, July 28, a working party will be held on Waterside Park with a meeting at 2pm at the Memorial Shelter.

Anybody who can lend a pot for a week should take it to St Edmunds church on Monday July 6.

The pots will be labelled to say that the provider is supporting Kingsbridge in Bloom. There will also be a prize for the best photo of Kingsbridge in Bloom plus a starring spot on the website. For further information call Angela Taylor on 01548 854407 or email king@pandak.co.uk. To enter a competition, pick up a form at the Information Centre or fill in a form online on <http://www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk>

is-today.co.uk

## Country market

A COUNTRY market will be held in Kingsbridge's Market Hall next week helping to raise money for Kingsbridge in Bloom. The market will take place on Wednesday, April 29 from 8am to noon and will be a bumper event with more items on sale including home cooked cakes, savouries, preserves, flowers, crafts and vegetables. There will also be a large plant section and Devon Pond Plants will be joining the market. Refreshments will also be available and all money raised through their sale will be donated to Kingsbridge in Bloom.

# Putting a spring in the town's step

ENTERTAINMENT Kingsbridge are busy planning a celebration of spring for the town after the second phase of road works are completed.

The main objective of the newly formed group is to improve foot flow in Kingsbridge through a number of events and initiatives.

Kingsbridge Events Group is open to everyone and while it works with the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Chamber of Trade and groups such as Kingsbridge in Bloom, the aim is to organise working parties to

maximise potential of events and promotions through the town.

The first event will be a celebration of spring, due to be held on Saturday, April 4, and the group plans to hold four events throughout the year to encompass the highly successful Kingsbridge Celebrates Christmas held last December.

The main initiative is to raise funds to improve awareness of Kingsbridge as a shopping destination.

The 'Great Kingsbridge Support Challenge' encour-

ages residents to shop as normal for two weeks recording all food purchases and then recreate the shopping experience only using the town.

The idea behind the challenge is to allow traders to see what changes need to be made to facilitate easy town shopping.

The celebration of spring will incorporate the opening of new smarter streets and the build up to Kingsbridge in Bloom will see many retailers potting up their hanging baskets.

In addition to street enter-

tainment and various other activities there will be a hunt the king's truffle with 1,000 truffles on sale in participating businesses, a few of which will have various hidden prizes but the value of the king's truffle will be a substantial cash prize.

Anyone wishing to join one of the working parties or attend the next meeting is invited to attend on Monday, March 16, at 5.45pm at The Reel Cinema.

For further information on Entertainment Kingsbridge call Phill Walton on 01548 859664.





Buy this picture at www.buypicture.net Greg Taylor 01048325

## Never-ending care and attention

**YEAR** Five pupils officially opened a reclaimed garden area at Kingsbridge Community Primary School following six months of hard work by parent volunteers, students and teachers.

The garden measures half an acre of land, which has been gradually tended to and re-

designed since last autumn to create an outdoor education area. Year 5LT won an inter-class competition to name the garden with their chosen title of 'Never-Ending Nature'.

Members of the class gathered together on April 1 to officially open the garden as part of the school's activity-packed science week.

The day was also marked with pupils helping to plant trees, hedges and shrubs around the area and the setting up of bug traps to complement activities that have already taken place to complete 'Never-Ending Nature'.

Wild flower seeds were planted last week and during half-term, children from years five and six had built and decorated a range of wooden nest boxes and chosen the best sites for them as part of National Nest Box Week.

Most of the intensive labour has been led by parent volunteers Paul Brizio and Martin Longley at weekends or after school. The work included the initial clearance of the site, the creation of an outdoor classroom and a decking area around the restored pond, now heavily populated with tadpoles.

Head teacher Peter Burner said: 'This whole project has already proved to be very successful with everyone taking an interest in its progression. I must thank our wonderful PTFA for their continued support in funding all the materials and plants and to Paul, Martin and the other parent volunteers for their enthusiasm and the time they have given to this project.'

13/3/2009

www.southhar

### Council exceeds its environmental targets

# Green shoots

## See what will be coming up roses

27/3/2009

THE award-winning Kingsbridge in Bloom team are keen to reveal plans for their 2009 entry by inviting the public on an informal walk around a portion of the judging route.

Over the winter months the team have been planning for this year's effort, planning the judging route as well as ordering many of the plants to be included in the display.

The group is now seeking the support of Kingsbridge Town Council and South Hams Council.

The KIB team are keen to involve as many people as possible, whether from community groups, business or interested individuals.

With this in mind they have organised the walk around the quay area to show what they intend.

Although it is only part of the judging route, the exercise aims to give people the chance to see some of the tasks facing the group as well as providing an opportunity for them to ask questions.

The team would like to encourage as many people as possible of all ages to come and support them.

The walk will take place on Sunday, April 26, at 4pm beginning from the bandstand.

TOUGH targets to improve Devon's environment have been smashed by Devon County Council two years earlier than expected.

In a special report to the county council's executive committee, the latest 'green' performance figures show that seven environmental targets set out in the county's strategic plan covering 2006 to 2011 have already been met or have exceeded expectation.

This includes key targets for recycling, air pollution and the cleanliness of town centres.

'Local residents consistently tell us that protecting our precious environment and keeping our streets clean and green is a top priority for Devon,' said county council leader Brian Greenslade.

'We said we would reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, improve air quality by tackling traffic congestion and improve the local environment in which we live and work and this report shows that that is exactly what we have done.'

'I'm absolutely delighted we are getting the results that people want and much faster than expected.'

The special report shows that since 2004/05 specific targets to minimise waste and increase

recycling rates have been beaten with the amount of waste now going to landfill being reduced by 11.8 per cent against a five per cent target.

Recycling and composting rates now top 50 per cent - an increase of 25 per cent against an original target increase of 19 per cent.

Journeys on public transport have increased with 5.3 million more journeys being taken on buses and trains across the county - more than three times the target. Traffic pollution has also been reduced in Exeter by 8 per cent.

The appearance and cleanliness of town centres such as Newton Abbot, Exmouth and Exeter has also improved with a reduction in litter and detritus.

'Devon is a very special place and we all want to make sure it continues to be a great place to live, visit and do business,' said environment spokesman Cllr Margaret Rogers.

'Achieving on things like improving recycling and composting rates or cutting traffic congestion was always going to be tough but local people and our county council staff deserve great credit for this fantastic achievement in helping to make Devon greener, cleaner and a better place to be.'





# Who gets our waste?

THE enthusiasm of those South Hams residents who have embraced the green agenda and contributed to making the district one of the greenest in the land has not gone unnoticed.

Officers from the council's operations team have been overwhelmed by the level of interest residents have been showing in finding out where their kerbside waste is going and how it gets sorted.

The material collected by the operations team is divided into different categories while in transit and taken to the council's contractor, Severnside, who have a depot in Plymouth.

Severnside sort and bale the materials ready for transporting for recycling.

The paper and cardboard

from the blue sacks is sent to the St Regis Paper Company at Kemsley Paper Mill, Sittingbourne, Kent where it is re-processed. From the clear sacks, the steel and aluminium cans are re-processed in the UK.

The steel cans are recycled by Corus Steel Packaging at Troste Works, Llaneli, Carmarthenshire, and the aluminium cans are recycled by Novelis Used Beverage Can Recycling Plant, Latchford Locks Works, Warrington, Cheshire.

The plastic bottles are sold on a load-by-load basis to organisations that are accredited by the Environment Agency, whether they are based in the UK or overseas.

Chris Lucas from SHDC said: 'It is vital that people have confidence in recycling schemes so we can encourage them to go that extra mile and do more.'

'It is important that local people believe that their waste is being recycled responsibly otherwise it can lead to suspicion and undermine the whole process.'

'Local people and local councils deserve great credit for the dramatic increases in recycling rates over the last ten years.'

'Residents are now more aware than ever of the need to recycle to reduce this country's reliance on expensive and environmentally damaging landfill sites.'

**Cleaning up our act**  
WILFRED CATELY, of Church Street, Kingsbridge, writes: 'After a great year on the streets, I've been asked to help clean up the town. I would be pleased to help by making an effort to tidy up the approach roads.'

Nearly every backstreet in Kingsbridge is littered with plastic bottles, not to mention old newspapers, old tins and other rubbish. I've been asked to help clean up the town. I would be pleased to help by making an effort to tidy up the approach roads.'

# Helping the local economy blossom

by ANGELA TAYLOR

KINGSBRIDGE In Bloom is planning to help the local economy through the difficult year ahead and is encouraging residents to help.

This year, more than ever, Kingsbridge is going to need the lots of tourists to keep the local economy going through difficult times, and what better way to help than by making the town a really attractive place to live and to visit? It will be a challenge for all, but one excellent way to support each other is by working together to make Kingsbridge a jewel on the estuary - a lovely town in a lovely setting.

If everyone were to contribute just a small amount of time and money to our town it would have a big impact. The Kingsbridge in Bloom team first put in an appearance at Kingsbridge celebrates Christmas, but already have several more events planned, including a Flower Festival in early July.

In the meanwhile, there are many ways to join in - by helping at one of the regular work parties, by combining with neighbours to make a splash of colour in your local area and by joining the 100 Club, with cash prizes monthly. The first event of the year is a quiz on January 29 at the Rest Centre.

The judges from the Royal Horticultural Society will be visiting in early July and will be looking for three things in particular: firstly, horticultural achievement - good planting with lots of colour; environmental responsibility

- evidence of conservation of resources and pride in the street scene and finally community participation.

Last year, children showed us the way by designing our logo and learning about recycling at school and they also enjoyed taking part in the art competition, which is part of South West in Bloom.

Around town, businesses did their bit by hanging baskets, while a small team of volunteers worked tirelessly to plant and maintain new containers on the quay along the embankment.

2008 was the town's first entry into South West in Bloom, and an unexpected reward was a silver gift award, thanks at least in part to the evidence of community involvement. There were also two neighbourhood awards - at Redford

Meadow and the community garden - and there was also a local competition, for the best gardens and baskets.

2009 gives Kingsbridge the opportunity to reach for greater heights, so we invite people now to get on board and be part of a winning team. Consider entering for a neighbourhood award or to take part in the local competition.

The judging route this year will go from the new gateway by the old railway bridge at the top of town to Britton's Field on the estuary, via the primary school, Fore Street and Waterside Park.

For more information contact Angela Taylor on 01548 854407 or kib@gandat.co.uk. For information on how to join the 100 Club, phone 01548 857603.

# The streets are alive with the sights of flora

KINGSBRIDGE'S floral enthusiasts were graced with Ruth Miles and Martin Ford from the Royal Horticultural Society, who judged Kingsbridge's entry into Britain in Bloom last week.

After a week of foul weather the Kingsbridge in Bloom Committee were lucky that the rain held out while they showed the judges around the town to view the floral displays.

The judges, who met at Quay House viewed the grounds and then went on to visit the town centre, then on to the Eastern Backway, then to the Community Gardens, the Primary School, the allotments, passing through Winsor Court and Redford Meadow. The group paused on the embankment to look at the boat filled with flowers before descending on to the recreation ground.

Unfortunately the results will not be known until mid-September when the committee attend the award ceremony at the Guildhall Plymouth. The committee will be judged on community involvement and how this involvement impacted upon the improvement of the horticulture in Kingsbridge.

Graham Price, Kingsbridge in Bloom's project manager felt that even though it is difficult to tell, thinks the judging went well and said, 'The judges were impressed by the standard achieved in Kingsbridge'.

The Kingsbridge in Bloom Committee would like to send special thanks to Quay House for all their hospitality on the day of the judging.

The Kingsbridge in Bloom Committee are aware that this annual event is actually an all year round project and now have many activities taking place throughout the year.

The committee have organised various fundraising events, including a barn dance in January to try and raise as much money as possible to go towards buying all the necessary equipment needed to create such beautiful floral designs.

# Bridge design winners named

KINGSBRIDGE Information Centre has announced the winners of its railway bridge design competition.

Amanda Bloomer, from the centre, said: 'It has taken quite a while to reach a decision on the entries, particularly as we had to involve a number of judges to consider the landscaping practicalities, the suitability for the site, ease of maintenance, the overall effect - and stay within the safety limitations imposed by the adjacent main road. However, we were thrilled that the competition provoked so much local interest.'

The winner for the under-16 category was Laura Donovan, who wins a combined family ticket to South Devon Railway, the Totnes Rare Breeds Farm and the Buckfastleigh Butterfly and Otter Sanctuary.

The winner for the over-16 category was Helen Hickmore. Her prize is an invitation to join the group managing the project 'as we feel

her ideas and input will prove invaluable,' said Ms Bloomer.

From among all the adult entries there are three that the information centre staff would like to single out for particular mention Sally Wits, Rosemary Speed and John Speed.

They also decided to make a special award to recognise the interesting and well-conceived joint entry received from the students at The Meadow Project.

Ms Bloomer said: 'Although we will not be able to include everything they suggested we are hoping to incorporate some of their exciting ideas into the overall design. We have arranged with our partners for the students to enjoy a special visit to reward their excellent efforts.'

'We wish to thank everyone who took part in the competition for making the judges' task so hard and also our principle partner, South Devon Railway, for kindly donating the prizes.'

# Graham voted top citizen of town

by CLARE ACTON

GRAHAM Price is the winner of Kingsbridge Citizen of the Year 2009 sponsored by the Kingsbridge Town Council. The award recognises the outstanding work of people in the local community and this is the sixth year the competition has taken place.

Graham was one of the founding members and first chairman of the Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club and is a committee member and Manager of Kingsbridge In Bloom.

Graham has been part of the Boat Club since its inception in early 2006. He has been instrumental in bringing together the local boating community whose day boating from simple sailing today to fishing in anything from canoes to small sailing yachts. With a membership of about 140, the club raises its members' concerns with Salcombe Harbour Authority, the district, town and parish councils and the police. It

operates a very successful Boatwatch around the estuary and organises social events throughout the year. Graham is an RYA qualified training instructor and is passionate about conservation and preservation of the estuary and the natural resources and habitats. He regularly attends the Estuary Conservation Forum and his fellow founding members ensured that the boat club constitution specifically



**Graham Price receives prize from town mayor Rufus Gilbert**

incorporated conservation of the estuary as an aim. Since 2007 Graham has managed the Kingsbridge In Bloom project and in the process has gained the support of many people and businesses. The efforts of Graham, his fellow committee members and their army of helpers who have added colour to the town were richly rewarded with a Silver Gift Reward in 2008. Graham has now undertaken to lead the project for a

further year and is currently planning operations for summer 2009. Graham received his award, a framed picture of the estuary, from the town mayor councillor Rufus Gilbert, during the visit of the Bishop of Exeter on Friday April 24 at Quay House. Mayor Rufus Gilbert said: 'Graham makes a major contribution to the wellbeing of our community and is a very worthy winner of the Kingsbridge Citizen of the Year for 2009.'

Graham said: 'The award was a complete surprise to me and I feel very honoured. Kingsbridge is a special place and lovely town which is vibrant throughout the whole year and I think that we must all work to preserve it. Most importantly we have a wonderful community spirit here, which has enabled us to move forward. It has not been easy to deal with some of the Kingsbridge in Bloom issues but they are now more reactive and hopefully we can continue to build on that. Kingsbridge Town Council have given magnificent encouragement and support to the whole team.'

## Second year running for green energy accolade

DEVON

County Council is proving its green credentials by being recognised for the second year in a row in the prestigious South West Green Energy awards ceremony. Regen South West is the sustainable energy agency for South West England which aims to develop technologies using natural resources such as energy from the wind, waves or tidal power. Every year, it holds a Green Awards Ceremony to celebrate the achievements of individuals, local authorities, community groups and renew-

able energy companies. Last year, Devon County Council scooped the top accolade in the 'most proactive local authority' category for developing the READ initiative (Renewable Energy for Devon). Energy promotes energy efficiency projects, climate change projects. This year, the council has come runner-up in the 'sustainable energy champion' category for the continuing good work undertaken by Melanie Sealey, project manager for READ. READ has also given extensive support to many of the winners and runners

up in this year's free independent awards including Forest Fuels, Alvesta Woollery Community Hall. Overall Devon featured strongly in the seven categories, producing three winners and eight runners up across a range of categories, for example the Okehampton business centre which uses a biomass burner and a wind turbine to create energy and the Bovey Climate Action group which helps householders reduce their carbon emissions. Melanie has been with the council since August 2006 working on READ. READ offers



# Town's ready to be in full flower for bloom judges

WITH only six weeks to go before the arrival of judges, the Kingsbridge in Bloom team are well on their way to ensuring that the town is looking its floral best for this year's Britain in Bloom competition.

Baskets are due to arrive within the week along with the new flower posts on Fore Street and around the Quay area. In addition to this there will be

by **JENNI BRISCOE**

new plantings in the beds along the embankment, on Ilbert Road and in the Quay car park and work is expected to start soon at the Plymouth Road bridge.

Having won a Silver Gilt award last year, the stakes are high for

this year's competition.

Project manager Graham Price said: 'Following our success last year many more baskets and displays are planned and over the next week or two much activity by the Kingsbridge in Bloom team will be evident throughout the town and Quay areas.'

'Kingsbridge in Bloom is not just about flowers, it involves working together as a team and caring for the environment, which means everyone picking up litter, using recycling facilities and being sparing with water.'

The team are a group of volunteers and rely on the goodwill and support of local residents. A number of working parties are planned where people are invited to drop in and help. The next working party will be tomorrow. All those interested in joining in are asked to meet outside the Creeks End, Kingsbridge, at 9am with a trowel.

Other upcoming events include the Big Tidy Up on June 7 and the Flower Festival held in St Edmund's Church from July 7-10.

For more information look out for posters around the town and at Kingsbridge Information Centre.

Not to be forgotten are the KIB competitions: photos of the estuary and the town in bloom, the children's competition for the best and most unusual planted container and the Local Garden competition.

Entry forms for all of these are available from the information centre and on the website: [www.kingsbridge](http://www.kingsbridge)

[inbloom.co.uk](http://inbloom.co.uk). For further information telephone 01548 854407 or email [kib@gandat.co.uk](mailto:kib@gandat.co.uk).

## A call to help the town's streets blossom

THE Kingsbridge in Bloom team are appealing for all members of the community to come along and be part of their efforts to improve the town.

Donations are always welcome and the team are still looking for sponsors for the new baskets in the town square and Quay car park. Volunteers are also needed to help with the working parties and with the watering when the baskets go up at the end of this month.

Thanks to the generosity of the Kingsbridge and Dodbrooke Feoffees the group now have two bowsters.

Ways to contribute include the option of lending a pot full of plants for the flower festival in July. These will be on show at St Edmund's and can be reclaimed afterwards.

Alternatively, you can take photos of the town and estuary incorporating lots of flowers and gardens. The best of these photos will go on the Kingsbridge in Bloom website as photo of the week with a prize going to the top picture.

For children there will be a plant the container competition with prizes for the most unusual planters and most colourful displays. Entry forms will be available from the Information Centre and via the website: [www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk](http://www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk).

These initiatives are aiming to help everyone, old and young alike, to take part in caring for the environment and getting the best out of the town.

Last year the judges from the Royal Horticultural Society were so impressed the town won a Silver Gilt Award. 2009 gives the Kingsbridge in Bloom team a chance to build on their success and to show visitors that the whole community is proud of its town.

For further information contact [kib@gandat.co.uk](mailto:kib@gandat.co.uk) or talk to Angela Taylor at 1 Vine Terrace, Fore Street, Kingsbridge.

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**INSIDE  
THIS WEEK**



**Ten Tors  
— the  
DIY  
version!  
page 3**



**Make-over  
for spring  
season  
page 7**



**WIN**

tickets to a show  
at the Princess  
Theatre, Torquay  
page 26



## A bloomin' lovely sight for spring!

ARTIST Gill Cox has donated a piece of her artwork to brighten up Kingsbridge's Memorial Shelter as part of Kingsbridge In Bloom.

The artwork shows an array of flowers with poppies featuring prominently providing a fitting backdrop to the war memorial.

The painting was unveiled last week by Kingsbridge mayor Cllr Rufus Gilbert.

Mrs Cox, from Hope Cove, was approached by Kingsbridge In Bloom committee member Allison Marshall who said: 'When I

'It had graffiti on it and it spoilt the beautiful view.'

Mrs Marshall asked Mrs Cox if she would consider doing some large artwork for the memorial shelter linking into this year's Kingsbridge In Bloom Campaign.

Mrs Cox said: 'I have never worked on anything so big. This piece is 8ft wide by 4ft and 8 inches deep. I worked on it for three months over winter in my dark garage and I was amazed by the glorious colour. I did not expect it to be so colourful.'

'I took on the project

make people smile.' Gill is keen to continue with larger projects and had enjoyed working with acrylics as opposed to her usual water-colours and oils.

Cllr Gilbert said: 'It's another example of an ever-improving Kingsbridge for holiday makers and residents to enjoy. It is an outstandingly beautiful picture, representing in many ways the beauty of our spring countryside.'

Mrs Marshall explained that she is hoping this picture may encourage other artists in the



## Other Local magazines

Early a noble city, St Nicholas Church, Kingsbridge, 10.30 to 18.30. Refreshments 0148 854407. 11.15. Sunday lunch by ticket 0148 854407.

### South West in Bloom - a Silver Gift for Kingsbridge in 2008!

by Angela Taylor

2008 was a year of Growing Pride in our Town of Kingsbridge. Although it was our first entry into the competition, we were delighted to win a Silver Gift-Away for the town.

And what next? Plans for 2009 include an extension of the judging route, to take in the new gateway by the old Railway Bridge and Britton's Field down by the estuary. A highlight of the year will be a Flower Festival at St Edmund's in early July. Other events will include a themed children's Art Competition and a Barn Dance.

Overall, we are working towards bigger and better flower displays and more vibrant street scenes. There will be weekly work parties as last year, but on four or two of your time would help spread the load! We also need funds, so any donations will be much appreciated. We also run a 100 Club which raises a member (at a cost of just £2 a month) to help fund our work. If you'd like to find out how to join, for more information there will be the chance to talk to the judges, by getting together with neighbours and competing for a Neighbourhood Award or by entering the local competition. Kingsbridge really deserves it!

To find out more about any of our plans and to take part, please contact Angela Taylor on 0148 854407 or [kib@kandaf.co.uk](mailto:kib@kandaf.co.uk)

For those who don't know, South West in Bloom is part of the Britain in Bloom campaign run by the Royal Horticultural Society. The aim is to help everyone get the best out of their city, town or village, both environmentally and socially. It is also a great way of getting the community working together socially, and having lots of fun on the way. (Also see [www.southwestinbloom.org.uk](http://www.southwestinbloom.org.uk)).

So, who makes it happen in Kingsbridge? Well, in 2008 it was a team effort. This involved the town council, the Chamber of Commerce and the town's residents. A small band of volunteers who spent time working hard to develop the town and bring it into bloom in time for judging in July.

Children from Kingsbridge Primary School designed a poster for the competition. They took part in the competition and won a lot of prizes. They also won a lot of prizes for recycling food waste.

7 Jul - 10 Jul Kingsbridge in Bloom Flower Festival with Music and Art at St Edmund's, Fore Street, Kingsbridge. 10.30 to 18.30. Refreshments 0148 854407. 11.15. Sunday lunch by ticket 0148 854407.

### KINGSBRIDGE in Bloom 2009

## KINGSBRIDGE Flower Festival

with Local Clubs, Schools and Cookworthy Museum

Displays of Flowers, Art, Quilting and Photography

Entry by "Save Our Bees" feature

Musical interludes at 12.30 and 3.45 pm.

Daily Raffle, Refreshments and picnic area

St Edmund's Church, Fore Street, Kingsbridge

**Tuesday 7th - Friday 10th July**

10 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Follow the Kingsbridge in Bloom 2009 Display Route

Visit the Kingsbridge Community Garden

Never Ending Nature Sustainable Gardening display at Kingsbridge Primary School

0148 854407. [kib@kandaf.co.uk](mailto:kib@kandaf.co.uk) Kingsbridge Information Centre

2008 was a first for Kingsbridge, which sprang into bloom as part of Southwest in Bloom, the competition sponsored by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Local people and businesses took part enthusiastically, and the results were plain to see - boats filled with flowers, hanging baskets, clean and tidy streets and a town full of pride! The reward was as pleasing awards, but a Silver Gift for the town!

Plans for 2009 include a change to the judging route, to take in the new town gateway by the old Railway Bridge and Britton's Field down by the estuary.

A highlight of the year will be a Flower Festival at St Edmund's Church in early July, with music and art. Other events will include a themed children's art competition and a Barn Dance.

For details, please see the Kingsbridge Town Council website or ask at Kingsbridge Information Centre.

space and we want to make our church and grounds shine in Kingsbridge in Bloom.

### Kingsbridge in Bloom

Throughout the year

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space and we want to make our church and grounds shine in Kingsbridge in Bloom.

### Kingsbridge in Bloom 2009

## FLOWER FESTIVAL

with Music and Arts

**ST EDMUND'S CHURCH, FORE STREET**

**JULY 7-10th 10 am - 4.30 pm**

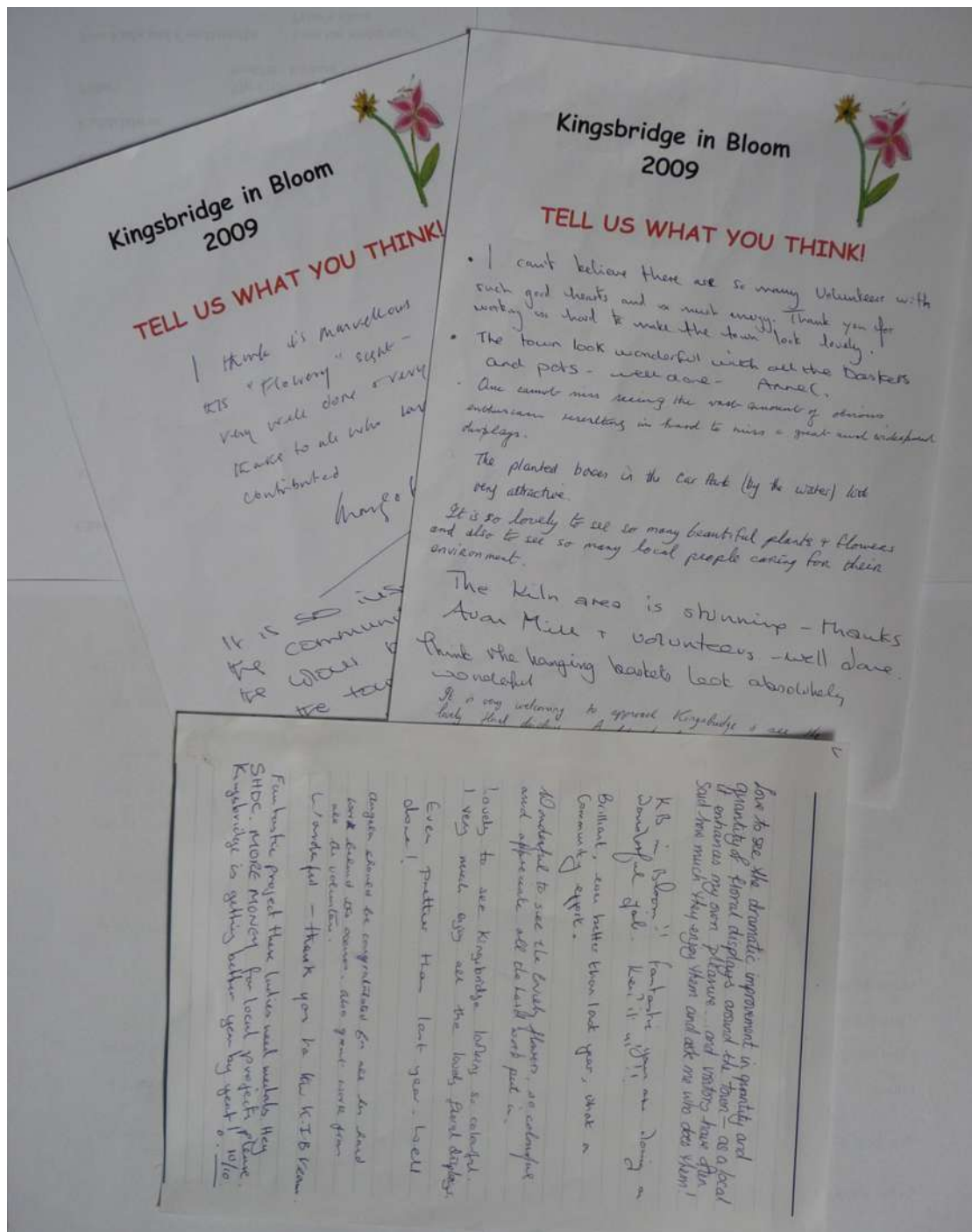
Musical interludes at 12.30 and 3.45 pm

Entry by programme - includes map of town/eating places

Daily Raffle Lunch @ Edg's as usual

For further information, call 0148 854407. [kib@kandaf.co.uk](mailto:kib@kandaf.co.uk) or Kingsbridge Information Centre

## Individual Testimonials





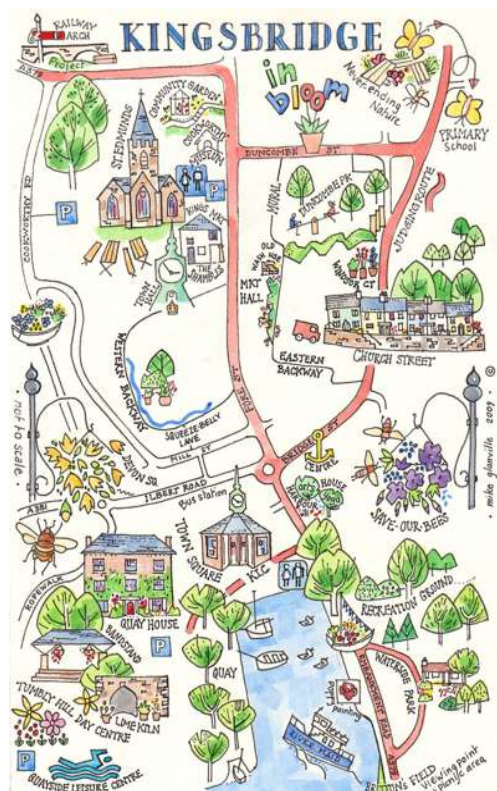
## Flower Festival 7-10 July

The idea of the Flower and Arts Festival arose in response to number of issues:

- ❑ To have a project which involves a large number of groups across the community;



- ❑ To allow those groups to show their skills and raise their profile in the town;
- ❑ To get people in to a building which is underused (St Edmunds, the Kingsbridge Parish Church);



- ❑ To raise the profile of the "in Bloom" campaign;
- ❑ To raise funds.

The approach to the Festival was threefold:

- ❑ Development of a souvenir rogramme. This centred on a decorative map, donated by a local artist.
- ❑ The displays, handled by local clubs and by florists, with musicians from the local churches and schools
- ❑ A publicity campaign, involving posters across the diocese, press coverage and entries in "What's on" websites.









