



KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM

2017



South West



Front page picture.
Spring 2017 planted displays on the Kingsbridge



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Welcome to Kingsbridge

Kingsbridge - A pretty thriving Market Town on the South coast of England in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The town sits at the head of an estuary and is a popular tourist destination for shopping with a good selection of family owned businesses situated along and around the main shopping street close to the quay.

The town has much history and is actually made up of the medieval towns of Kingsbridge and Dodbrooke originally a quarter of a mile apart.

After the Norman Conquest its surrounds passed into the possession of the Abbots of Buckfast and in 1219 the Abbot of Buckfast was granted a Royal Charter to hold a market where the monks could sell their offerings such as vegetables, honey and thick cream.

Today regular markets are held in the town which are well supported by the thriving and supportive local community and many visitors from all over the world.

Over the past few years the town has benefitted from a new marina at the quay which has attracted many more visitors.

Kingsbridge in Bloom have, over the last 10 years, played a major role in keeping the town vibrant and attractive and we are proud of our achievements in promoting good horticultural and environmental practices. The whole community really appreciate our work for the town and the major contribution it makes in keeping it attractive and promoting a sense of pride.

Since we formed, the group has increased year on year and we enjoy our work all year round. Even in the depths of winter the group can be seen out every week maintaining their displays, followed up with a hot drink and friendly chat.



Team with awards 2016



Horticultural Achievement

Our main focus this year is to build on the success of our schemes from 2016 and with this in mind a new 'maritime' theme has been designed for our display bed which reflects the seaside nature of our locality. The two raised beds in the Recreation Ground have been redesigned and replanted. One bed has been designed in conjunction with Catrina Saunders, the Head Gardener at Overbecks, the National Trust Garden in nearby Salcombe with appropriate and innovative planting that will be both structural and colourful. The other bed has been further developed as a 'sensory' bed which will encourage people to explore, touch and smell the plants, this places challenges on the design and planting, particularly the need to make things robust and choose plants that will tolerate the inevitable damage. We have improved and developed the raised herb bed (pick your own) which has been used by the public and park café. New reservoir planters have been installed at various locations around the town.



Renewing compost in schooner



Removing the old barrel planters



New plants for sensory bed in Recreation Ground



New grasses in the Recreation Ground



Horticultural ...cont.



KIB Volunteers planting baskets and storing at the Nursery



New gravel for the schooner



Training the Clematis shoots in top car park planters



Planting donated Agave on the Town Square bed



Horticultural ...cont.



Membrane used as template for display bed design



Hard work removing a Phormium!



New plants for Egret Bed



Planting spring flowers in new reservoir barrels



Heritage

Maintenance and development of our heritage features continues. The schooner has been replanted with some different plants and colours. Hard landscaping items at the Railway Bridge have undergone repair and improvements made to the planting. At the Lime Kiln the fern display continues to evolve. A new feature this year is the acquisition and restoration of a traditional Devonshire hay cart.



Schooner on the Embankment



Old Railway Bridge



The Lime Kiln



Old Hay Cart



Heritage....cont.

A 100 year old Devonshire hay cart was donated by a local farmer. Significant restoration by the Kingsbridge in Bloom Team has taken place over a seven month period ready for relocation as a new heritage feature on the town square.



Reviewing how to restore



Dismantling



Preparation and sanding down



A good coat of priming paint



Community Participation

The community shows great support and appreciation for Kingsbridge in Bloom. We aim to inform, engage and involve people of all ages throughout the year. The community is kept informed with newspaper and magazine articles, banners, signs, posters, window displays, exhibitions, illustrated talks, publicity stands and the new website.



Brownies lend a hand at Church Street Garden



Post judging celebration BBQ



Business baskets in the high street



Explaining about seeds to Beavers at Brittons Field



Promotion

We work closely with the local press and publications to feature regular updates and keep public awareness high. Below are just a few cuttings from the press in the past 12 months.

The Post Magazine

Kingsbridge Gazette

Kingsbridge In Bloom
BY GILL MATTHEWS

Digging for Gold

Another RHS 'Britain in Bloom' gold award for Kingsbridge with the bonus of a cup for community initiative. We work hard all year and the judge is only here for a few hours so the run up to judging day is planned with military precision to show our town off to its very best.

A beautifully illustrated portfolio was prepared giving an overview of the year. This has to be both informative and easy to read. Who wants to plough through masses of turgid prose in too small a font? Divided into sections the portfolio reflected the main focuses of judging: horticultural achievement, community involvement and environmental awareness. Just putting up a few hanging baskets certainly won't tick all the boxes. Lots of carefully captioned photographs illustrated the points made in the text. Printed on pale blue paper with a detailed contents page for easy navigation, this document was sent to the judge to read at his leisure.

In the build up to the big day, team members were out and about every day of the week to ensure that not a single weed dare show its head above the parapet. A walk-round of the judging route was undertaken to highlight any details needing attention.

On the day itself we were all up at the crack of dawn for a last minute litter pick and sweep up. After a short presentation at Quay House the judging party embarked on the

Judge looking at our mascot

The team with judge Terry

route round town. Team dispersed to 11 points to meet the judge and answer questions. He was heard to remark that wherever he went there were blue skies and although he tried hard to spit a word and knees paid off. The grand finale, at the Methodist Church Hall, was viewing the exhibition, the presentation and chatting to the judges. Delicious homemade cakes the essential Devon cream served. The effort and enthusiasm of the volunteers and the whole team came across loud and clear. Thirteen volunteers travelled on their own expense, to the Courtyard in Taunton for the presentation. We felt so proud and deserve for best-dressed team with the loudest cheer. The icing on the cake. The most important of all is the appreciation of visitors and locals how lovely the town looks.

Cascade and Jack Pot our mascot

Viewing the presentation

Kingsbridge In Bloom
BY GILL MATTHEWS

Top Team

THE NEXT FIVE STATEMENTS ARE WRONG!

- X All Kingsbridge In Bloom volunteers are expert horticulturalists.
- X All volunteers do heavy digging.
- X All volunteers have to turn up to every working party.
- X All working parties are on Wednesdays.
- X All volunteers help with gardening.

Surprised? We do have many experienced gardeners and some very knowledgeable plantmen and women. We also have volunteers who happily state, "Tell me where to dig and what to pull up and I'll do it!" The truth is that we have a range of volunteers with a wide range of expertise and physical abilities. Some people can push barrows and others hold sacks open. No, not everyone helps with gardening although obviously this is a major part of what

we do and we are keen to expand the workforce for this. There are a myriad of tasks keeping the Kingsbridge in Bloom show on the road. Fund raising is vital. There is no regular income arriving conveniently in our bank account each year. Every year sponsors must be found, grants must be applied for and money raised from sales, events and our Monthly

of fences, planters and benches example is ongoing so the ability to wield a paint brush or screwdriver is a useful asset. At present it is most visible working party day Wednesday morning. However, it is work underway throughout the week especially at the many 'It's Neighbourhood' projects such as Railway Bridge and the Cooks Museum to name a couple. In warm weather, waterers will be in action whenever the plants need a drink. The run up to RHS Judging in July will see volunteers out about on every day of the week getting Kingsbridge up to the standard we all expect. What do you?

THE NEXT TWO STATEMENTS ARE RIGHT!

- ✓ Kingsbridge in Bloom needs your help to keep our town looking lovely.
- ✓ Qualifications required: the ability to have fun while working with a friendly team.

Draw, The Committee, headed by the chairman, are elected at the AGM and Co-ordinators for: 1) Planting 2) Environment 3) It's Your Neighbourhood projects focus on details. Other areas of responsibility are that of Treasurer, Secretary, Webmaster and Publicity Officer. Maintenance.

Get in Touch! Kingsbridge in Bloom Chairman: Graham Price on 01548 854488 or via Quay House - Monthly Draw: Chris 01548 852160 / chris@barnwell.eclipse.co.uk - Website: www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk

Kingsbridge in Bloom

Picking up litter by the TIC and, right, cutting back the phormiums

On a beautiful sunny day we planted swathes of bulbs in the raised beds at the Recreation Ground. Spent 'Blue Delfs' browned, lower leaves were removed showing off the 'fountain' effect of the other bulbs. Behind the TIC produced a shameful collection of carelessly discarded cartons, bottles and other rubbish. Luckily the TIC are often opposite the two paces. Week for the that one of members used away. her very

Kingsbridge in Bloom

The new sparrow roost and bird boxes

ONE of the things you might not know about KIB is we are committed to our environment. We are committed to keeping our environment clean and tidy whatever way we can. Sadly this brings us in contact with slugs and snails which share our interests. Right now, they are under cover, but we are ready for them and we know that for the future.

Metaldehyde tablets, we will time patrol to catch them in

Kingsbridge in Bloom

Training to use the water bowser

WATERERS needed! Devon is renowned for its plentiful rainfall. However, come the summer we will be frantically watering our displays to keep them in the tip top condition. Huge amounts of hard work often fall to revive to their former glory. Additional waterers are essential for us maintain the high standard that we all expect in Kingsbridge. Can you help or do you know someone who can?

at times to suit the waterer. Join our friendly team and help keep our town looking lovely. Ring our watering coordinator Adrienne Benton on 01548 857147 or chairman Graham Price on 01548 854488. The web



Funding

Funding, which has to be raised by us every year, comes from business sponsors, the monthly draw, the Town Council, individual sponsors, donations at talks and working parties, stalls at community events and our own Kingsbridge in Bloom merchandise. We also look to secure grants from various funding sources for our larger projects.



Selling merchandise



Fair Week stall



Graham the raffle prize



Quiz at Creeks End pub



It's Your Neighbourhood

Our IYN's form the backbone of our entry supported by people of all ages. This year we have new entries bringing our total to fifteen. We also have meetings and a newsletter specifically for the IYN's in order to share ideas.



Kingsbridge Hospital Garden



Nursery school with sunflowers, sweet peas, Wendy house with window boxes



Saffron Park Gateway Garden



Church Street Gardens - Site of the old cattle market



Environmental - Planting

Kingsbridge in Bloom is working in sympathy with nature, helping to conserve valuable resources and enhance the environment for people and wildlife. We use perennials, propagate from cuttings, collect seeds and over-winter plants. Bulbs and plants are re-used in different locations.



KIB Propagation workshop
at National Trust



Relocating donated
Phoenix palm



National Trust assisting with soil
improvement ready for
sustainable planting



Removed plants ready for relocation



Environmental - Waste Management

We compost appropriate green waste material. The new compost facility, now in use was designed and organised by Kingsbridge in Bloom. Composting guidelines are displayed in the compound and on the website. Plastic pots are re-used or returned to the supplier. We also use locally sourced soil conditioner.



Sponsor's of the new compost area



Construction of the new compost area



Depositing green waste
in the compost area



New compost area management



Environmental - Water Use

Watering is vital to sustain our displays. Our sustainable planting includes drought tolerant varieties where appropriate. We do all of our own watering throughout the town with our own water bowzers. The use of water butts, baskets and containers with reservoirs helps to minimise water consumption. Mulching and gravel conserves moisture on the beds.



Refurbishing our town square beds with gravel to improve water retention



Planting our eighty reservoir baskets at the local nursery



Water collection & storage at the Information Centre



New bowser watering planters on the roundabout

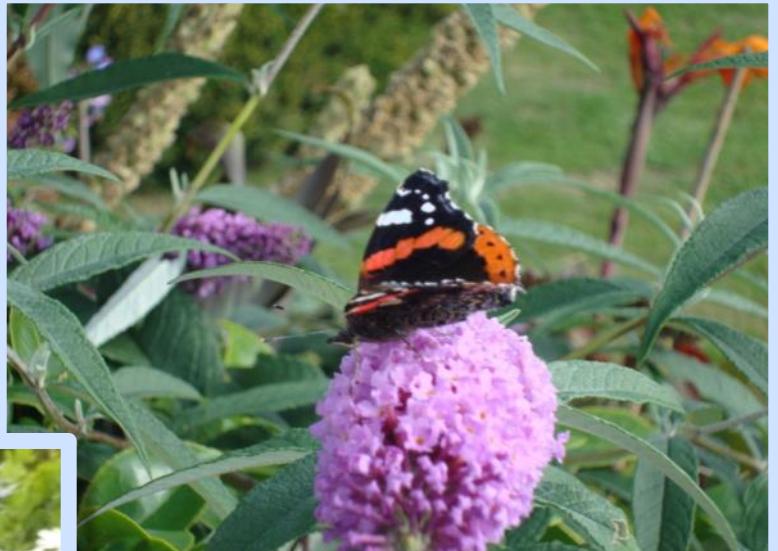


Environmental - Working with Nature

Planting designed to attract pollinating insects has been expanded to include wild and meadow flowers, also plants that extend the flowering season. Homes and habitats for wildlife are being installed. We are experimenting with alternative means of control for slugs and snails. We have been working with Kingsbridge Natural History Society and the Devon Bat Group giving ongoing support for our hedgehogs and bats.



Meadow flowers in the
Recreation Grounds



Butterfly on Buddleia



Bees on Eryngium



Installing a robin box



Our Sponsors

Antony & Pat Greenwood
Bartons Solicitors
Beryl Washington
Blue River Cottages
Creeks End

Kingsbridge Funeral Directors
Kingsbridge Gardening Club
Kingsbridge Gazette
Kingsbridge Hire Centre
Kingsbridge Town Council
Kingsbridge WI
Kingsbridge & Salcombe C. of C.
Lilburn & Elliot Builders
National Trust Overbecks
Nick Walker Printing
Noyces Garden Centre
Otter Nurseries



Decorative & Fine Arts Society
Fine Shine
Greencrop
Greenspace Landscapes
Harrison Nurseries
Healthwise
Herring Shoes
Kathlene & Peter Trute
King Print
Kingsbridge Community Garden
Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club
Kingsbridge Estuary U3A



Palladium Builders Merchants
Pizza Planet
Plumbstop
Quay Quilters
R & G Auto Spares
R. Sanders Plant Hire
South Hams District Council
Union Fabrications
Tesco
The Post
Toad Hall Cottages
Wills Marine



Tranquillity Trail - Appreciating Nature

Kingbridge in Bloom had a large input in the creation of **Kingbridge Town's Tranquillity Trail**. Being surrounded by nature has been found to be hugely beneficial for health and wellbeing especially if we can hear the sounds of nature. The Tranquillity Trail takes you on a circular route, allowing you to appreciate nature even in the midst of a thriving town like Kingsbridge.



Continue along past the Old Malt House on the right (now flats) until you reach the crossroads with Derby Road.

With care continue straight ahead and then downhill to the entrance of the Recreation Ground on your right. This is a lovely, quiet, access friendly open space which has won many awards for the beautiful presentation. There are a number of amenities available to visitors including a putting area, boules pitch, tennis court and a café open throughout the summer.

Stroll around the park and notice the abundance of flowers, the raised sustainably planted sensory beds, shrubs and mature trees. Once you have walked through the length of the park you will see steps which lead to Embankment Road.

Leave the park here and cross the road at the pedestrian crossing back to the quayside path. Turn right and follow the path back to the Kingsbridge Tourist Information Centre which is the final destination for the Tranquillity Trail.



KINGSBRIDGE

Winner of National Britain in Bloom RHS Gold



Leaflet produced by:
Kingsbridge Town Council,
Quay House, Ilbert Road, Kingsbridge. TQ7 1DZ.
Tel: 01548 853296
Email: reception@kingsbridge.gov.uk

We are grateful to Professor Greg Watts,
Professor of Environmental Acoustics,
University of Bradford for masterminding the
Tranquillity Trail concept.

TRANQUILLITY TRAIL

Being surrounded by nature has been found to be hugely beneficial for health and wellbeing especially if we can hear the sounds of nature.

The Tranquillity Trail takes you on a circular route, allowing you to appreciate nature even in the midst of a thriving town like Kingsbridge.



Kingsbridge Information Centre

The Tranquillity Trail route (allow 1-2 hours)...

From Kingsbridge Information Centre, facing the water take the right hand quayside path adjacent to the estuary. Turn right across the car park at the first green crossing and you will find the entrance to Lime Kiln in front of you.



This is a lovely enclosed area with the old lime kiln on one side and a beautiful array of potted flowers.

Walk back across the carpark and continue along the quayside path (passing the Leisure Centre which is open to all and has a good café with wonderful estuary views) to the end where you will be able to sit and enjoy the marine activity, bird life and beautiful views of the estuary.



Once refreshed, walk back along the quayside path to the bandstand in the square. Mount the steps and follow the path that leads past Quay House and the library, cross the road at the crossing and continue down the lane opposite towards Mill Street. In front of you will be The Hermitage and to the left of this you will find Squeezebelly Lane - the reason for this appellation will soon become clear!

powering the mill wheels of medieval Abbots Mill. Follow alongside the leat and then up steeply to the right. This quiet section of path is known as White Hart Passage and leads onto Fore Street.



Turn left onto Fore Street, looking out for steps once you have passed Kings Cinema on your left. Ascend the steps into St Edmunds Churchyard and follow the path past the church to the grassed area beyond with picnic tables and expansive views of green hills to the west - time to pause and reflect.

Then back onto Fore Street and left again, past the shops and the Cookworthy Museum (free entry to the garden and open Easter to end of October). A little further on you will find the entrance to the Community Garden with further views of the hills, a garden full of beautifully arranged different species of plant, shrubs and trees and vegetable plots where you can pick



Kingsbridge Community Garden

Kings Arms Passage. Walk down this tranquil, steep lane dating from Medieval Kingsbridge.

Once at the bottom you will see Duncombe Park in front of you, another lovely green area for a possible pause before turning right onto Eastern Backway and then walk either :-



- along the length, past the site of the Old Wash House until you get to Church Street or
- for a longer trail, turn right and follow until you find Wistaria Place on your right, walk up the hill, back out onto Fore Street, turn left and walk along until you come to Riverview Place where you can turn left and walk back down to Eastern Backway, giving you a taste of undisturbed Kingsbridge.



Next cross over Church Street and will see the delightful Church Street Garden with the colourful array of flowers and the children's' play area. To continue, pass under the covered passage into Ebrington Street with it's quaint terrace housing and attractive planting near the entrance to Saffron Park.



Our Organisation and Contacts

Kingsbridge in Bloom (KIB) consists of a committee with links to a wide range of other individuals and organisations with whom we work closely. This year the committee has been made up as follows:



Graham Price

Chairman and Town Councillor, Project management, interface with RHS, SWIB, local authorities & businesses. IYN co-ordination



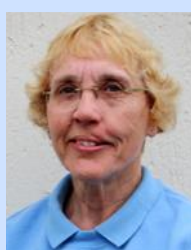
Lis Smith

Secretary — Meeting minutes, correspondence & plant organising



Alan Purchase

Treasurer, Fiscal duties & fiscal control



Gill Matthews

Publicity Officer

The committee would like to acknowledge the support of the team of volunteers and the many others who have supported us through the year. These include the Kingsbridge Scouts and Girl Guides, Kingsbridge Primary School, Community College, the Churches in the town and the many individual members of the community who have contributed their time and expertise so freely to support our campaign.



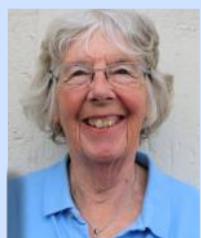
Jan Alen

Plant procurement and planting



Adrienne Benton

Environmental



Angela Taylor

Environment & sustainability



Anne Balkwill

Councillor - (KTC) - Town Council interface



Robin Griffin

Councillor - (KTC) - Schools / Young people's interface, IYN co-ordinator



KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM ACTIVITY PLANNER - 2017											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
MEETING REVIEWS & PLANING	KIB Committee Meetings									AGM - TBA	
	KIB with SHDC Meeting										
	KTC Parks Committee										
	Britain in Bloom Mentors Meeting										
	IYN - KIB Meeting										
WORKING PARTY DEPLOYMENT AREA PREPARATION PLANT & MATL. PROCUREMENT PLANTING GROUND MAINTENANCE COMPOSTING	Coming Year KIB Planning Meeting										
	Throughout Year Town Spot Maintenance										
	Town Square Maintenance										
	Town Square Beds										
	Town Planter Plants										
	Tall Bee Hives										
	Square Embankment Planters										
	Raised Bed Embankment										
	Park - Wild Flower Creation										
	Road Verge - Wild Flower Creation										
	Recreation Ground Raised Beds										
	Car Park - Raised Beds										
	Pond Management										
	Baskets for Business Premises										
	Additional Bulbs for 2017										
	Railway Planters										
	Compost & Soil Conditioning										
EQUIPMENT, PROCUREMENT, MAINTENANCE	New Ground Maint. Equipment										
	New Composting Facility										
	Water Bowser Maintenance										
FORMAL NEW DISPLAYS	Floral Boat										
	Waterside Embankment Beds										
	Egret Bed										
SOUTHWEST IN BLOOM 2016 Portfolio	Plan & Construction										
SOUTHWEST IN BLOOM JUDGING	Plan, Issues, Routes, Venue, etc.										
ITS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD JUDGING	Plan, Issues, Routes, Venue, etc.										
NEW COMMUNITY KIB WEBSITE	Design, Structure, Data Entry, Updates										

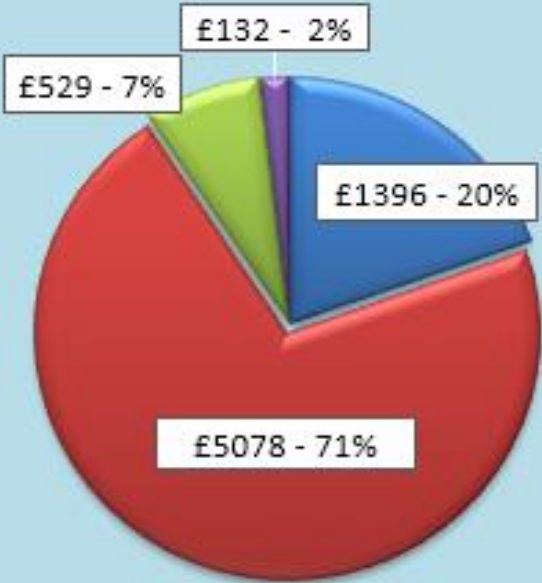


KIB Planting Programme 2016/17

	Tasks/Activities	Who?
August 2016	Continue watering, dead heading, weeding and tidying with weekly working parties. Review year to date: what to repeat, what to do differently. Discuss colour schemes and themes for next year, Get catalogues. Talk to suppliers. Encourage input/ideas from all volunteers.	All volunteers Planting team and volunteers
September 2016	Continue watering and maintenance in all planted areas Decide on colour scheme for 2017. Make wish list for Spring bulbs and any Winter/Spring plants. Check what funds available.	All volunteers Planting team
October 2016	Review judge's comments and plan for 2017 accordingly Monitor all areas. Remove baskets when past their best, also other containers and summer bedding. Finalise and place Spring planting orders. Winter baskets this year? Check for any saved bulbs/plants.	Committee Planting team and volunteers
November 2016	Check planting in the ground for any replacement perennials needed. Finish planting bulbs and any Winter/Spring plants.	Planting team Volunteers
December 2016	Discuss with and then distribute tender lists to suppliers for any new permanent planting in the Recreation ground.	Planting team
January 2017	Working parties from now on an 'as required' basis. Individuals to monitor and report if anything needs attention. Confirm requirements and order Amberol planters (from winnings) Finalise plan for Rec 'Hot Bed' with Cat (NT). Agree timetable. Order/purchase perennials. Check availability/delivery of manure/soil conditioner and plants.	All volunteers Planting team
February 2017	Check all planting areas for winter damage, general tidy up and maintenance if required Ensure sufficient compost, fertiliser and manure is available for Rec. Start work on Rec 'Hot bed'. Decide on action for sensory bed.	Working parties Maintenance Planting team
March 2017	Monitor wildflower areas and decide course of action this year General maintenance as required repair/painting of planters Empty Schooner, replace compost and replant Agree areas and draw up Watering Rota. Order new powered bowser. Finalise orders for traders baskets/tubs in Fore Street	Planting team Maintenance team Volunteers Watering lead Volunteers
April 2017	Install new planters (taxi rank, toilet barrels, petals). Order new trolley. Confirm numbers of plants ordered for all planted areas, and order additional plants as required. Check sufficient compost available. Monitor spring plants for removal and composting when finished. Start regular watering as per weather conditions Check baskets stored at Potters nursery for any necessary wick repairs	Maintenance team Planting team Watering rota Planting team
May 2017	Plant baskets and troughs at nursery to be brought on in polytunnel. Prepare all areas to be planted in advance of plant delivery at end of month. Check supplies of compost etc. Plant display bed, monitor carefully – frost, wind, drought, seagulls!	Planting team and volunteers
June 2017	Funding available so can finish planting the sensory bed. Monitor planting round the pond. Mostly weeding and watering now.	Everyone
July 2017	Monitor everything for any damage or losses. Water, water, water and feed if appropriate.	All volunteers

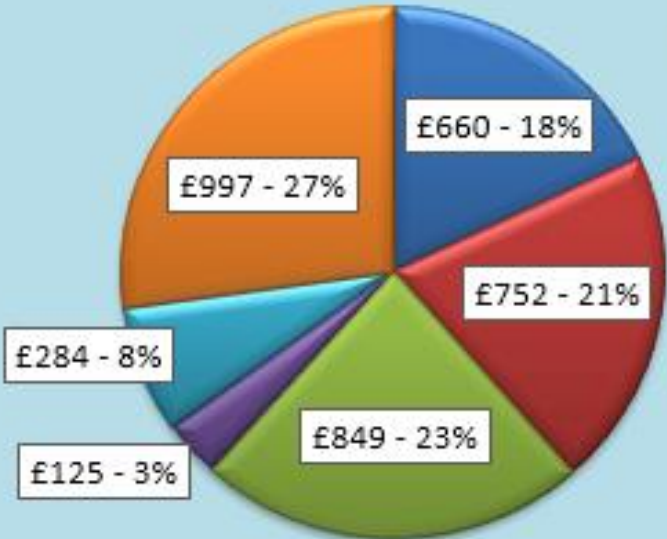


FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT - JUNE 2017



Income

- 100 Club
- Donations
- Fund Raising
- Merchandise



Expenditure

- Prizes
- Baskets
- Displays
- Admin
- Maintenance
- Equipment

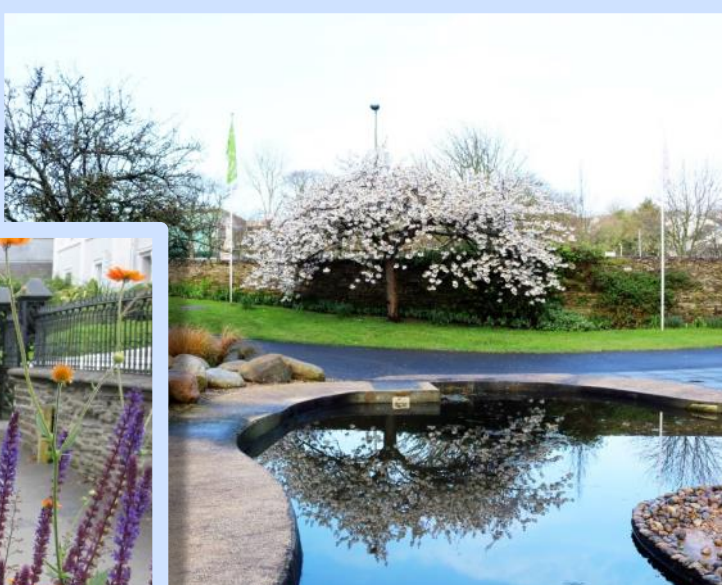


Solvency

- Income
- Expenditure
- Profit



Picture Collage



Picture Collage



Kingsbridge in Bloom Community Website

The new format website last year has been well received with regular viewing. Its purpose is to fully promote our activities to our town's community and visitor's alike. We have 44 unique pages and keeping it fresh with new material is vital. Content covers: News, Organisation, Competitions, Picture Galleries, Events, Support and Sponsorships, KIB Team Information, Contact Us.

We strive to make it informative and interesting to all. Our website will never be finished and will change and evolve to keep it factual and fresh. Below are snapshots of various subject pages.

www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk



10 years of Kingsbridge in Bloom - Celebration Poems

An Ode To Kingsbridge in Bloom

Kingsbridge seasons come and then they go
The flowers appear quite gentle and slow
Volunteers arise from winter slumber
If they slept in we'd have no wonder

Who are these angels dressed in blue?
If volunteered, it could be you
Please join this motley band of folk
As more are needed, it's no joke

In winter we all show up and shiver
To dig and move plants with amazing vigour
And planning through winter is no mean feat
As each year more is planted and goals to meet

The bar has been raised even higher we fear
As it's our 10th anniversary of "In Bloom" this year
And again as ever we are aiming for gold
And extra surprises for the town I am told

By Brian Hill



Kingsbridge in Bloom

There was a lady on her knees
Kneeling as if in prayer
I think that she'd been there for hours
Doing a great job there
Planting, trimming, watering, weeding
Has she Bats in the Belfry I ask
No, she says, just Love Lies Bleeding
As she continues with her task.
There's a blaze of colour throughout our town
Spring, summer autumn and winter too
In rain and shine they kneel, eyes down
To give this beauty to me and you

So thank you team for all you do.

By Barbara Butcher

Growing Pride

Growing pride

To green the grey, tested, tried.
Little steps, a giant stride.
Enthusiasm, sweat, vision applied.
Colour, texture, form supplied.
Embrace community, reach wide.
Bees, birds and beetles, here abide.
Cherish heritage where we reside.
For gold awards, Strove, vied.
Growing pride
A decade's gone. The years have flown.
Our Devon town... the pride *has* grown!

By Gill Matthews

10 Years of Kingsbridge in Bloom

When first, the tidying and planting began
And all the people stared

The Kibbers carried on their plan
To show how much they cared

Then later, when colourful blooms
Made all the people smile,
The Kibbers kept on trowelling
And went that extra mile

With hanging baskets up and down
Our Kingsbridge wins the day
And all the **Kibbers** have made our town
A blooming good display!

By Emma Peacock



Fifty Shades of Blue

Trowel in hand, armed they come, Wellies march along,
The forks and hoes, weed around the rose, **bulbs** planted one by one,
Up the Recreation, down the Creek, and around the Embankment too,
Around the schooner, and into the beds, the Egret with alliums of blue
Eleven strikes, the tea is brewed, and coffees fluffy or black
A quick refresh, a fertiliser redress and weeds packed into a sack,
Dungarees, Dirty Knees, Woolly hats and the garden glove,
An army of blue, but a regiment of friends ...doing it for Love

By Carol Gameson-Hughes

Seed of an Idea

The seed of an idea
Becomes a vision clear
Germinates, takes root,
Gradually begins to shoot.
Tight-wrapped bud, still small
Draws strength from all
The leaves which spread and grow.
Now *more* people know.
Sturdy stem grows strong.
More people come along.
Bursting bud becomes the flower.
All from people power.
A common aim agreed.
Started with an idea seed!

By Gill Matthews





Kingsbridge in Bloom

Oh to be a gardener,
now that Spring is here!
The colour all around us,
bringing us so much cheer
Year in, year out for the last ten years,
our team of gardeners has toiled;
Giving us shows of magnificence,
as they dig and get their hands soiled
Each and every one of us,
when walking round the town,
Feels joy and admiration
for its fantastic floral gown....
Created by our diligent workers,
who are out in the heat, wet and cold,
Giving us a town to be proud of,
and ensuring that Kingsbridge gets GOLD!

By Sally Witts



New Species

A species new has been discovered
That Attenborough hasn't covered.
A blue-backed worker is the creature,
Of Kingsbridge Town it is a feature.
They do not have a king or queen.
Collaboration reigns supreme.
Working together; and their toil
Improves environment and soil.
Across their habitat they swarm,
In winters cold and summers warm.
Industrious in all adversity.
Encouraging bio-diversity.
Removing litter and the weeds.
Planting flowers, sowing seeds.
This social species, rest they take
The Creeks End pub for coffee break.
'Kingsbridge Improveus' is their name
It's what they do. It is their aim.
Not yet filmed on 'Planet Two'
But YOU can spot them clad in BLUE.



'Now we are ten'

Take a simple market town, clothed about by hills and sea,
with wintry earth of red and brown; colourless land and leafless tree.
Now cautiously, the seasons creep, in stately and time-honoured way.
Green shoots abandon winter's sleep; darling buds in March not May
Sudden shouts of vibrant colour, nodding heads of sunshine yellow
Bright green leaves, no longer duller, herald the annual flower show!
Here come our dedicated team, clad in boots and pale blue shirt
To bring to life this summers 'scheme'; willing hands to dig the dirt!
Then weeks of planting, raking, weeding, nurturing each bed and plot
Of constant watering and feeding, in any weather, cold or hot.
Blazing Orange; Royal Reds; fountains of wood, cascading green,
plants of every shape and colour, each one vying to be seen.
The Day of Judgement is announced; last minute efforts to impress
Will our store of golden medals, be added to, by the R.H.S.
Our town has gained such joy and pleasure -
And so we raise 3 heartfelt cheers!!
To all of you, who wear pale blue
Thanks for ten triumphant years.
CONGRATULATIONS

By Anita Dunster



Just doing the best we can

We hope we've made a difference to this lovely town of ours
By keeping it so beautiful with lots of pretty flowers.

Environmentally friendly we always try to be
And a low carbon footprint is there for all to see.

We compost and recycle and hardly waste at all.
And we're sure our work's appreciated by creatures great and small.

By Mary Rossiter



Kingsbridge in Bloom

Down Devon lanes you dare to drive, to a valley charmed by the sea,
and nestled there find a market town, a bustling community.
A journey hemmed by stitchwort, campion to name just two,
your mind is full of flowers before Kingsbridge comes to view.
Climb out your car and walk around, just take your time to see
a town that's fit to burst with blooms and all of it is free.
There's hanging baskets full of flair, hot beds where grasses sway;
our promenade's a floral dream where schooners sail away.
Until at last it's time to go; well one more cup of tea,
sweetened with a whisper, adding tint to your memory.
For deep beneath the grassy lawns a secret we assume:
a mass of dazzling daffodils springs Kingsbridge into bloom!

By Sally Hunt





Kingsbridge In Bloom



www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk

