



Canterbury in Bloom

because we **love** our city

Judges Portfolio 2016





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Canterbury in Bloom Introduction

Canterbury is an ancient city at the heart of the Garden of England. A Roman city from 55AD until 410 AD, it eventually became the capital of the Anglo Saxon Kingdom of Kent in the fifth and sixth centuries. When St Augustine arrived in 597 AD to convert the pagans to Christianity he became the first Archbishop of Canterbury, the see of Canterbury being given primacy over the entire Christian church in the British Isles.

Over the next 1,000 years, England's history played out across this small city in the south east corner of England: the flowering of Anglo Saxon art, the first ever written use of English, Viking raids, Norman conquest, the murder of Becket, Henry II's penance for that, the growth of pilgrimage, Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, the birth of Christopher Marlowe and, finally, the Reformation which led to the subsequent destruction of Becket's tomb and various ecclesiastical buildings in the city...

The city's World Heritage Site (WHS) comprises Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey (destroyed in the Reformation) and St Martin's Church, the oldest parish church in continuous use in Britain and the oldest church in the entire English speaking world.

Today, with a city population of 48,000 and a wider District population, including Whitstable and Herne Bay, of 151,000, the city has 30,000 university students at three institutions (University of Kent, UoK, Canterbury Christ Church University, CCCU, and the University of the Creative Arts, UCA) and around 7 million visitors a year from the near continent, the region and further afield.



Canterbury in Bloom

Our history

Until 2011 the city had never participated in the regional Bloom campaign. Indeed, the city centre was largely 'flower free' and the only group that promoted flowers, gardens and all things horticultural was the original Canterbury in Bloom group (now Canterbury Community in Bloom) that ran a front garden competition for residents, a schools competition for local primary schools and a competition for local businesses. With limited resources the group did an amazing job, sustaining interest and commitment to all things Bloom related.

In 2011, Canterbury City Partnership CIC (CCP), a partnership between the City Council and local businesses in the city centre, developed a range of programmes to prepare the city for a potential Business Improvement District (BID) campaign. As part of this, CCP brought together a partnership to look at whether it would be feasible to enter the South & South East in Bloom campaign in 2012. The purpose was to build relationships across the city, build capacity for future partnership projects and to enhance the city centre, which was singularly lacking in floral displays.

Our journey

- 2012 **Silver**
- 2013 **Silver Gilt**
- 2014 **No city centre entry, due to BID campaign.**
Whitefriars Shopping Centre entered their category: Gold
- 2015 **Gold and Finalist in Britain in Bloom 2016**



This year, we undertook to encourage as many entries to the regional Bloom campaign as we could and Peter Holman from South and South East in Bloom came to the city and led a workshop for our partner organisations to ensure they understood how to enter and some of the benefits of doing so.

In 2011, there were no entries in the Bloom competition from Canterbury.

In 2016 there are twelve! (Appendix 1)



How is Canterbury in Bloom organised?

Partnership has been at the heart of what we do and is intrinsic to how we organise our campaign. Simply put, the campaign is a grouping of autonomous organisations each with their own objectives for the development of their area and so is not a 'traditional' Bloom group, if there is such a thing. Canterbury Connected Business Improvement District (BID) undertakes to coordinate the partnership and submit the annual Bloom entry but offers little or no direction to partners, each of whom know their own area best and are ambitious on its behalf.

Here are our partners:

Canterbury City Council and their parks and gardens contractor, Serco

Canterbury Community in Bloom

The Canterbury Society (civic society)

Whitefriars Shopping Centre

Canterbury Cathedral

The Abbots Mill Project

Rough Old Wife Cider (working with CCC to manage public orchards)

St Peters Methodist Primary School

The Kentish Stour Countryside project

Westgate Parks team (Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council)

The Friends of Westgate Parks

The Friends of Kingsmead Field

The Oaten Hill and District Society

St Mildreds Area Community Society (SMACS)

Elham Valley Garden Centre and the Fifth Trust

Canterbury College

Canterbury Christ Church University

Canterbury Connected Business Improvement District

Volunteer hours: we have asked all of the above to tell us how many hours they have invested in their various programme in the last year: this totals around 11,500 hours per year across the city.



Horticultural Achievement

A1 & A2: Impact and practice

Canterbury City Council and their contractor Serco

The grounds maintenance contract covers Canterbury's main parks and gardens including: Dane John Gardens, Lady Wooton's Green, Solly's Orchard, Millers Field, Greyfriars Garden, along the City Walls and Westgate Parks.

Serco is responsible for grass cutting, sign cleaning, inspection of play equipment, litter collection, responding to vandalism and fly tipping, inspections and general open space maintenance, as well as formal planting.

Miller's Field is the council's first eco-park and will be completed by the end of June. The planting and mowing regimes have been changed to be more environmentally friendly.

Here is the maintenance and planting programme:

- Ornamental grass in the parks are cut every 5 working days
- Flower beds are planted twice per year in October and May and tidied approximately every 10 days
- Planting schemes are specifically designed to attract bees and butterflies.
- Dane John – new alliums have been planted for 2016
- Kingsbrook Park - late flowering multi headed narcissus



Westgate Gardens



Dane John Gardens



Westgate Gardens, summer 2015

In Westgate Gardens Serco trialled a mix of perennial and annual plants in 2015 which was well received by local residents, who complimented the team on this. This autumn this will be delivered in 25% of beds as it is more environmentally friendly and was so popular.

The council is progressing towards 100% composting of grounds maintenance waste recycling. At Westgate Parks 100% of grounds maintenance waste is recycled from Westgate Gardens and Toddlers Cove.



Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU)

Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) has a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) which is now guiding all greenspace developments on site. The BAP has also set out the decision making structure for landscape project aspects of the university Master planning process over the next 15-20 years. It is based on 3 key priorities:

1. To protect and enhance biodiversity across the estate
2. To raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity amongst students and staff, and the wider community
3. To ensure a consistent approach to biodiversity management.

Jubilee Orchard

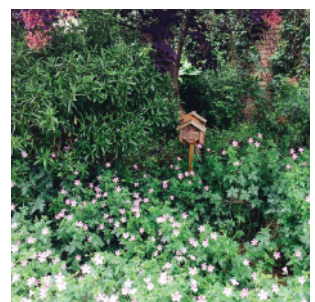
The Jubilee Orchard, opened by David Bellamy and planted with heritage varieties of Apple, Pear and cobnut has been reseeded with a British native wildflower seed mix designed to compete less with the fruit trees.

Tradescant 400th Anniversary

The university is honouring the 400th anniversary of the years horticultural giant John Tradescant the elder spent developing gardens in the former abbey precincts upon which the university now stands for Lord and lady Wooten from 1615 for roughly nine years. The celebrations kicked off in December 2015 with a Larch planted in Tradescant's honour and continues with the development of a physic and apocathery garden.

Landscape Developments

The Grounds and Gardens team have continued their excellent work developing unique pocket spaces with site appropriate planting ensuring the inclusion of as many species and cultivars as possible working with the aesthetic and spacial requirements of the university.



Canterbury Cathedral

Canterbury Cathedral precincts are open to both local residents (free admission) and paying visitors. The Cathedral is engaged in an HLF funded programme of refurbishment which includes areas of the gardens in particular the ancient herb garden. The Cathedral also has a number of specimen plants in the national collection including *Hakonechloa macra* and cultivars and *Stipa gigantea* and cultivars.

The Cathedral colours are blue and white and this colour scheme is used in certain areas within the precincts. The Archbishop's Palace's drive for instance is full of blue and white flowering plants throughout the year. In other areas there is more of a cottage style look with mixed borders. The planting is not bound by any rules. The Cathedral don't need to use plants that are in keeping with any time period, and use all sorts of tropical plants as well as more traditional plants.

Over the past year the Cathedral grounds team has focused on planting the infirmary ruins with arid plants that had previously been used in the Easter garden. They have also created a fernery in the Watertower garden.





Community garden and best container winner 2015



The Oaten Hill & District Society



Friends of Kingsmead Field, daffodil planting

A3: Residential and community gardening

Canterbury Community in Bloom (CCiB) originally established as Canterbury in Bloom in 1976 was founded to support and encourage the Blooming of Canterbury. Since then it has run Secret Gardens in the centre of Canterbury, and an Autumn Gardeners Festival. It now concentrates on the Schools Competition in January to June, and the Summer Competition June to September for Gardens and Displays in the old City of Canterbury. Funds are generated by a combination of support from Serco, the Canterbury Area Members Panel (local councillors), and local Nurseries.

CCiB has previously judged the residents gardens by touring the city and selecting the best examples to reward and celebrate at an awards evening hosted by the Lord Mayor each year. However, due to resource constraints, in 2015 it was decided to run the competition in a different way, by inviting the public to enter their garden or containers in one of the selected categories; this resulted in almost 60 entries from across the city's residents. The entries are judged by professional horticulturalists. CCiB are now initiating the 2016 cycle, with entry forms going out in May, to be returned in June, and gardens to be judged in the first half of July. Prizes including cups, trophies and certificates and garden tokens will be presented by the Lord Mayor in September.

The Oaten Hill & District Society engages in additional planting in its area and has delivered a number of projects including community planting by the Odeon Cinema, Canterbury Fire Station (working with students from Canterbury College) and in residential areas of that part of the city.

Friends of the Kingsmead Field is a community organisation that evolved from the 'Save Kingsmead Field' campaign which successfully achieved its aim of preventing development of a recreation field for housing. The Friends have forged a strong partnership with the City Council and are involved in developing the field as a natural landscape with wildflower planting and habitat restoration, as well as an amenity space for the city.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the two organisations in July 2015.

In October, they organised a community daffodil planting event, in which residents planted over 800 bulbs on the riverbank to enhance the field's growing Spring daffodil display.

In 2016 the Council and the Friends of Kingsmead Field decided to prioritise the creation of a wild flower meadow this year. Over the months of April and May, over 100 local people were involved in creating the wildflower meadow - raking the soil, sowing the seed and watering the ground.



A4: Business areas and premises

The Canterbury Connected Business Improvement District (BID) has initiated a hanging basket scheme which in 2015 delivered 245 baskets across the city centre, and in 2016 this has developed with 300 now delivered, paid for and maintained by the BID from June – October.



Hanging basket scheme 2015

Whitefriars Shopping Centre, 24% of the city centre shopping space, has an annual Bloom campaign, with planting across the centre and a central floral pavilion, in 2016 designed as a Wellbeing garden.

The planting and maintenance is all undertaken in partnership with the Fifth Trust which works to support adults with learning difficulties.



Whitefriars



A5: Green spaces

Green spaces across the city are managed and maintained by a wide variety of groups, including the City Council but also social enterprises and community groups.

Westgate Parks are managed by Canterbury City Council with support from the **Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership** through the HLF funded project, with a Park Ranger working full time on education and community engagement work. This includes additional sustainability work, wildflower planting and work on the river bank.

Verges and roundabouts are managed by Kent County Council. One of our aims for the future is to improve this aspect of the city as the standards achieved do not match what happens across the wider city.



Westgate Gardens



Environmental Responsibility

B1: Conservation and biodiversity

Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) has a strong biodiversity ethos and is actively involved in conserving seeds as part of Heritage Seed Library (HSL), which is a collection of heirloom fruit and vegetable varieties. Seed guardianship is an extra step whereby they volunteer to raise super-endangered varieties that are at risk from becoming extinct. Plants are raised for seed on allotment holder's plots, which is then sent back to the library.

The university is now raising seeds from its own fledgling seed bank based on HSL varieties saved in previous years and has begun taking seeds to community seed swaps in the area.

Canterbury Cathedral has plants registered in the National Plant Collection® of *Hakonechloa macra* and cultivars on site and is applying for the National Plant Collection® of *Stipa gigantea* and cultivars. The plant collections are run by Plant Heritage.

The Abbots Mill Project is dedicated to reinstating a water wheel in the River Stour to provide sustainable energy (9 kw pa) as an example of an urban energy scheme in the city. The group has transformed a previously overgrown and derelict site in the city into an accessible and well managed country space, with a clear management plan and educational projects around that. Ultimately the project's plan is that this site will have a dedicated centre for sustainable energies located there, powered by the water wheel.

While the project is being developed, the land is used for recreation, habitat restoration, bat walks, Celebration of Wood fun days and permaculture education workshops.

Abbots Mill organise a range of activities dedicated to conserving natural habitat through permaculture and education. Here is a sample of what they have achieved in the last 12 months:

- Launched a Habitat Restoration Programme in order to enhance the site for wildlife and improve biodiversity:
 - Cleared and on-going management of self-seeded buddleia and brambles (on-going)
 - Sowed native grasses and flowers.
 - Added wildlife houses and feeders to the site. On-going monitoring and maintenance.
 - Planted over 50 native tree saplings around the site.
 - Undertaken tree work to gradually replace many of the self-seeded sycamores and open up the canopy to encourage biodiversity.
- Planted a native tree hedge (yew, hawthorn and beech) around the site. Later added birch, rowan and oak – donated by the 1st Whitstable Scouts as part of the Woodland Trust's initiative of supporting people across the UK to come together to plant 6 million trees in the Jubilee year (2012).

Whitefriars continues to work closely with the Canterbury Beekeepers Association. They currently have two beehives on the roofs of the shopping centre. Each generates in excess of 50lbs of honey annually, which is sold to fund educational activities for would-be beekeepers on the site.



B2: Resource management

Canterbury City Council (CCC) and Serco have a goal of 100% composting of waste from their parks and gardens and achieves this at Westgate Parks.

Woodmeizer project – is a partnership between CCC and Serco. Occasionally a tree must be felled in one of the parks and gardens. As part of a new sustainability scheme supported by Serco and a local charity The Fifth Trust the felled tree is given a new lease of life by being crafted into furniture or other bespoke items.

All the wood is delivered to the Fifth Trust, a charitable organisation providing support and training opportunities to adults with learning disabilities. Skilled carpenters work together with the students to craft the recycled trees into bespoke items available to order.

Any wood not used to craft bespoke items is sold in planks or can be bought for firewood. Any profits from the sale are reinvested into The Fifth Trust to help continue their excellent work in the local community, and to help make improvements to council-owned parks and gardens.



Woodmeizer picnic bench



Roof top solar panels at Whitefriars

Whitefriars Shopping Centre delivers a number of environmental initiatives:

- Rainwater harvesting with a 720 l tank on the roof; no mains water is used in the summer planting maintenance.
- Zero waste to landfill for the centre; half a million tonnes are recycled or used in a Waste Derived Energy plant locally.
- Roof top solar panels supply 15% of the power used in the car park and service areas.
- The centre gives £5,000 annual sponsorship to support a local initiative to encourage 40,000 children across the county to walk to school.

Canterbury Cathedral, each garden has their own compost heap and water is collected in the gardens for the watering of the plants.



B3: Local heritage

Heritage is a key element of the urban and natural Landscape.

Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) CCCU's Beer, Bread and Honey programme links directly to the monastic heritage of the site and the remains of the monastery Brew-Bake house wall. Beer, bread and honey would have been part of the staple diet of those within the monastery. 20kg of traditional variety hops were harvested last September by students and staff and brewed into the inaugural 'Green Chapel Ale' by the Canterbury Brewers which has sold at outlets and festivals throughout Kent. Two colonies of bees are going strong on campus as is the mobile community wood fired bread oven affording opportunities to bring and bake s on a monthly basis. All facets of these projects are intended to act as educational resources, to integrate with curriculum outcomes. Life Sciences students have been isolating strains of yeast from the campus for use in both beer and bread making and studying hop disease management.

Canterbury Cathedral's special feature is the ancient herb garden. They are working on a project called 'Herbs in History' which involves restoring the herb garden back to what it would have been in the 1500s and showcases the plants and their medicinal properties and uses.

Westgate Parks' programme has included archaeology of the site and excavation of the oldest road, Watling Street, and included this in their engagement programme for the community.

Abbots Mill: Held several community archaeology days/weekends, led by Canterbury Archaeological Trust, including uncovering the city wall, which runs along the boundary of the site, all as part of their pre-planning investigations.



Canterbury Cathedral

The **BID's** hanging basket programme is designed to enhance the urban street scene but in some places like Mercery Lane no baskets have been installed to retain the uncluttered view of the cathedral.



B4: Local environmental quality

The community have carried out a number of litter picks and a river clean in the last year:

Kingsmead Field: In 2016, the field has become the focus for a coordinated community response to the problem of litter. In addition to clearing litter on a daily basis on the field, the Friends group has played a key role in organising community litter picks in the wider Kingsmead area as part of the 'Clean for the Queen' initiative. Altogether, over 60 people have attended the litter picks, including the local MP, the Mayor of Canterbury and a number of local councillors. More than 80 sacks of litter have been collected from Kingsmead's riverbanks and the river Stour, as well as supermarket trolleys, bicycles, a scooter and much more debris besides.

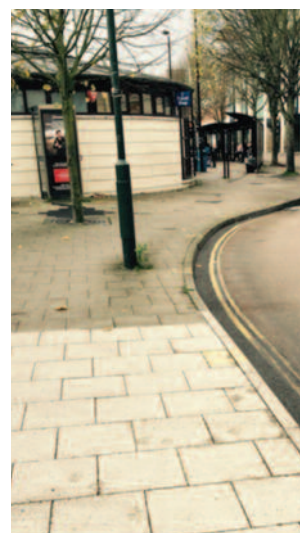
Canterbury Society: the city's civic society organises an annual river clean in June. This is supported by local people and a number of city councillors and ensures that the river is 'represented' each summer.



The Kentish Stour Countryside Project



Canterbury Society litter pick



BID cleaning team

The BID: as part of ensuring the city is a profitable place in which to do business the BID has a deep cleaning team operating on steam cleaning paved surfaces 4 nights per week Monday – Thursday 8pm – 6am. The BID has also worked with the City Council to ensure the subways into the city are improved and work is on-going to develop a permanent graffiti removal service for the city centre.

Abbots Mill: the team has cleared the site, removing a range of detritus including asbestos, laid paths to facilitate access and instigated a site management plan to develop biodiversity and a community and educational resource.

The Kentish Stour Countryside Project has restored the river bank by the city's busy coach park this spring using local volunteers.



B5: Pride of place

Canterbury Society and **Canterbury City Council** have developed a community group, Friends of the Riverside, which has commissioned and installed a trio of benches in places adjacent to the river Stour.

The Friends of the Riverside was set up to enhance public access to the river as it flowed through the city. The Friends group is organised by the City Council but works with representatives from the Canterbury Society, the Eastbridge Hospital, the Environment Agency, the Kentish Stour Countryside partnership, the Friends of Kingsmead Field, the St Peter's Association, SMACS and other groups. A small amount of funding has been obtained from developers' contributions.

At an early stage the Friends decided that it would be good to have more seats in places overlooking the river. These were not to be ordinary seats, but seats designed by artists and sited to enhance the gardens where they were located. From an initial list of twelve artists, the Friends chose three, with the help of a specialist consultant hired by the Council. These three were then invited to Canterbury to put forward suggestions and discuss them with the Friends. The result was the three seats illustrated below.



The seat in the Miller's Field was designed by Tim Norris and offers a quirky opportunity to relax and enjoy the view up the river. This has received an award from the Canterbury Society and been shortlisted for a national Civic Voice award



The seat by the Miller's Arms pub was designed by Andrew Lapthorn: when we visited it had been chosen as the perfect spot to sit and read.



The seat in the Greyfriars' Garden was designed by Alun Heslop and seems like a good place to stop for a chat in this tranquil spot.

Abbots Mill: the project commissioned a bench that has been carved by a local company, Tribal Animal Tree Art and Wood Sculpting, based on a design from a local 15 year old, Alasdair Simpson, and made from sycamore from the site. This is positioned at a key view point on the river.

Canterbury City Council: regeneration of the streetscape in the city centre is a key component of the Council's regeneration strategy. Palace Street was developed in this way some years ago and this treatment has been extended in the last year to both The Borough and Northgate, with planters maintained by Serco, with a 20% increase in footfall as a result. Further areas are planned over the next 4 years, using developers' contributions to pay for this work.



Marlowe Theatre: when the theatre was re-opened in 2012 a sculpture, Bulkhead by Rick Kirby, which had been commissioned ten years previously but located on the outskirts of the city by the Council Offices, was relocated to a prominent riverside location, outside the theatre. In 2014 a statue of local pantomime dame, the late Dave Lee, was positioned adjacent on a bench and has become a popular feature.

Whitefriars: a water clock designed by a local school, Simon Langton Boys Grammar, was sponsored and installed by the centre in 2014.

The Kentish Stour Countryside project, in partnership with Westgate Parks, has commissioned and installed a Bull sculpture on Tannery Field, in recognition of the former tannery site's history.

Canterbury Commemorative Society: in 2006 the society installed two statues in Lady Wootons Green to commemorate the arrival of St Augustine in 597 AD with statues of Ethelbert and Bertha, King and Queen of Kent at the time. In October 2016 the society will unveil their next addition to the city's statuary, Geoffrey Chaucer, in the city's High Street.



Dave Lee statue outside the Marlowe Theatre



Ethelbert and Bertha, King and Queen of Kent, Lady Wootons Green



Community participation

C1: Development and continuity

The leadership and coordination of the Canterbury in Bloom programme sits with the BID. This enables the programme to be funded from the BID levy and provides a team with time and resources to carry this role through on an annual basis. This enables all of the partners to concentrate their time and efforts on their own programmes, linking in to the city-wide campaign each summer in order to host the Bloom judging team.

In 2015 the campaign decided that encouraging more of the partners to enter their own category of the regional Bloom campaign was one of the important indicators of engagement and sustainability. Regional Bloom Chair, Peter Holman was invited to deliver a workshop on entering the Bloom campaign which was very well received by partners: as a result 12 entries have been received by South and South East in Bloom from the city:

Small City: **Canterbury in Bloom**

Town Centre: **Whitefriars Shopping Centre**

Large Conservation Area: **Canterbury Cathedral**

Business Landscape: **Canterbury Christ Church University**

It's Your Neighbourhood: **8 community entries**

This engagement will ensure that the Bloom is a robust and locally 'owned' element of each group's work and will raise standards across the city.



C2: Communication and education

Education:

Canterbury Christ Church University has a clear plan to educate its students and staff as part of its Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

Abbots Mill's education programme is well underway, including a pilot project called Playing for Change, working with pre-schools in Canterbury and plans for a Saturday Club for children and young people and a 'forest school' for people with learning difficulties on site.



Westgate Parks education programme



St Peters Methodist Primary School

Westgate Parks: the appointment of a Parks Ranger; and the development of a year round education and community participation programme has been an important part of the HLF funded programme.

St Peters Methodist Primary School: located within the city centre BID area, the school is developing closer links to the local business community and the city-wide Bloom campaign. A previous Gold winning Blooming Schools entrant, the 210 pupil school has made the most of its tight site to develop a comprehensive programme of engagement for students in growing and maintaining plants and the natural environment.

Canterbury Community in Bloom: In June 2015 the group staged the judging and presentation of prizes to children from the schools in the Canterbury District who had submitted entries in our competition on the theme of 'Metamorphosis' with a miniature garden and associated class and individual work. Two judges, one for the horticultural side, the other for the written and drawn work, decide on a ranking, and a presentation was made to the children who assembled at the host school, with a trophy and a £10 token for the winning school, and £5 tokens for the runners up.



Whitefriars Shopping Centre: to support the city's Bloom campaign the centre has sponsored the publication a book each year by local author, Martyn Barr, which is distributed free to local schools and is available in local book shops:

2012: **To Be a Bee**

2013: **A Young Person's Guide to Garden Science**

2015: **A Young Person's Guide to Water**

2016: **No Lovelier Place: a guide to the city's green spaces**

Whitefriars also sponsors schools workshops each year and in 2016 local schools have been invited to submit designs for four raised planters located in Whitefriars Square. The four winning schools will see their designs brought to life by Fifth Trust horticulturalists and will be offered a full day workshop programme on the theme of wellbeing as a prize. The activities will support a number of KS2 cross curricular learning objectives.

Canterbury Cathedral: Canterbury Cathedral has developed accessible, multi-sensory tours for families and adults, inspired by plants and flowers in the Cathedral Herb Garden and Tudor herbals in the Cathedral Library. These were trialed in 2016 as part of the Cathedral's Summer Fun family programme and as part of Heritage Open Days. Some of the tours included a print workshop in which children made their own herbals, using dried and pressed herbs from the Cathedral Herb Garden. Further visits and creative workshops inspired by Cathedral gardens (plants, flowers and wildlife) are planned for 2016 including with blind and partially sighted people.

The Cathedral also has established strong links with a wide range of hard to reach community groups. These include recently arrived teenage migrants and their families from the Kent Refugee Action Network, young people not in employment education and training from the CXK Elevate Programme, adults with Special Needs from the Garden Gate project and young offenders on day release.

The Cathedral has also established an Open Gardens Weekend each year at the end of May, in connection with the National Garden Scheme, when the private gardens within the precincts are open to the public. This event is in aid of charity and in 2015 over £16,000 was raised for Kent Refugee Action and Seeds for Africa.



Cathedral Open Gardens



'No Lovelier Place' A guide to the city's green spaces



Communication

The Canterbury in Bloom does not coordinate the media coverage obtained by partners across the year and this is an area we are seeking to address in future years to generate greater awareness locally.

However, this year the BID has included a double page spread about Canterbury in Bloom in the MyCanterbury Summer in the City Guide, 20,000 copies, which is distributed across the city throughout the summer.

We also deliver an extensive Twitter programme  @canterburybloom.

Here is some of our partners press coverage



canterburytimes.co.uk CAN-ED1-S2

Canterbury in Bloom
because we love our city

Here is your guide to our beautiful garden city

Canterbury Christ Church University
The university's gardens are a beautiful sight, with a mix of formal and informal planting. The gardens are open to the public and are a great place to see the university's architecture.

Canterbury Cathedral
The cathedral's gardens are a beautiful sight, with a mix of formal and informal planting. The gardens are open to the public and are a great place to see the cathedral's architecture.

Canterbury City Council
The city council's gardens are a beautiful sight, with a mix of formal and informal planting. The gardens are open to the public and are a great place to see the city council's architecture.

Canterbury in Bloom
The Canterbury in Bloom project is a community-led initiative to improve the city's gardens. The project involves volunteers from across the city who work together to plant and maintain the gardens.

WADING IN: Julian Brazier MP and Sian Pettman of the Friends of Kingsmead Field

CLEAN AS A WHISTLE: The litter pickers at Kingsmead Field

Litter pickers clean for the Queen

VOLUNTEERS collected more than 50 sacks of rubbish in one litter pick from Kingsmead Field in Canterbury.

The Friends of Kingsmead Field and the Canterbury Society teamed up for Clean for the Queen; a nationwide initiative to clean up the country in time for Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday in June.

Around 40 volunteers took part in a spring clean at Kingsmead. The group tackled sites including the Kingsmead Leisure Centre car park, the Surestart Centre car park, and the Riverside Youth Centre, as well as Kingsbrook Park, and the footpaths around Kingsmead Road, Broad Oak Road, and the fringes of Kingsmead Field itself.

Despite collecting more than 50 sacks of litter, the volunteers reported their work wasn't finished yet, and are planning another pick later this month.

After the pick was over, on Saturday morning, the volunteers, who included MP Julian Brazier and Lord Mayor Sally Waters, celebrated with coffee and cake at Kingsmead. Afterwards, Lord Mayor Baldock said he had missed a down here.

He said: "Kingsmead Field is a good site for a picnic. It was a good day for the team and the surrounding area."

"We all had a delicious cake reward us for our efforts."

Residents transform derelict plot

A neglected plot of land in Canterbury has been transformed by residents into a picturesque community space complete with picnic tables.

Volunteers first got to work several months ago on the eyesore site in Tyler Close and set about removing a sprawling old and unsafe Cyprus tree.

They also cleared away rubble, concrete and weeds, levelled the ground and have now replaced the tree with a new sapling.

The residents had help and advice from the chairman of the St Stephen's Residents Association, Sue Langdown, and a grant towards the project from county councillor Graham Gibbons.

Recycled picnic tables, donated by the city council, have been sanded, treated and installed and there is an ongoing planting project with spring bulbs, forget-me-nots, wild garlic and wild flowers, as well as a Bramley apple tree donated by the Kent Men of Trees.

Volunteer Jenny Day said: "It brought together people of all ages and is helping to develop a strong sense of community co-operation and pride in the local environment."

On Sunday, they gathered to celebrate the work completed so far and enjoy coffee, tea and cakes.



HOPES FIELD WILL BE STUNNING ADDITION TO BRITAIN IN BLOOM ENTRY



Pupils from St Stephen's school helped with the seeding

Youngsters help sow the seeds for a community meadow project

A new community project will soon be blossoming in Kingsmead Field following the sowing of a wildflower meadow.

Over the last month, more than 100 volunteers have been preparing the ground with rakes, scattering seeds and watering.

Now they hope the result will be a special colourful contribution to Canterbury's Britain in Bloom entry. Among those involved have been parents with toddlers and teenagers from the Riverside Children's and Youth Centres, as well as conservation students from Canterbury College and local residents' associations. The city council's environment team has also sown their own patch.

The final stage took place on Thursday when children from St Stephen's Junior School sowed the last remaining plot. Sian Pettman, from the



Busy with their rakes are Steph Pettman and Selina Oswalt

Friends of Kingsmead Field, says the wildflower meadow provides a tangible symbol of the growing partnership between the city council and the group since they signed a memorandum of understanding last summer.

She said: "This creation of a wildflower meadow proved to be the most popular suggestion for improving the field, with over 82% of respondents supporting it."

The Friends also hope the meadow will flower in perfect time for the Britain in Bloom competition.

Following the city's first ever Gold Award in the South & South East in Bloom competition in 2015, Canterbury has been selected as a finalist for the first time in the prestigious Britain in Bloom national finals.

The judges' tour will take place on August 5 and the Kingsmead Field meadow will be the final location.



Volunteers helping create the wildflower meadow on Kingsmead Field; a youngster from Riverside Children's Society enjoys scattering seeds



City bench on shortlist for national prize

An eye-catching bench in the city centre has been shortlisted for a national design award.

The wooden seat in Millers Field has made the final stages of the annual Civic Voice Design Awards.

It has been shortlisted in the public realm category, with competition from three other entries. The bench was commissioned by the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, which has been working with the Friends of the Riverside group in Canterbury.

It is one of three funded by the city council and was designed



The bench in Millers Field, Canterbury

'DROPPING LITTER IS A HUGE SOCIAL NO-NO'

The anti-litter strategy put together by the council's clean streets guru is earning wide support.

Barton Conservative Oliver Fawcett formally unveiled his "multi-pronged" approach to members of Canterbury councilors at a meeting on Monday.

Last week the Gazette revealed that Cllr Fawcett's plans involve a clean neighbourhoods competition, education on litter for schools and colleges, changes to the relationship between the council and its contractor

Serco, encouraging businesses to clean up around their premises and improvements to the way people can report hot-spots.

Prof Rick Norman battles with litter problems in the St Michael's Road area of the city, where he is a member of the residents' association.

He said: "Oliver has thrown himself into this and what we would emphasise is that it is a case of the city council working with residents. It has a lot of potential."

But Prof Norman warned against "volunteers doing the

work of Serco" and said the council should liaise with the universities to reduce litter caused by students.

Sian Pettman, of the Friends of Kingsmead Field, said: "This is a really interesting campaign which engages with the general public. It's aim is to bring us all together to do something about litter."

Conservative Steve Williams said: "The bigger picture is that in the first place we need to make people realise that dropping litter is a huge social no-no. Attitudes have got to change."

■ 1963 - The Sea by Simon Phipps is published by Hutchinson in the UK. The author continues to write and edit.

■ 1966 - David Low's cartoonists' first round of work, 'Hinking about it'.

■ 1969 - Neil Gaiman's first novel, 'The Graveyard Book'.

■ 1973 - Canterbury Bay Castle museum at 1443 (apart from the 1973-74 season) first Canterbury officers arrived in Jersey by a boat.

■ 1978 - Sea Poles' first contract in the world, San Francisco.

■ 1989 - 1500 Mollusks from the world's oldest shell, Venus in London.

■ 1990 - Simon's first novel, 'The Sea'.

■ 1994 - The first of the 'The Sea' series, 'The first of the Sea'.

■ 2001 - Jennifer Jones's first novel, 'The Sea'.

■ 2002 - UK's first 'The Sea' series, 'The first of the Sea'.

Canterbury

First sign of snow

This might be the closest we get to a snowflake this winter. Simon Pettman of Market Way, Canterbury, took this spring snowflake at the back of Kingsmead Field on Friday.



READERS' PHOTOS OF THE WEEK





C3: Community involvement

Community participation is at the heart of Canterbury in Bloom. The BID leads a city wide entry to the Bloom rather than a more specific BID category to ensure that the programme includes as many people and groups as possible, both within the business community and among residents and the local and substantial student population.

The number of IYN entries to this year's regional competition is significant (eight versus none in 2015) and the partner list for the campaign and the number of enthusiasts the judges will meet is testament to the the strong partnerships we have developed.

C4: Year-round involvement

While the BID's work is focussed on a hanging basket campaign June – October each year and the Community in Bloom work is also concentrated in the summer months, the planning and co-ordination of the Bloom entry begins in January of each year. Of course, other partner organisations manage their own projects throughout the year, from the City Council's parks and gardens contractor Serco to the Kingsmead Field Friends year round programme. Here are a few highlights:



Kingsmead Field: March 2015, riverside bench installed



Kentish Stour Countryside Project: April 2015



St Peters Pupils helping out in Greyfriars; July 2015, the results!



Oaten Hill and District Society: October 2015 Bulb planting





Oaten Hill and District Society: November 2015 Pear tree planting



Kingsmead Field: March 2016 Clean for the Queen



Kentish Stour Countryside Project: April 2016



Volunteers restoring the river bank



Kingsmead Field: April 2016 Duck Race fund raiser



Kingsmead Field: May 2016 Wildflower seed sowing



C5: Funding and support

The BID provides funds and in kind support to deliver the city's hanging basket programme and support the city wide Bloom entry and any associated costs. This year the BID also provided £400 towards a Princes Trust project at St Peters Methodist Primary School to create a reading area and improvements to the school garden to be delivered by local 19 – 25 year olds who have not been in work or training recently.

The City Council sponsors the Canterbury in Bloom campaign and contributes £1,600 towards the BID's costs and also the Canterbury Community in Bloom campaign

Serco sponsor Canterbury Community in Bloom and provide in kind support as required to all the groups involved in the Bloom.

Whitefriars covers all of its investment in Bloom from their own resources and covers the costs of the schools programme and the publication of the educational material and books accordingly. They also provide the site and facilities for Canterbury Bee Keepers in the centre (bee hives, training room and free parking) free of charge.

All other groups raise their own funds through events like the Kingsmead Duck race and through contributions from local people.



Conclusion

South and South East in Bloom Judges Tour: 20th July 2016

Canterbury in Bloom is a wide ranging and varied partnership of organisations, from a commercially driven retail development (Whitefriars) to a host of volunteer led community groups like Friends of the Kingsmead Field and Canterbury Community in Bloom, as well as organisations like the Council, the Dean and Chapter at the Cathedral and Canterbury Christ Church University.

What they all have in common is a genuine investment in the wider city and in their part of that, whether that is a financial stake or a sense of community.

What they also have in common is their sense of heritage and interpreting that in a modern context, retaining the sense of place in each of the areas they are responsible for, and in many instances engaging young people and others in what they do.

In Canterbury Bloom is a strong force for community and wellbeing.

The future of Bloom in the city is strong. With 12 entries in the various categories we fully expect standards to rise and more groups to become involved in future years.

However, we still have issues to address:

- Verges and roundabouts are poorly managed and as a key feature of the approaches to the city this needs to be improved in future.
- Graffiti is an issue and the BID is working with the Council to develop a permanent programme to deal with this blight.
- Awareness of the general public about the Bloom campaign is not high and more needs to be done to engender more enthusiasm and involvement from some key groups:
 - Students
 - Secondary Schools
 - Individual businesses

We look forward to showing our judges around our city and to sharing with you our enthusiasm and enjoyment of Bloom in Canterbury.



Appendix 1

Canterbury South & South East in Bloom entries: 2016

Small City:	Canterbury in Bloom
Town Centre:	Whitefriars Shopping Centre
Large Conservation Area:	Canterbury Cathedral
Business Landscape:	Canterbury Christ Church University
It's Your Neighbourhood:	Oaten Hill & District Society - Milton Road, Canterbury Oaten Hill & District Society - St Georges Garden, Canterbury Oaten Hill & District Society - Fire Station, Canterbury The Friends of Kingsmead Field St Stephens Residents Association Love Hambrook Marshes Market Way Area Residents Association Tyler Close Neighbourhood Group



Appendix 2

South and South East in Bloom Judges Tour: 20th July 2016

- 1 **Canterbury Christ Church University Campus:** A1; A2; B1; C2
- 2 **Lady Wotton's Green:** A1; A2; B3
- 3 **Canterbury Cathedral:** A1; A2; B1; B3; C2
- 4 **Marlowe Theatre:** A4; B3; B4; B6
- 5 **Solly's Orchard and Abbots Mill:** B1; B3; B4; B6; C2
- 6 **Riverside walk:** B2; B5; B6
- 7 **Westgate Parks:** A1; A2; A5; B2; B3; C2
- 8 **St Peters Methodist Primary School** C2
- 9 **Greyfriars, Franciscan Pathway and the Franciscan Gardens:** A5; B3; B5
- 10 **Mary de Castro Gardens:** A2; A3; A4
- 11 **Dane John Gardens:** A1; A2; A3; A5
- 12 **Whitefriars shopping centre:** A1; A4; B1; B2; B5; C2; C5
- 13 **Kingsmead Field:** A5; B1; B3; B4; B5; C1; C2; C3; C4; C5

