

Kingsbridge



**In Bloom
2008**

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Welcome

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



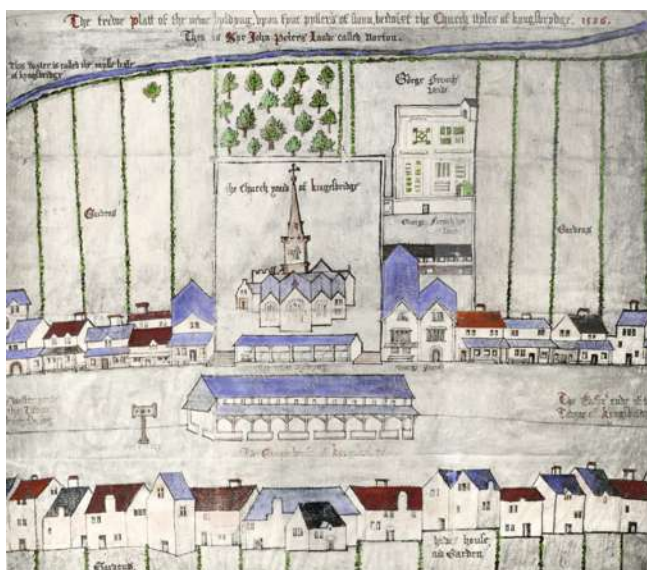
About Kingsbridge

As a town, Kingsbridge is a fascinating mixture. It started life as two towns: Dodbrooke, which was a longstanding market town described in the Domesday Book, and Kingsbridge, founded by Buckfast Abbey to rival the Dodbrooke market. 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 watchers and coastal walkers.

The picture to the right shows a mediaeval view of the town.

The Kingsbridge 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 open sea. Around 40 species of waders, wildfowl and seabirds have been recorded on the Estuary,



A view of Kingsbridge from 1586



and huge numbers of some species feed and over-winter on the Estuary. The little egret (rather like a small white heron) 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.

History and structure of Our Entry

This is our first entry for SouthWest in Bloom.

The motivation to enter came from a wish to foster "Growing Pride in our Town". The entry is community-led, with the strong support of the Town Council. A list of the local organisations actively involved is given in the appendix.

Our inaugural meeting was held in October 2007.



The key features of our entry are:

- The Quay area, the heart of the town, which is the Town market place and municipal centre (civic and community planting, and communal areas);
- The Embankment, leading to Recreation Ground and Slipway (civic and community planting, and communal areas);
- The Allotments (civic amenity, managed by allotment holders);
- The Community Garden (a productive communal garden run along organic lines by a group of volunteers);
- The Primary School, which has supported us with art projects as well as following its own related educational programme.
- Fore Street – the main retail area of the town.
- Individual gardens and the gardens of sheltered homes.



We realise that from a standing start, we had to be realistic in planning our entry. We have therefore taken the key features, which intrinsically give value to our entry, and then worked on linking them to make a judging route. In future years, we intend to expand from this base, and take in parts of the town which need more work to realise their full potential.

Floral Displays

Local Authority

Kingsbridge falls under three local authorities: Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, and Kingsbridge Town Council

Devon County Council is primarily responsible for the main road links and the road boundaries, and aspects of planning.

South Hams District Council own and have the responsibility for managing most of our communal areas, and has provided guidance on displays in a conservation area.





Kingsbridge Town Council, apart from its direct support, has taken on the floral decoration of its own offices, Quay House. A number of councillors have been active on the committee and in working parties.

Business

The Kingsbridge Chamber of Commerce represents a large proportion of the businesses in the town. Fore Street, the main shopping street, is steep and continuously built up. To compound this, the lamp-posts were deemed due for replacement, and not safe



to bear hanging baskets. However, with the cooperation of SHDC (whose permission was required



The Creek's End Pub provides a splash of colour on the Quay

since so many of the Fore Street buildings are listed) shop owners have placed baskets and other floral decorations on many of the buildings.

The **town gateways** have been decorated with floral displays donated by local businesses. The town Twinning Association has taken responsibility for the care of one.

Away from the centre, other plantings were possible – boats as



planters are in keeping with the town's character. One on the Embankment was provided by the Estuary Boat Club, the other on the



A drab corner on the bypass is enlivened by a boat planter

Cookworthy Road is sponsored by Quay Garage and was planted up by the WI.

Residential

Private residences in the older part of town have limited frontages, but there are two pedestrian "backways" flanking Fore Street and cross-linked with passages, many of which have homes with small and attractive gardens. We have undertaken limited work on the Eastern Backway this year; there is much potential for improvement, and work for future years. More modern areas such as the routes through to the allotments,



and North of the Embankment have front gardens giving more scope.

Housing associations, Retirement and other residential communities are represented by Redford Meadow (Devon & Cornwall Housing Association)

and Windsor Court. The residents are responsible for their well-kept grounds, and are keen to support the Kingsbridge in Bloom initiative.



Community

Baskets on the lampposts in the Quay area have been funded by donations from various sponsors and by the fund-raising efforts of the Committee.

The Community Garden exists primarily for the growing and selling of organic produce and as an educational and leisure resource for the community, but includes a wildlife area and a new cottage garden. The planting is mainly informal, but flower beds provide enjoyment for visitors, as well as the chance to pick your own.

The Garden recently hosted a "Drought-resistant planting Workshop", to demonstrate water-saving planting techniques.



The workshop was sponsored and tutored by Stevie Rogers of Ash Tree Farm Nursery.



Allotment holders take a keen interest in their plots and maintain their grounds well.



Events on the Way

Just as the Kingsbridge displays were becoming established, we were struck by a violent hailstorm,

in mid-June. This froze some plants and shredded others. However, with some care and replanting, most have recovered.



Permanent Landscaping

Kingsbridge is a compact hilly town bounded by farmland and the estuary. The centre is a typically densely-built area with small frontages and hidden gardens. Small green corners and a park/playground relieve this, and the estuary brings a touch of wildness into the heart of the town.

Residential

Redford Meadow, owned by Devon & Cornwall HA, and Windsor Court, a development of sheltered housing include communal grounds gardened by enthusiastic residents.



Business



The design of Kingsbridge means that most businesses are situated on the main streets and in adjacent industrial areas, so there is little space for floral decoration. However Harbour House, the Arts Centre, in the Quay area is an exception with its well-maintained gardens front and back. Several of the shops also keep year-round displays in

containers, which brighten the scene. Harbour Bookshop and Cornelius next door are experimenting this year with water-saving planters on the railings.

Local Authority



As the Quay area is home to the local markets and to a variety of festivals throughout the year, it has to provide a large area of hard-standing, which is relieved by shrubs, flower-beds and planters.

Volunteers have worked many hours here and along the Embankment to remove accumulated weeds and moss, and to provide a more lively planting.



Parks: there are two in the town, owned and managed by SHDC. The Memorial Recreation Ground is planted by the local grounds maintenance team, with some permanent and some seasonal displays. This year the planting has been complemented by the donation of sensory plants by



Otter's sensory garden planting transformed planters

from this...

... to this!

Otter Garden Centre. Duncombe Park is equipped for ball games and with playground apparatus for smaller children. This year it played host to a

"den-building" session run with the support of the Eden Project, and further development is planned. A mural has recently been painted in the play area and brightens an otherwise dull area. The neglected hard landscaping here is an obvious target for improvement in future years.



The traditional densely built town centre is relieved by a tiny planted seating and play area at the foot of Church Street, a shrubby seating area on the corner of Duncombe Street (as you near the top of the



Fore Street hill!) and a link-through from Mill Street to the Cookworthy Road (to access the supermarket). The Church of St Edmunds, just off Fore Street, has recently begun work on its grounds to provide leisure space for townspeople and visitors alike.

Community

This year has seen a big effort on the part of a small band of volunteers, geared to raising the standard of a number of the communal areas, such as the Quay, the Embankment and one of the backways, all of which have been neglected in recent years. This has drawn very positive comment from many local residents and the team is slowly growing. It is hoped that the councils will now be able and willing to maintain the improvements made.



The Young Farmers provided some welcome energy and muscle for the clearance of weeds, brambles and ivy from a stretch of the Eastern Backway, making way for new planting.



Local people have also provided support in kind with cups of tea and coffee for the volunteers and many generous donations of money.

The Community Garden has been active in supporting the Kingsbridge in Bloom project, through its volunteer gardeners and friends.

The garden is a productive enterprise, run for the community by volunteers. It is also a delightful open space, with welcoming seating areas for people to take time out from the working day.



Elaine and Victoria helped with clearing and planting...

The Future



The SHDC and the Kingsbridge Town Council initiated an umbrella Open Spaces enhancement programme for Kingsbridge. The Government CABI scheme and Kingsbridge in Bloom are major initiatives which feed into it. In particular, it is expected that it will provide outlets for young people. In an accelerated programme, the first results are hoped for in 2009. The existence of this initiative has

constrained our plans for this year, but should lead to enhanced results next year.

Within the "Kingsbridge in Bloom" initiative, we intend to extend our work on the "backways". These pedestrian paths either side of Fore street have much potential but have suffered from an extended period of neglect leading to an accumulation of decay, graffiti and vandalism. Work will be complicated because of the obscurity of boundaries and ownership.



A new Tesco supermarket is expected in the near future. This will affect the area between the Cookworthy Road (town centre bypass) and the upper portion of Fore Street. The area is currently given to parking and to a small industrial area, but embraces a footpath



and some green areas. Work was expected to begin during our main campaign period this year, so we felt that we should wait for plans to become clear before undertaking work in this area.

South Hams District Council plans to make improvements along the embankment promenade for future years.

Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development

We believe that sustainability extends across all aspects of town life: as well as preserving the health of the physical environment. This includes ensuring that the town continues to provide a viable place for its people to live and work.

Domestic and Garden Waste Recycling

Not all aspects of the town are picturesque, with wheely bins gracing the roadside due to difficulties of access – supplemented by plastic sacks on collection days. However, Kingsbridge takes waste recycling seriously. With the introduction of bins for green waste, South Hams District Council looks set to achieve an overall recycling & composting rate of almost 57%



(recycling 30% and composting 27%) of all waste collected – a significant improvement on last year's rate of 48%. The local Civic Amenity Site at Tor Quarry is achieving an overall recycling rate of around 80%, based on a policy of site workers being paid mainly from the proceeds of their resale efforts.

The Community Garden has a comprehensive water-harvesting system for irrigation, and also makes and uses its own compost. This is supplemented by liquid feed from wormeries and green manures such as comfrey. Some local restaurants supply kitchen waste to the Garden for composting. It also has a composting toilet, which is completely odour-free.

Wider Aspects of a Sustainable Town

In past days, the medieval towns of Kingsbridge and Dodbrooke (now amalgamated as one), both established on ancient routeways and with access to the waterfront, were centres for trade and commerce. Markets and fairs have been held for centuries – with the modern day equivalents being the annual Kingsbridge Extravaganza and Fair Week, and the busy Farmers Markets that are now held every fortnight on the Quay.

Many other forms of employment and commerce, such as shipbuilding, the foundry, quarrying and brewing have all but ceased – to be replaced by a range of new enterprises based on tourism, information technology and retail. The town has recently been the 'nursery' for a number of successful new businesses e.g. Grobag and Burt's Crisps, which have eventually outgrown their Kingsbridge roots and moved to other locations in South Devon. However, the town retains its delicate balance as a viable market town, and it is still possible to find almost everything you might want to buy on Fore Street. Tourism is important to the town, but

not to the extent of its neighbour Salcombe where the town virtually closes down for the winter.

Kingsbridge and the rest of the South Hams have attracted their fair share of 'incomers' as second home owners – many of whom have enjoyed life and stayed. This has led to an age profile with more than average numbers of 50+ residents - but interestingly it may also have led to a population in which there are people with an especially high regard for protecting and enjoying the environment, and for the sustainability of the town and its locality. Kingsbridge was one of the first towns to form a Local Agenda 21 Group, following the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. The group continues to meet, and acts as the town's conscience in raising issues of local sustainability. It has fostered Local Food Fairs and a thriving Youth Market, and has encouraged people to air their concerns over issues as diverse as renewable energy, the impact of a second supermarket and the perils of Japanese Knotweed! The group has also created a website www.grassroots-project.com encouraging community involvement in a sustainable future for the South Hams'.



Anyone who cares to explore the town on foot will find that it has a profusion of narrow alleys or 'backways', linking to the leats which run alongside and through the town. With their unusual names such as Squeezebelly passage and Khartoum Place they remain as a reminder of Kingsbridge's past. Those who make it to the top of Fore Street will find some gems – reflecting the town's past and present. Among these is Knowle House – previously home to Colonel Montagu, who as a local naturalist gave his name to a species of bird, Montagu's Harrier. His interest in the local wildlife has passed on to many present residents, who regularly enjoy cliff top walks, visits to local nature reserves and boating trips. The estuary itself is home to some rare as well as more common sea life – with its spiny seahorses and other treasures coming under the protection of groups such as the Salcombe & Kingsbridge Estuary Association (SKEA) and the South Hams Society. The SKEA has established agreements with local farmers regarding protecting the estuary from nitrate inflow, and local residents help with estuary shoreline litter picking expeditions.

Behind the Community College, and near the lovely Cookworthy Museum lies Kingsbridge Community Garden, a delight for visitors and local volunteers alike. Over the last 10 years, a huge bramble patch has been transformed into a productive garden of raised beds, fruit cages, and greenhouses, generating organic produce for sale at the Farmers Market

and weekly Country Market. It also provides the option of "Pick and Pay". A willow bed is grown on behalf of a local weaver, who crops it annually.

As well as its organic credentials, the Community Garden also boasts a compost toilet and water harvesting system. It provides both a stimulating environment and a sanctuary in the heart of Kingsbridge, and has featured on BBC's Countryfile and in Amateur Gardening. The Garden also acts as a focus for environmental education. Recent courses have included willow weaving and drought-resistant planting – some of the baskets made at this workshop are on show around town.



A local business, Greencrop, produces soil conditioner from leaf litter and other compostable material, and this has been used as the basis for planting up many of the town's floral displays.



Just up the road, Avon Mill Garden Centre is full of ideas for planting in a coastal area and for dry and sunny sites.

Finally, the Town Council along with local groups are seeking to gain funding to further develop The Meadows on the Combe Royal estate into a community wildlife park

and BTCV are seeking help to restore an historic citrus wall.

Nature, Conservation and Education

The Cookworthy Museum holds many records of the area, particularly illustrating its involvement with farming and with the sea. Currently in its newly refurbished Duncombe Gallery, it has an exhibition illustrating the fragile nature of the coastal landscape. This includes the impact of man on the landscape and shows the choices that will be forced on us over the next few years.



In addition to growing and selling produce, Kingsbridge Community Garden exists as an educational and recreational amenity for the local community and conserves materials and energy through composting and recycling. The Garden works in partnership with the local schools, providing support for individual students and for courses. It also provides supervised work experience for adults with special needs.

Volunteers have made fabric bags to sell. These reduce the amount of plastic waste and provide convenient publicity.

Water harvesting is a key feature of the garden, with drainage from several roof areas. One area of the garden is managed for wild life and provides a source of interest and education for children in the adjacent nursery, who visit regularly.

The team has also engaged with the Rope Walk Resource Centre, where adults with special needs have planted up some of our hanging baskets.

Environmental Quality

Volunteers have undertaken a major clean-up of the Quay area and Embankment. We have been careful to take account of relatively unusual coastal wild plants, which had to be "worked around" rather than removed.

A member of our group, an ecologist, has produced a list of wild plants to be found along the embankment. The list is enhanced with a botanical illustration by a local resident.



Public Awareness



Early on, we promoted a Poster Competition in the local primary school. We use the winning entries on our posters and our letterhead. To show the work and raise our profile, we exhibited them in the Town Hall. A local advertising publication "The Post" has featured

our "In Bloom" campaign, and published the competition pictures.



We recently held a second competition at the Primary School, to choose entries for the RHS Schools Painting competition. We exhibited these at the local Market Hall, alongside the Kingsbridge Youth Market (a regular event, encouraging enterprise among local young people), and the conjunction of these events worked well for both groups.

Our local newspaper, the Kingsbridge Gazette has published letters and articles about "In Bloom". A selection of these are in the "Scrapbook" appendix.

The local Talking Newspaper is running a feature on the project.

WWW.999Kingsbridge.com is part of a global internet publishing network, and has featured our activities and progress.

South Hams Radio (our local independent station) has interviewed our representatives on air.



The Tourist Information Centre, on the Quay, gives us a chance to update townspeople on our activities, to promote events and to call for volunteers.

Windeatts, a local firm of Solicitors gives its Fore Street window to publicising local organisations and charities. We are using our tenure of this space to raise our town centre profile.

...and our highly visible working parties have helped too.



Appendix 1 – Committee

Graham Price (Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club) – 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.

Angela Taylor (Community Garden) – publicity, fund-raising, children's art, working parties

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

Bob Freeman (Kingsbridge Town Council) – committee chairman, allotments, Town Council properties.

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

Hannah Goff (Chamber of Commerce) – working party, CoC liaison

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

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

Jane Randles (Tor Homes) - liaison

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

Ken Carter (Head of landscape & Leisure SHDC) - liaison

Kevin Sedgeman (SHDC Operations team) liaison as resident gardener for SHDC Operations Team

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

Wendy Rees (Kingsbridge Town Council until May 2008) - professional ecologist, KIB initiator, set up the link with SHDC, working parties.

The committee would like to acknowledge the significant contribution made by the many community members at our working party, 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

Appendix 2 - Sponsors in 2008

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

Arrow Cars	Kingsbridge Tourist Information Centre
Avon Mill Garden Centre	Kingsbridge Town Council
Bags of Choice	Malborough Forge
Bartons Solicitors	Mayne Gallery
Bloomers	Nicholas Rowell
Busy Bee	Nicola's
A & G Chapman - Forge	Noyce's Garden Centre
Charles Head and Son Estate Agents	Otter Nurseries
Cornwall Farmers	Pet and Garden Supplies
Flowers for all Occasions	Plants Galore
Greencrop	Potters Nurseries
Haden Building Services	Provence
Health Wise	Quay Auto Centre
Helping Hands	Selworthy Vets
Herring Shoes	Southface Outdoor
The Hire Shop Kingsbridge	Toad Hall Cottages
Kimberley Nurseries	Steve Tucker
King Print	Wills Marine
Kingsbridge Chamber of Commerce	Windeatts' Solicitors
Kingsbridge Feoffees	Nick Walker Printing

We are also grateful for the help of the following individuals and organisations:

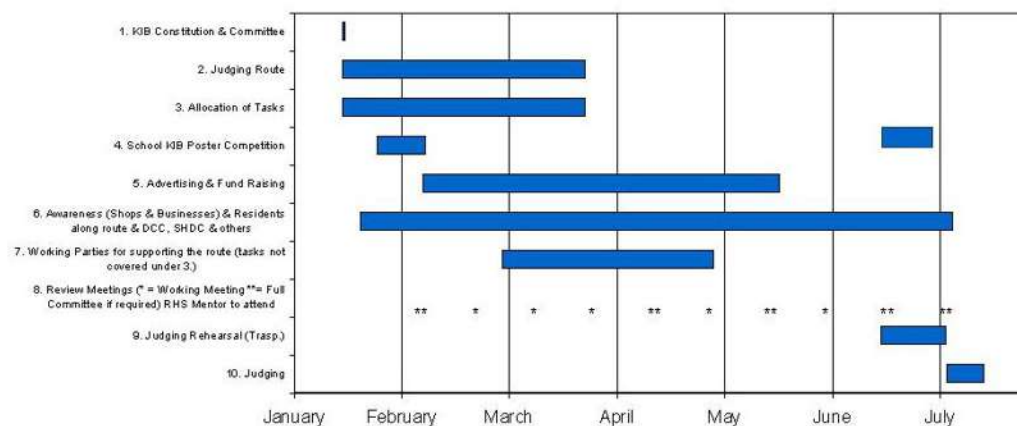
Mary Boreham (botanical illustrator)	Kingsbridge Flower Club
Kingsbridge Camera Club (John Roberts)	Kingsbridge Twinning Association
Kingsbridge and South Hams Art Club	Womens Institute

Appendix 3 – Planning

Planning meetings have been held at frequent intervals, rising to a peak as working parties progressed (but seemed to uncover more and more to be done). The meetings co-ordinated practical working parties, fund-raising, publicity, liaison with local authorities over working and planning issues, school and other community contacts, gaining sponsorship, route planning and timing.

All had valuable contributions to make

Kingsbridge in Bloom (KIB)



Appendix 4 – Scrapbook

Friday, June 20, 2008 www.southhams-today.co.uk TWENTY-SEVEN




Emily Balkwell, 16, views some of the children's entries

Hall double delights!

KINGSBRIDGE Market Hall was buzzing with young people, as the Youth Market and the Kingsbridge In Bloom Schools Painting Competition vied for space as a result of a double booking.

In spite of this, everyone agreed it was a most successful event and it was agreed to timetable the two together for next year.

Meanwhile the volunteer team of gardeners have been working away along the Eastern Backway and in Riverview Place, doing a clearance job and beginning some new planting.

Now there is the every day job of watering in the Quay area, using the new bowser, funded by the Feefrees. With the judging planned for July 10, the group are now appealing for even more volunteers to carry out watering, gardening and tidying round the town. Angela Taylor from the group said: 'Come on, get involved, even if all you do is pick up a can and throw it in the bin. Every little helps.'

For more information contact Angela Taylor on 01548 854407.

Publicity officer Angela Taylor makes some last minute adjustments to the exhibits

Kingsbridge in Bloom



This display is just off Higher Union Road

John Roberts



Another bedecked boat

John Roberts



The quayside also got the flower treatment

John Roberts

AFTER many months of hard work by a dedicated community team, the date for judging the Kingsbridge in Bloom competition has been set for Thursday, July 10.

A judging panel from the Royal Horticultural Society will be taking a tour of the town to see the blossoming results of all the toiling of the team of volunteers.

After many years without any significant floral displays and neglect in many areas, the town is now beginning to show its real potential with baskets and planters springing up everywhere, including the gateways to the town.

Grahams Price, project manager, said: 'Many individuals, organisations, schools and businesses have given us fantastic support and the warmth and friendliness shown by the residents of Kingsbridge while we have been out working has given us much encouragement.'

'We believe that there is now a real buzz here and we hope that people will support us by keeping their own frontage and gardens clean and tidy. The whole idea is to make Kingsbridge a better place to live and a wonderful destination for visitors.'

'We are extremely fortunate in having a great shopping town and a quay area that makes us unique so we intend to continue to work to enable its full potential to be realised.'



Sprucing up street furniture

John Roberts



Tubs decorate an otherwise ugly roundabout

John Roberts



Another splash of colour

John Roberts

We're not just about blooming

ANGELA TAYLOR, of Vine Terrace, Kingsbridge, writes:

It was good to see the clearing up of Kingsbridge by people on their way to church getting front page attention in the Gazette. But I wonder how many people know that there is a wider campaign going on in the town in the form of Kingsbridge in Bloom.

I know Kingsbridge in Bloom sounds as if it's all about flowers, but the In Bloom Competition run by the Royal Horticultural Society is not just about flowers, but about caring for the environment as a community - removing litter, using resources carefully and recycling, looking after not only our own gardens but public spaces too.

That is why readers may have noticed par-

ties at work along the quay and embankment and, hidden away along the Eastern Backway, Young Farmers hard at work on clearing brambles and overgrown hedging.

All these people are volunteers, giving time on a Sunday afternoon, but hopefully starting to make a difference to the town.

So why not join us, not just on your way to and from church, but as you go round the town on a daily basis?

Keep track of events in the Tourist Information Office window, and be part of the Community to help make Kingsbridge a Better Place for All - and possibly become a winner in the In Bloom Competition.

PS Flowers coming soon to a facade near you.

Twinning group pairs plant pots

KINGSBRIDGE Twinning Association has placed two planters at the gateway to the town as part of the Kingsbridge in Bloom initiative, which is seeing flower-filled boats and barrels springing up all over the town.

The Twinning Association has contributed funds to buy and plant the two containers, which were expertly filled by Potters Nurseries of East Allington. The twinners will now be caring for the flowers to keep them looking good through the summer.

Secretary Ann Yates said: 'We are delighted to support this local

scheme. When we go to France and Germany we are always struck by the welcoming flags and attractive well maintained towns. Kingsbridge in Bloom will make a big difference to our appeal to foreign visitors.'

Kingsbridge is twinned with Isigny sur Mer and Weilerbach and members are looking forward to a party of 37 coming over from Weilerbach, Germany on July 24 to enjoy the fair week procession and other treats in Kingsbridge.

If you would like to get involved with this friendly group ring Ann Yates on 01548 853366.

● See pictures on page 20.

Lively, vibrant streets

PETER RENDELL, of Compton Road, West Charleton, writes:

Last Saturday I visited Kingsbridge with friends and we were all struck by how lively and vibrant Fore Street appeared.

The recent addition of flower exhibits outside of some of the shops has added colour and interest and were much admired. How lucky we are to have such a pleasant environment in which to do our shopping.

Particular mention must be made of the delightful display outside Belinda David Hair Studio, their pots are stunning and give a much needed boost to the top end of the street.

Well done everybody who contributed to brightening the town for the summer.

Keep watering the baskets

CLLR MICHAEL HOWARTH, of New Parks Farm, Belle Hill, Kingsbridge, writes:

I should like to pay tribute through the columns of your newspaper to the fantastic efforts made by the Kingsbridge in Bloom team and all who have been involved in making the town so much more attractive this summer.

The hanging baskets on the Town Square and down the Promenade are a delight, while the grass and flower beds in

these areas are vastly improved.

Working parties of volunteers have blitzed Eastern Backway. The wilderness in front of Quay Autos has been transformed with the newly planted boat. Flower tubs on the roundabout, hanging baskets in Fore Street and Church Street, and planting in private gardens all make the town so much more colourful.

So many people have been involved that it is difficult to name individuals. But one per-

son who stands out is project manager Graham Price, who has encouraged, cajoled, persisted and set a great example.

Congratulations to Graham and the team on what has been achieved in such a short time.

Above all Kingsbridge in Bloom has demonstrated a community spirit that we in town can be proud of.

Recognition on judging day would just be the icing on the cake.

In the meantime, keep watering the baskets!

Kingsbridge in bloom

THIS year, for the first time, Kingsbridge is entering the RHS South West in Bloom competition.

The group are now moving up a gear and there is a carefully managed programme driving the team forward for the judging in mid July. Plans are well underway for flower displays at the Gateways – the signs telling visitors they are now entering Kingsbridge – throughout the town and around the estuary. The competition is also about taking pride in our wonderful town and keeping it neat and tidy as well as conserving resources and recycling.

Townpeople will have a chance to see the judging route in the Tourist Information Centre and other prominent areas of the town soon.

It is very much a community driven initiative and will be a great chance for everyone, young and old, to pull together to make Kingsbridge an even more attractive place to live, work and visit.

There are many ways that the community can help such as keeping your own garden tidy and well kept, planting baskets and tubs, encouraging the children to grow plants, removing litter and using recycling facilities.

The group are also looking for

enthusiastic volunteers to help with communal spaces and encouraging neighbours to help in some way.

Awards will be given to 'Best Front Garden', 'Best Basket' and 'Best Tub'.

There is a dedicated team committed to ensuring success but there have been set backs along the way, such as not being able to use the lampposts along Fore Street for hanging baskets because they are too old and restrictions on location of brackets for hanging baskets due to buildings being Grade II listed.

However, the council are now giving the Kingsbridge in Bloom team the support they deserve and are working closely with the team and realise they are determined to succeed despite these unfortunate setbacks.

Fund raising is essential and Kingsbridge in Bloom has organised 'The 100 Club' with a chance to win valuable cash prizes every month.

If you would like to get involved and coordinate a small part of your street or help with the fundraising please get in touch.

For more information and to offer help contact our secretary, Grenville Taylor, on 01548 854407 or email kib@grandat.co.uk

Friday, May 16, 2008

www.southhams-today.co.uk

Young farmers tackle a really thorny issue

A GROUP of young farmers led by Richard Rogers helped the Kingsbridge in Bloom team clear away brambles and ivy from Eastern Backway in the town.

The group worked for three hours in the heat on Sunday to contribute to the town's project.

Judging for Kingsbridge in Bloom will take place in July and working parties have been weeding and tidying the promenade over the past couple of weeks.

They are hoping to tackle the town square over the coming weeks and ask that residents

and visitors to the area help the team by ensuring that they put their litter in bins and help to keep Kingsbridge tidy.

There is currently a display in the Tourist Information Centre on the Quay and anyone wishing to assist the working parties at weekends can contact the Kingsbridge in Bloom committee via the centre.

Cllr Anne Balkwill from the committee said: 'Thank you so much to the young farmers for their efforts, and also to everyone else who has helped with the working parties.'



Richard and Philip Rogers; Gillian, Vicky and Zoe Luscombe

Contributed



KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM

GROWING PRIDE IN OUR TOWN

This year for the first time Kingsbridge is entering the RHS South West in Bloom competition.

This is a chance for everyone young and old to work together as a community to make Kingsbridge a more attractive place to live, to work and to visit.

Spurred on by Mayor Rufus Gilbert, the town is blooming with big plans for plants and flowers over the coming weeks.

Plans are well under way for all sorts of flower displays, but the competition is also neat and tidy and about conserving resources, recycling and re-using

The Judging will take place in July and we are hoping that as many people as possible will take part.


Ways you can help

- Keeping your own garden /frontage tidy
- Planting baskets and tubs
- Getting the kids to grow plants
- Removing any litter you see
- Using recycling facilities



- Joining with others to help with communal spaces
 - Helping with fund raising
 - Joining the 100 club- with a chance to win every month
 - Encouraging your neighbours to help in some way
- If you would be prepared to coordinate a small part of your street please let us know
- There will be awards for
Best Front Garden Best Basket Best Tub
and Best Water-saving Container

For more information and any offers of help contact



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YOUNG MASTERS GOLF

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Girls and Boys aged between 6 and 16 are most welcome

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Angela explained that the Kingsbridge in Bloom Campaign had been kick started by a primary school art competition to choose the branding for the campaign



Here we have just some of the art entries plus the two winners from the competition whose pictures have been used for the letter heads and publicity for Kingsbridge in Bloom. Well done to George Lee and Zara Trumble-Thayer and indeed everyone who turned their hands to art.

Zara Trumble-Thayer

GEORGE LEE



LUKE HOWLING

Pictures drawn by Kingsbridge Primary School pupils.



RUBY BARNETT



IMOGEN

You can see all these pictures plus more at The Market Hall on June 14th



MARCEL PURCHASE



ELEANOR BRETHERICK

'It's all down to volunteers'

Flower power

set to bloom

KINGSBRIDGE In Bloom will see the town burst into flower with hanging baskets and containers along Fore Street, around the centre and at the town gateways.

It will be the culmination of a lot of behind the scenes work by a dedicated team of volunteers who have been working in the Square, along the Embankment or on the Eastern Backway, and who want to make Kingsbridge a town they can be proud of.

Thanks to the efforts of the Estuary Boat Club and the WJ, two boats have been planted with flowers on the Embankment and by Quay Garage.

Angela Taylor, from the committee, said: 'We also owe a thank you to the Chamber of Commerce, the town council, the Feolles and many others, who have generously provided funds. Special thanks are also due to Otter Nurseries for the Sensory Planting in the

Recreation ground, to Potters Nurseries who have planted up many of the baskets and to Ash Tree Farm Nursery for running a Drought Planting Workshop at the Community Garden.'

She explained there has been massive support from local businesses, from individuals who have taken on projects round the town and from the Young Farmers.

Mrs Taylor said: 'Thank you all - and thank you too to those who have helped by joining our

100 club, which offers cash prizes every month. 'Kingsbridge In Bloom is not just about flowers, it is also about caring for our environment, about taking pride in the town, keeping it neat and tidy, and about conserving resources, recycling and re-using.'

This will be the town's first entry into the Royal Horticultural Society's South West in Bloom competition. Mrs Taylor said: 'We don't expect to win any big prizes this year, but we do hope to build on the foundations we are laying. With everyone's help, perhaps we could be winners next year.' The committee are asking for residents help by making the most of their own garden, joining with others to help improve communal spaces, removing any litter, using recycling facilities regularly and encouraging others to do the same. For more information ring the Mrs Taylor or 01548 854407 or email kib@gandat.co.uk.

Floral art posters for Kingsbridge in Bloom

KINGSBRIDGE Primary School has supported the Kingsbridge In Bloom event by designing posters for the cause.

The pupil's entries were displayed in Kingsbridge Town Hall last week. Jane Price from the Main Gallery was given the difficult job of choosing the successful pictures. The Kingsbridge In Bloom Committee will now use these floral pictures as posters and letterheads for the event.



Buy this picture at www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk
Emma Flintham, Year 4, garden

FITTED BEDROOMS



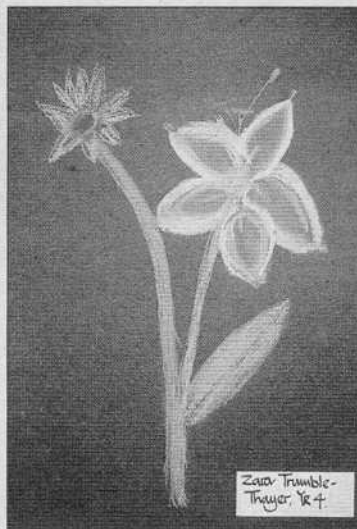
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Zara Trumble-Thayer, Yr 4

Buy this picture at www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk
Zara Trumble, Year 4, posy



Marcel Purchase, Yr 1

Buy this picture at www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk
Marcel Purchase, Yr 1

Green fingers are preparing for Britain in bloom

GREEN fingered Kingsbridge residents and all those with pride in the town are invited to attend a meeting at Quay House next month, aimed at determining the level of support for the town being entered into a national horticultural competition next year.

The Royal Horticultural Society's annual Britain in Bloom competition aims to encourage communities to work together to improve and regenerate local environments.

The meeting will be held on October 18, at 7pm in Quay House in Kingsbridge - all interested clubs, organisations and individuals are welcome to attend.

Kingsbridge will be entered into the South West in Bloom contest first, which is one of 18 regional competitions that make up the national Britain in Bloom.

The town's entry will be co-ordinated by the town council's environment working group, headed by Cllr Wendy Rees and the deputy mayor, Anne Balkwill.

They said: 'The aim of the communities that take part each year is to improve and regenerate our local environments, through the imaginative planting of trees, shrubs, flowers and landscaping, conservation and recycling projects, and to sweep away the eyesores that blight our streets, such as litter, graffiti and vandalism.'

The contest focuses on horticultural excellence, community involvement, environmental friendliness and sustainability.

The judging will take place as early as next July, so interested parties are encouraged to attend October's meeting to volunteer their time, tools and skills as much as possible.

Cllr Rees said: 'If there is enough interest at the meeting, which we hope there will be, then the committee elects a chairman, a secretary and treasurer, and sets about its tasks.'

'If invited, we would both be very interested to be on the committee, but it is better that others lead.'

'It's all down to volunteers'

Flower power set to bloom

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Mrs Taylor said: 'Thank you all - and thank you too to those who have helped by joining our 100 club, which offers

A chance to bloom

KINGSBRIDGE people, with their net pots, garden flower beds, hanging planters and even on flower watering cans, will be in the spotlight when the Britain in Bloom 2005 competition is held.

The contest is all the more interesting as Kingsbridge has been the only town in the county to have been awarded the title of 'Britain in Bloom' for the first time.

Kingsbridge residents will be asked to help improve the town's appearance by taking part in a series of projects, including the planting of flowers, shrubs and trees, and the maintenance of the town's public spaces.

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Friday, September

Town enters bloom contest

KINGSBRIDGE residents with bucketloads of community spirit and pride in the town are being asked to join together to help transform the area as part of a national horticultural contest.

The town has been entered into the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom contest. Residents' efforts will be judged as soon as next summer.

The contest aims to get communities to improve and regenerate local environments.

The idea that Kingsbridge should enter is the brainchild of town councillors Wendy Rees and the deputy mayor, Anne Balkwill, who sit on the council's environment working group.

Cllr Rees said: 'We are keen to help drive forward community participation in increasing our pride in Kingsbridge and in enhancing the landscape beauty of its parks and open spaces.'

The purpose of the competition is to encourage people of all age groups to participate to promote the provision of beautiful floral displays, sustainable planting, wild flowers, public spaces, allotments, recycling and all aspects of horticulture, as well as pride in the community.

The environment group is keen to hear from all individuals, clubs and societies in the area, such as Women's Institutes, Scouts, Guides, gardening groups, camera clubs and schools that would like to offer their services for the competition.

However, the two councillors emphasised that the main aim of the scheme is to increase civic pride.

'It is very, very unlikely that we will win anything for quite a few years,' Cllr Balkwill said. 'But we have visited Hayle and St Ives in Cornwall, who have enjoyed great success in the competition, and got some tips from the town's organisers how to do it.'

Improving the environment

GREEN fingered residents and landscape enthusiasts in Kingsbridge are being asked for their opinions and advice to help revamp the town's parks and open spaces.

Kingsbridge Town Council's Environment Working Group is keen to help the district council drive forward its regional public space strategy, but is aware that if the town is to receive sufficient funding and attention the community must help make it happen.

The town's deputy mayor, Cllr Anne Balkwill, and Cllr Wendy Rees head the environment group.

They are both keen to set up a public forum to collect as many ideas, both professional and

amateur, about how the town's green spaces can be brightened up and better landscaped.

South Hams council's Head of Landscape and Leisure, Ken Carter, is one of the officers in charge of taking forward and implementing the public space strategy.

It is hoped that he will head up an open forum with the town council at Quay House in October, to start the process of community involvement in the exercise.

The strategy aims to improve the social, economic and environmental fabric of the South Hams.

The potential benefits include the provision of a more attractive environment in which to

live, work and play, and the promotion of health and well being through active recreation, in the form of organised sport, casual sport, walking and social interaction.