

Canterbury in Bloom 2019

because we **love** our city
Judges Portfolio



Canterbury in Bloom

Contents

03	Introduction
04	Our history
04	Our journey
05	How is Canterbury in Bloom organised?
06	Horticulture and Sites
	A1: Abbot's Mill
	A2: Canterbury Cathedral
	A3: Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU)
	A4: Dane John Gardens
	A5: Franciscan Gardens
	A6: Kingsmead Field
	A7: Miller's Field
	A8: Oaten Hill Area
	A9: St Edmund's Junior School
	A10: St Martin's Churchyard
	A11: St Mary de Castro
	A12: St Peter's Methodist Primary School
	A13: Solly's Orchard
	A14: The Butterfly Garden
	A15: The Kent Oasis Community Garden (KENTCog)
	A16: Webb's Garden at St Martin's Hospital
	A17: Westgate Parks
	A18: Whitefriars Shopping Centre
24	Environment
	B1: Local Identity
	B2: Natural Environment
	B3: Grass Surfaces and Open Grass Areas
29	Community
	C1: Year-round Activity and Future Commitment
	C2: Communication and Awareness
	C3: Funding and Support
35	Conclusion
36	Appendix 1: Judging Tour
36	Appendix 2: Press Clippings

Front cover photos:

Mural for the 'Love to Paint' event 2018, Magnolia Westgate Gardens 2019, Hanging baskets
Buttermarket Square 2018

Canterbury in Bloom

Introduction

Canterbury is an ancient city at the heart of the Garden of England. 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 55,240 and a wider district population, including Whitstable and Herne Bay, of 164,100, the city has 30,000 university students at three institutions (University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of the Creative Arts) and 7.8 million visitors a year from the near continent, the region and further afield.



Franciscan Gardens 2019



Café de Soleil – lavender summer 2018



Cathedral Precincts 2018



Cathedral Precincts spring 2019



Dane John Gardens summer 2018

Canterbury in Bloom

Our history

Canterbury participated in the regional Bloom campaign for the first time in 2011. 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 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 membership group representing 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 group of partners 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	2016 Gold in both South & South East in Bloom and Britain in Bloom	first Green Heritage Conference, an Upcycling Competition with local schools and an environmental education project aimed at the local community called "Lost Words"
2013 Silver Gilt		
2014 No city centre entry, due to BID campaign. Whitefriars Shopping Centre entered their category: Gold	2017 Gold in both South & South East in Bloom and Britain in Bloom. RHS Community Champion awarded to BID CEO Bob Jones	
2015 Gold and Finalist in Britain in Bloom	2018 No city entry, due to focus on Green Heritage, incl the country's	2019 Re-entered South and South East in Bloom campaign

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. The campaign is a grouping of autonomous organisations each with their own objectives and ambitions for the development of their area. Canterbury Business Improvement District undertakes to coordinate the partnership and submit the annual Bloom entry and meets with partners to enable knowledge sharing and joint working on projects throughout the year, such as cleaning and graffiti removal with the local authority and community groups, and the Green Heritage and Lost Words initiatives in 2018-19.

Here are our partners:

Canterbury BID	Oaten Hill and South Canterbury Assoc.	The Canterbury Society (civic society)
Canterbury Cathedral	Rough Old Wife Cider (working with CCC to manage public orchards)	The Friends of Kingsmead Field
Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU)	St Martin's Church	The Friends of Westgate Parks
Canterbury City Council and their parks and gardens contractor, Serco	St Mildred's Area Community Society	The Kentish Stour Countryside project
Canterbury College	St Peter's Methodist Primary School	Westgate Parks team (KCC and CCC)
ElhamValley Garden Centre and the Fifth Trust	The Abbots Mill Project	Whitefriars Shopping Centre

Volunteer hours: we have asked our partners to tell us how many hours they have invested in their various programmes and projects in the last year. With the increased litter picks and new initiatives (Green Heritage and Lost Words), we estimate over 22,000 hours have been 'volunteered' in the last 12 months.

Horticulture and Sites

Canterbury City Council (CCC) and their contractor Serco

The maintenance of the Council's main parks, gardens and open spaces is undertaken by its contractor Serco. The areas covered include: Dane John Gardens, Greyfriars Garden, Kingsmead Field, Lady Wooton's Green, Miller's Field, St Mary de Castro, Solly's Orchard, The Butterfly Garden, Westgate Parks and the City Walls. 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 the formal planting.

The maintenance and planting programme for the parks is as follows:



Miller's Field varied mowing 2019

Varied mowing regime

One of the methods used to enhance biodiversity within Canterbury's parks and open spaces is to have a varied mowing regime. Ornamental grass within formal garden areas in the parks are cut every 5 working days. Paths used to direct visitors through nature reserves, such as Bingley Island, are only mown every two weeks, leaving the adjoining areas to become a natural habitat. Marginal borders and areas of wildflowers are used in other parks and open spaces, such as Miller's Field and Kingsmead Field, to encourage bee populations to thrive. (A2, B2)

Extended year-round interest and pollinator-friendly planting

Ornamental beds are planted twice per year in October and May and tidied approximately every 10 days. Year-round interest is provided by early flowering winter aconites, crocuses and daffodils, and late flowering perennials such as aster, penstemons, rudbeckia, *Salvia Amistad* and *Agastache* 'Blue fortune' which also attract butterflies. (A3)

Environmentally friendly waste management

100% of grounds maintenance waste is recycled from Westgate Gardens, Dane John and Toddlers' Cove. Any trees that have been felled due to high winds or disease are reused within the parks or sent to the saw-mill to create new park benches. For example, when a tree fell on Tannery Field, the contractor sensitively cut this into smaller sections and placed it at the edges of the field to become habitats for wildlife and animals. (B2, B3)

A1. Abbot's Mill

Background and heritage

The aim of the Abbot's Mill Project is to create a hub which will be an exemplar of best environmental and ethical practice in the city. The aim is to power the project by non-centralised, renewable energy, mainly through re-instating a water wheel into the old mill race on the site of the former Abbot's Mill (the seven-storey mill that once stood on St Radigund's Street in the heart of Canterbury).

In 2017 a proposal to manage, the 'arrowhead' (the piece of land adjacent to their own land across St Radigund's bridge from the proposed waterwheel site) was submitted to the Council, where it received broad support. A public consultation on the proposal was then undertaken in Spring 2018. The feedback was very positive and resulted in the Council taking a decision in June 2018 to lease the arrowhead to the project.

Horticulture and environment

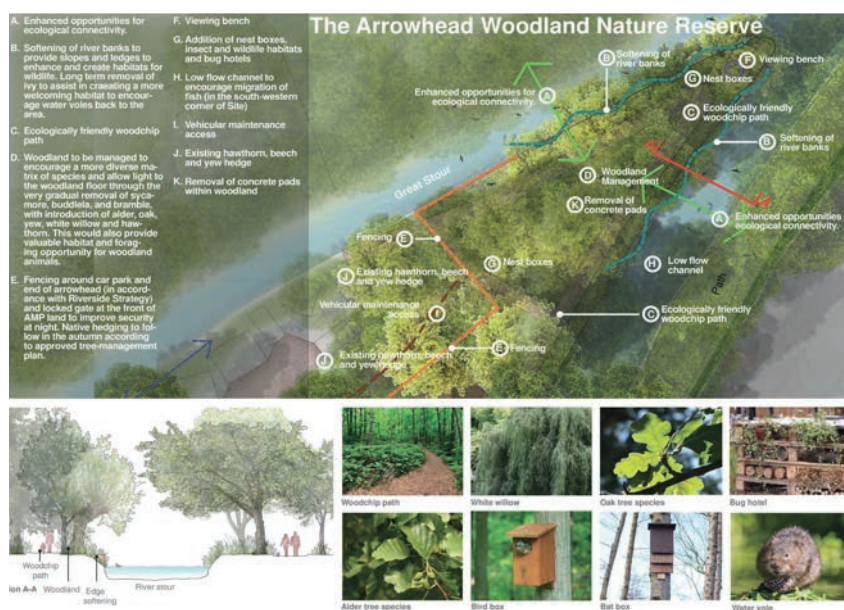
An interpretation panel has been installed on the 'arrowhead' site explaining the aims of the project. A bench, designed by a local 15-year old and carved from sycamore wood from the site by 'Tribal Animal Tree Art and Wood Sculpting', has been installed at the point of the 'arrowhead' land at the riverside. In 2017, two mill stones (and then later another two) were retrieved from the river Stour close-by and added to the site. (B1)

A native tree hedge, consisting of hawthorn, beech and yew, has been added around the arrowhead for winter shelter and food for wildlife, as well as bat boxes. (B2)

The project manages the site as a nature reserve and community education project. It organises monthly volunteer action days on site – incorporating litter picks and general maintenance of the site, as well as work to improve biodiversity and encourage wildlife. (B3)

Community and communication

The project also organises and hosts regular wildlife walks and talks on site, including bat walks. Community education events such as a mini festival for Mother Earth Day are also organised as well as education programmes for young people, including the 'Be the Change' Young Activists Project, which was a 6-month programme to encourage and support young people to learn to live in harmony with our natural environment, with other animals and with each other. The project is also taking part in the 'Lost Words' nature education project. (C1)



A2. Canterbury Cathedral

Background

Canterbury Cathedral Precincts are open to both local residents (free admission) and paying visitors. The Cathedral is halfway into a £24m programme of refurbishment which was partially funded by HLF. New garden areas are also being made in the western half of the Cathedral precincts. (A1)

Horticulture

The Cathedral houses three National Plant Collections; *Hakonechloa macra*, *Ophiopogon japonicus* and *Aspidistra elatior* cultivars. A new collection which will be based permanently at the Cathedral will hold 23 magnolia bred by Amos Pickard. (A1, A3)

Other new planting includes drought tolerant plants in the Infirmary ruins. The roses around the new Buffs statue have been replaced with perennials, shrubs and bulbs that offer a good source of nectar for pollinators. (A2, A3)

In 2016, the Cathedral had a stand at the Hampton Court Flower Show displaying their national collection of *Hakonechloa macra* (a cascading bunchgrass) winning a Silver Medal and were at the show again in 2017 and 2019. In 2019, the stand also displayed *Ophiopogon japonicus* cultivars. (A3, A4)

The roses in the Deanery are from David Austin Roses, who have also assisted with the development of a new Thomas à Becket rose. Other roses with a local identity are Christopher Marlowe and Brother Cadfael. (A3)

Heritage and Environment

Canterbury Cathedral's special feature is the Herb Garden. Interactive labels using Near Field Communication are enabling visitors to use their smartphone to see the image of a particular herb in the 1597 Gerrarde's herbal which is held in the Cathedral library. This volume is normally only available to study by appointment so this system opens it up to a much wider audience. (B1)

As part of the Cathedral's programme to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War I, students and staff from Canterbury School of Visual Arts at Canterbury College, led by sculptor Clive Soord, created a large-scale wooden horse representing Michael Morpurgo's 'War Horse' which has been installed in the Cathedral Precincts. This links with the fact that Michael Morpurgo was a former pupil of the King's School and the successful production of 'War Horse' has been shown at the Marlowe Theatre. (B1)



The Dean with the former executive vice-president of the RHS, Jim Gardiner, planting the first of the magnolia collection

Other recent projects in the Cathedral Gardens include creating a woodland area within the grounds. The team also leave log piles to encourage insect life, including stag beetles, which are now being found regularly. The area also has bird feeders and a native hedge. Canterbury Cathedral has bumblebee hives located within a wildflower area in the Dean's garden to introduce more queens to the city and increase the bumble bee population. The Cathedral was also approached by a local young beekeeper who asked for space for a few hives. He now has two honeybee hives in the Precincts, increasing pollinators in the city, and giving a young starting beekeeper (these are his first ever hives) a chance to start up his hobby. (B2)

Organic lawn feed is being trialled in the Memorial Garden and plant pests and diseases are treated with organic products such as SB Invigorator and Horticultural soap. The Cathedral gardeners are using peat-free coconut coir for potting up and new starch based, non-plastic pots have been introduced to decrease the use of plastic. Rain-water collection has been increased, meaning the use of drinking water for plant watering has decreased. (B3) 💧

Composting is prioritised – compost from leaf mould, perennial plants and grass cuttings are used to add more organic matter to the borders. With the completion of cold frames and new compost beds, more plants can be grown for planting in the precincts, and apprentices will have more of a professional base from where they can learn their propagation skills. (B3)



Canterbury War Horse 2018-19



Log piles for insects and wildlife 2019



The Dean's Garden

Community and communication:

As part of the HLF-funded 'Canterbury Journey', the Precincts are being refurbished and a temporary exhibition about the history of the gardens will also feature in the future, with exhibits from the archives. Explorer back-packs will be available for children to focus on key aspects, which will include activities relating to the gardens and wildlife in the Cathedral Precincts. (C1, C2)

The HLF-funded 'Canterbury Journey' includes an extensive range of education programmes which include the Precincts, gardens and biodiversity. The Cathedral also holds an Open Garden weekend in aid of gardening charities in May each year. In 2018, the Cathedral welcomed 2,100 visitors and raised £18,000 for three charities. In 2019, the three nominated charities are Gardening for the disabled, Perennial and the National Garden Scheme (NGS). (C1)

A3. Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU)

Background and heritage

CCCU celebrates its distinctive 'sense of place' within the Canterbury UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) by nurturing its green spaces and the species that live there; including its physic garden, heritage orchard and nuttury, wildflower areas and green walls. (A1)

CCCU is organising a series of events to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the inscription of Canterbury Cathedral, the Church of St Martin and St Augustine's Abbey onto the list of UNESCO World Heritage sites. CCCU's North Holmes campus forms part of the St Augustine's Abbey site dating back some 1400 years.



Horticulture

The Jubilee Orchard, opened by David Bellamy, contains varieties of pear, cobnut and apple, specifically chosen for their heritage value, such as 'cat's head' thought to have been introduced by the Normans. It has been reseeded with a British native wildflower seed mix designed to compete less with the fruit trees. (A1, A2)

The Abbey walls provide an important refuge for plants such as red valerian and pellitory-of-the-wall which provide important sources of nectar for pollinators. (A2) The site has been home honey bees in the past, and new hives are being established during 2019. (B2)

Brewing has long been associated with the Abbey site and the tradition continues today. Hops grown on the site contribute to the production of a celebratory ale by a local microbrewery, the Canterbury Brewers, which is launched at the Canterbury Food & Drink Festival each autumn. (A2) The 2019 crop of hops will be used to brew a beer to celebrate the famous gardeners John Tradescant the elder, who managed the gardens at St Augustine's Abbey site from 1615 for nine years.

Environment

CCCU has also produced an on-line Heritage A-Z, with each letter revealing one aspect of the heritage associated with the UNESCO site or with the city and its broader landscape. One of the aspects featured was the garden laid out by John Tradescant for Lord and Lady Wooton. Another aspect were the unusual 'baobab' plane trees, of which there are seven in the city, including two on the CCCU campus. These were planted in the city in the 19th century in a cruciform formation and are very eye-catching because of the huge girth of their trunks. (B1)

One of CCCU's pocket habitats, the Johnson Garden, is being transformed into Community Wellbeing Garden, a quiet and relaxing wildlife garden, using organic and permaculture methods, where



students and staff can refresh mind, body and soul. This includes weekly tea foraging sessions, opportunities to work on the garden, as individuals or teams, and other gentle sustainability related activities. (B2, C1)

CCCU won a first class award in the People and Planet Green League three years running, and in 2015 was shortlisted for no less than three Green Gown Awards by the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC), going on to win both the national and then the international, 'Green Gown award for Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change'. (B3)

Community

CCCU provides opportunities for staff and students to grow their own fruit, vegetables and herbs in on-campus allotments, practice beekeeping and hop-growing, and take part in annual honey and hop harvests from which heritage ale and honey are produced. (C1). The mobile community wood fired bread oven provides opportunities to bring and bake. 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, as well as studying hop disease management. (C1) Other students, including geographers and environmental science students study the biodiversity on campus as part of their formal and informal curricula.

As part of its 30-year UNESCO World Heritage celebrations, the University held a 2-day conference in May 2019 on Canterbury and other UNESCO heritage sites, and are holding a Green Heritage workshop on 19 June to continue to build a network of people interested in the concept of Green Heritage in Canterbury. (C2)

The Futures Initiative of CCCU is working across disciplines within the university to find innovative ways to embed sustainability into as much of the curriculum as possible.

A4. Dane John Gardens

Background

The Dane John Gardens, created on common land by Alderman James Simmons in 1790, occupy a site of just over 2ha within the city wall on the south side of Canterbury. The main focus of the Dane John Gardens is a mound, known until the 18th century as the Dungeon or Don John, which survives from a group of four Romano-British burial mounds from the 1st or 2nd century AD. A fountain provides a focus for the shaded walk along the avenue of lime trees which forms the main axis across the site. The City Walls provide a sense of enclosure and escape from the busy road and bustling shopping centre nearby. In 1999, the Council completed a £1 million renovation of the park supported by the HLF and local sponsorship. (A1)

Horticulture and environment

In January 2018, the 60 lime trees along the central avenue were pollarded to maintain their safety and health. In 2019, a cut leaf silver maple and a Japanese Raisin Tree were planted to replace diseased trees. (A3)

The Council has launched a public consultation on ideas for a new play area which will be installed in 2020. The aim is to create an imaginative and innovative space for children up to the age of 12 to enjoy. It will be designed in keeping with the park's heritage setting and history, and in a way that minimises anti-social behaviour. (B3)

Community

A Friends group for Dane John Gardens was started in late 2018, aiming to replicate other successful Friends groups in Canterbury which are working in partnership with the Council. Activities for the volunteers



Dane John Gardens Spring planting 2018



Catalpa bignonioides (Indian Bean Tree) 2018



Dane John Gardens Hollyhocks 2018

in the Dane John group will include running small community events and projects, being extra pairs of eyes and ears to report issues and helping determine the future strategy for the park's development. (C1)

Many events are held in Dane John Gardens during the year including the Canterbury City Sound Project in May, Canterbury Pride in June and the Canterbury Food Fair in September. The Council aims to regain Green Flag status for Dane John Gardens in due course. (C1)

A5. Franciscan Gardens

Background

The Franciscan Gardens are at the rear of Eastbridge and are a haven of peace in an otherwise busy city. They are the grounds of the first Franciscan settlement in the UK and are a Scheduled Ancient Monument. (B1)

Environment

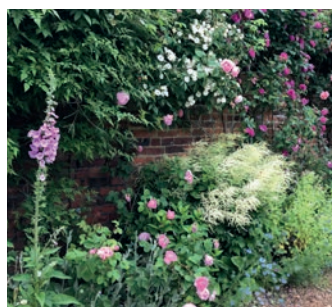
Each year, a part of the Franciscan Gardens is allowed to grow as a wildflower meadow which attracts significant wildlife and is unique within the City of Canterbury and this is managed by Jeremy Foad. (B2)



Wildflower Meadow at Franciscan Gardens



Franciscan Gardens



Franciscan Gardens



Franciscan gardens - lupins in May 2018

A6. Kingsmead Field

Background

Kingsmead Field is an area of public open space on the northern branch of the River Stour which is owned, managed and maintained by Canterbury City Council. In 2012 it was allocated for housing, but members of the local community fought a long campaign to protect it as public open space. In 2015, the Friends of Kingsmead Field was established, and in 2017, a compromise was reached with the Council in which it was agreed that only 20% of the field would be developed for housing, while the remaining 80% would be protected, enhanced and designated as a Village Green.

Since 2015, a strong relationship has formed between the Council and the Friends group, and they are working together on a programme of improvements to the field which were agreed in the light of a public consultation. The improvements that have been implemented since 2016 include the installation of a footpath around the field, football goals, a play area for young children, an amenity picnic area, an outdoor table tennis table, riverside interpretation signage and knee-rail fencing around the carpark

Horticulture, Heritage & Environment

The Council and the Friends group are currently working together on signage for the field. Two riverside panels were installed in May 2019, illustrating the importance of the River Stour as a chalk stream and the diversity of wildlife that depend on the river. Four welcome signs will be installed later this year, highlighting Kingsmead's distinctive heritage of water meadows and sport. Future signage will include interpretation panels on the birds and butterflies of the field. (B1)

Since 2012, the Friends have planted thousands of bulbs around the fringes of the field. In autumn 2018, they planted 1000 crocus bulbs on the western side of the field and 1000 daffodil bulbs on the verge of Kingsmead Road in front of the field. The Friends created a large meadow of cornfield annuals in 2016, and have sown another area of wildflowers this spring. (B2)

In autumn 2017, the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership created a two-stage channel in the river next to the field to provide a deeper channel for fish passage and a wider, shallower channel for fish spawning and wildlife. In the spring of 2018, the Friends planted out the wetland area with a variety of aquatic plants (flag iris, lesser pond sedge, purple loosestrife, common club-rush, marsh marigold, soft rush, water forget-me-not and water plantain). The resulting density and diversity of plants has provided a perfect haven for insects, birds and small mammals. (B2)

In February 2018, the Council planted 11 trees on the field (8 small-leaved limes, 1 maple and 3 oaks) to help compensate for the loss of trees on the 20% that is allocated for development. The Friends played a critical role in watering the young trees throughout the long hot summer of 2018 and are continuing to keep them watered in 2019. (B2)

Once the residential development on the 20% has been completed, a hedge of native shrubs and 12 native trees will be planted at the back of the field. The Friends group also plans to install insect hotels. (B2)

The Friends litter-pick on the field on a daily basis. They have played a catalytic role in organising community litter-picks and river-cleans, both in Kingsmead and in the city as a whole. The Friends were a founding member of Canterbury's Roundtable on Litter (which meets three times a year) and are active members of the Canterbury Riverside Group. They were also a founding member of the East Kent Parks Forum which was set up in 2017 to provide an opportunity for information exchange between Friends groups. (B3)

Community & Communication

The Friends of Kingsmead Field holds a number of events throughout the year in order to maintain public interest in the field. The group also provides frequent opportunities for volunteering, such as sowing seeds, planting bulbs and watering. (C1) Water is obtained by hand from the River Stour using watering cans. 💧

The Friends group communicates with its members and supporters by email (200+ members on email list), Facebook (600+ members), Twitter (450+ followers) and its website (www.kingsmeadfield.org.uk). The group uses photography to illustrate the diversity of flora and fauna on the field in all seasons of the year. It also regularly submits press releases to the local paper. (C2)

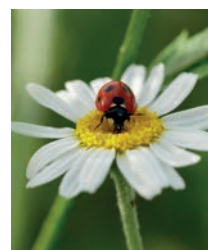
The Friends group raises funds for enhancements to the field by means of its 200 Club, Easyfundraising and support from the local KCC councillor. It also works together with other groups in shared projects. (C3)



Friends of Kingsmead Field for the crocus planting 2018



Pollinator on wildflower meadow



Ladybird on ox-eye daisy



Kingcups on the wetland 2019



Crocuses planted on Kingsmead Field 2019



Watering the wildflower meadow seedlings 2019



Early flowering snowdrops at Miller's Field 2019



Native hedge at Miller's Field 2019



Interpretation Panel at Miller's Field

A7. Miller's Field

Background

Miller's Field is owned by CCC and is Canterbury's first eco-park. The planting and mowing regimes have been changed to be more environmentally friendly. (A2)

Horticulture

Early flowering is provided by snowdrops along the river border and daffodils below the row of hazel trees. Ornamental flower beds are planted with a mix of pollinator-friendly bulbs and perennials including *Polygonatum multiflorum* (Solomon's seal), *Alchemilla xanthochlora* (lady's mantle), an important early food source for emerging bees, and *Echinacea*, with the addition of a few annuals. (A3)

Environment

An interpretation panel has been installed to explain the aims of the project. Miller's Field is enhanced by a sculptural seat designed by Tim Norris and inspired by the giant cogs used in watermills, the surrounding architecture such as the remnants of the city walls and the flowing River Stour. This innovative seat received an award in the Canterbury Society Design Awards and was shortlisted for a National Civic Voice award. (B1)

Bat, bird and insect boxes have been added, as well as a variety of pollinator-friendly plants. A mixed native hedge, planted by volunteers with Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and maintained by the King's school has now matured along the boundary of Miller's Field and the carpark, providing food and shelter for birds, small mammals and insects. Hedgerows, as with other urban trees, have many benefits for people too, as they improve air quality, add to the attractiveness of an area and improve people's general wellbeing. (B2)

A8. Oaten Hill Area

The Oaten Hill & South Canterbury Association (OHSCA) continues to plant up and maintain corners of our city. They entered the Bloom campaign in 2012 as part of the City entry and have entered three areas for It's Your Neighbourhood since 2016 and have planted another two small areas as well. In all of their plots, their aim is to provide interest 365 days a year with bulbs, winter flowering plants and coloured foliage supplementing the summer planting. This year they have added a water butt (supplied by Southeast Water) to help conserve water. 💧 They are very active in planting trees to green up their local streets and have planted 36 altogether, with more planned for this autumn. They are also planning to plant 1000 crocuses on the green space east of the Ridigate roundabout on the ring road this autumn. The work in Milton Road since 2015 has transformed a neglected unadopted road full of litter, weeds and potholes into a real neighbourhood amenity. OHSCA also organises three litterpicks a year.

A9. St Edmund's Junior School

The 'Green Finger Gang' Gardening Club at St Edmund's Junior School is starting to become involved in Canterbury in Bloom for the first time this year. The club has its own vegetable garden, and children in the club take part in the whole process of preparing the soil, planting, growing and harvesting the crop. The produce this year includes potatoes, carrots, beans, lettuce, onions, herbs, apples,



The 'Green Finger Gang' planting veg, St Edmund's Junior School

strawberries, raspberries, beetroot, peas, spinach and sunflowers. There is also an animal garden with chickens, guinea pigs and rabbits which children look after. Vegetables from the gardens and eggs from the hens are sold to the parents. The money is either re-invested in the garden or put towards environmental charities such as the Kent Wildlife Trust.

A10. St Martin's Churchyard

St Martin's Church is part of the triple World Heritage Site, together with the Cathedral and St Augustine's Abbey. As it is closed for burying, Canterbury City Council are responsible for its maintenance, with the assistance of the Friends of St Martin's. It was entered in the Churchyards category in 2017 and 2018, winning Silver Gilt in 2018. The Friends group works hard to keep the country churchyard atmosphere and has added more summer flowering plants and a big planting of daffodils to boost the established flowers. There is a long list of wildflowers which flourish there.

A11. St Mary de Castro

Background

St Mary De Castro is a small closed churchyard just a short walk from Dane John Gardens. It was an area that had struggled with anti-social behaviour. Residents and the public had raised this as a concern through the newly formed Friends of Dane John group. Through collaboration, the Council worked with the residents to find a solution to the problem and manage the land in a way that would design out the anti-social behaviour. (C1)

Horticulture

The first step was to remove the large volume of shrubbery and bushes along the back edge by the White Hart pub that hid a lot of the anti-social behaviour. All shrubbery was removed but the trees were left. This opened up the park to allow better visibility and deter any problems. (A1, A2) The second phase of the project was consulting with the residents and beginning to form a design of planting they would like to see in the area. The designs have been approved by the contracts officer and planting will commence in August. The new design will have purples and orange as the theme. (A1)

Along the back edge of the fence, there will be *Pyracantha* 'saphyr orange' for nesting. There will then be five bands of planting in front of this. The first row will be primroses and snowdrops. Spring bulbs, including crocus for early insects, will be sewn amongst all rows (providing early flowering). The second row will feature *Verbena bonariensis* and occasional *Sarcococca humilis* for fragrance. The third row will feature *Stipa gigantea*, alternated with *Camassia quamash*. The remaining two rows will feature a belt of occasional *Sarcococca humilis* behind *Salvia* 'purple rain' and *Achillea* 'terracotta'. (A3) These summer flowering perennials have been selected with pollinators in mind. In the back left-hand corner, the trees form a small semi-shaded glade. The theme here will include *Selinum wallichianum*, hellebores, foxglove, nicotiana and ferns. (A3)

The plan is to put in temporary planting before August to discourage people walking on the area. St Mary de Castro has improved significantly since the start of this project, with a reduction in the incidence of anti-social behaviour due to the more open nature of the area.

A12. St Peter's Methodist Primary School

St Peter's Methodist Primary School is a 210 pupil school in the city centre on a very small site. Outdoor learning is a key priority for the school who have developed a Forest School area in which trained staff lead weekly sessions throughout the year in all weathers. Children have the opportunity to build dens, climb trees, identify local plants, trees and wildlife and cook on an open fire, developing skills of teamwork, communication, risk-taking and resilience. The weekly gardening club also gives opportunity for children to grow fruits and vegetables and learn about sustainability.



Forest School area at St Peter's Methodist School 2019

A13. Solly's Orchard

Background

In 1236, the Dominican order of friars established a priory on this site and by 1260 several buildings, including a church, had been built. By 1650, most of the priory buildings, including the gatehouse which stood on the orchard, had been demolished. However, the guesthouse and refectory of the medieval priory remain to the south of the orchard.

Horticulture

In 2007, fourteen three-year-old apple trees were planted to re-establish the old orchard. The apple varieties chosen have a religious theme: Chorister boy, Christmas Pearmain, Easter orange, Eden, Harvest festival and Ten commandments. The trees are managed by artisan cidery Rough Old Wife Cider through a licence with the Council which is the first of its kind in the country. The initiative ensures that the fruit is collected and used for the production of natural cider from unsprayed trees. In return, the trees are pruned on an annual basis and a percentage of the profits derived from the cider is returned to the Council's environmental funds. Since the initiative started in 2014, a number of other councils have contacted the partnership with a view to establishing a similar scheme. The partnership has also provided advice on the appropriate choices of fruit tree for different locations.

Volunteers from the St Peter's Residents' Association help with planting and maintenance of planted areas in Solly's Orchard. During 2018-19, a perennial border was planted along the wall in Solly's Orchard. In preparation, the soil was enriched with compost, the climbing roses (planted by the St Peter's Residents' Association) were well-pruned and an edging for the border was laid by the Council's contractor. (A2)

To maximise year-round interest and a planting scheme that is appropriate to the location and growing conditions, the aim has been to use the wall to support scented climbing roses, abutilon, solanum, *Abelia floribunda* etc. along with evergreen wall shrubs such as choisya, osmanthus and euphorbia. (A1)



The remainder of the planting is mainly of herbaceous perennials chosen with pollinators in mind, including tall varieties like phlox, *Digitalis grandiflora*, *Thalictrum splendide*, perennial wallflower, penstemon, *Iris sibirica* and a lower growing level provided by hardy geraniums, Verbena 'Homestead Purple' and 'Sissinghurst', Diascias etc. Later seasonal interest is provided by asters, salvias and dahlias. The aim has been to provide contrast in leaf shapes, colour and flower form. (A3)

Early seasonal interest is provided by daffodils planted in the border at the back of the orchard below the hazel trees. A dry shaded area has been planted with sweet woodruff, perennial violas and ferns. 💧 A few annual varieties have been added in autumn and spring to lengthen the display. (A3)

A leaf-mould container has been constructed from natural material, and leaves are raked from Solly's by volunteers. The border still needs watering once a week in hot spells by volunteers, but the amount of watering required will reduce when the leaf-mould has been applied for a few years. 💧 (B3)

A14. The Butterfly Garden

Background

The Butterfly Garden is a walled garden, on the edge of the River Stour, occupying a building gap in Pound Lane which was created in 1983 by the demolition of two 19th century cottages. The garden was planted in

memory of local publisher Kenneth Pinnock, who received the John Hayes Award for his book 'A Canterbury Childhood' published after his death in 2009. As he was one of the founders of the Canterbury Society, it was decided that the award should go to the Canterbury Society, who used the money to help with the costs of planting in the Butterfly Garden (C4). A memorial plaque commemorating the event was placed in the garden on 19th June 2010. In 2018 the Butterfly Garden was again refreshed with new design and re-planting by volunteer members of the Canterbury Society. It has been entered for It's Your Neighbourhood for the first time this year. (B1)

Horticulture

Special planting along the top of the riverside wall leads the visitor into the seclusion of the garden. A mixture of dwarf rockery tulips was planted in the autumn of 2017: 'Red Riding Hood', 'Pinocchio', 'First Love', 'Albion Star' and 'Calypso'. *Tuberous begonia* 'Apricot Shades' were planted out as the tulips died down. They were removed for the winter and have been brought into growth again this year before replanting. Evergreen, hardy *Geranium pyrenaicum* 'Bill Wallis' (a deep blue) was also planted at intervals. (A1)



Sunny area in summer 2018

The earliest display in the central sunny bed comes with crocus and snowdrops, while winter aconites appear in the shaded area. These are followed by tulips and daffodils. In the autumn, alliums were planted amongst the dahlias in the sunny bed to provide interest while the dahlias are getting underway. Two varieties of single dahlia were chosen for their generous display of golden pistils containing pollen: 'Waltzing Matilda' (water-melon pink) and 'Clair de Lune' (pale lemon). *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna' was used for contrast and white *Cosmos bipinnatus* gave extra height. Other pollinator friendly herbaceous perennials, such as phlox and penstemon, provide extra colour in this bed, along with other nectar producers, such as wallflower, verbena, thyme and marjoram. Lavender and jasmine, on the west facing wall, provide perfume in the summer. (A3, B2)

Before replanting, the moisture retention of the light soil was improved using copious amounts of compost, followed up with a good layer of old semi-rotted woodchip when the planting was complete. 💧 (A2)

In the shady bed, height is provided by *Thalictrum aquilegiifolium* (meadow rue) and *Aruncus* 'Horatio', an improved goat's beard. *Anisodonte* 'El Royo', of the *Malva* family, is backed by the white flowered potato vine, *Solanum laxum* 'album' on the wall, where there is a little more sun. In the shade of another wall are a group of *Sarcococca* for early perfume. Several ferns have been planted in this bed, some of which will become quite tall with time, with foxgloves planted in-between them. More unusual *Veronicastrum* album and *Kirengeshoma* have also been planted in this section. Meanwhile, hardy geraniums 'Biokovo' and 'Rozanne' help to cover the ground. (A3) Many plants have been donated by members of the Kent Branch of The Hardy Plant Society; for example, a *Dregea sinensis*, a choice climber, for the north wall, which has a white flower with good perfume and a very generous donation of blue camassia from Swallowfields Nursery, Elmsted. (A3, A4) Tall grasses *Hakonechloa macra* 'albovariegata' were kindly donated by Philip Oostenbrink, head gardener at the Cathedral, who holds the National Collection of this species. (A3, A4)



Shaded area in spring 2019

Plants were chosen with consideration for creating long, varied seasonal blooming and included the selection of some unusual hardy plants. *Clematis urophylla* 'Winter Beauty' provides good evergreen foliage and white flowers in winter. The plants were chosen with the aim of encouraging pollinators such as butterflies and bees to this peaceful, secluded riverside walled garden. (A3)

Environment and Community

The Canterbury Society volunteers work weekly in the garden; planting spring bulbs in the autumn, watering, weeding, dead-heading flowering plants in the dry summer months, as well as pruning and attending to

the creepers. Canterbury Society also organises seasonal litter picks - for the Great British Spring Clean as well as an annual River Stour clean at the end of June and an autumn litter pick of the river pathways. (C1)

The Canterbury Society is an active member of the Riverside Group and a founder member of Canterbury's Litter Roundtable. It communicates with its members and supporters by email (246 members), Facebook (262 members) and its website (<https://www.canterburysociety.org.uk>). It also regularly submits press releases to the local paper. (C2)

In January 2019, the Butterfly Garden won a Highly Commended in the Open Spaces and Public Realm category of the Canterbury Society Design Awards. The judges said: *'This is an admirable and delightful riverside garden, representing both a reversal of previous neglect and the efforts of the community volunteer labour that created it. It offers a space for contemplation within its walls and a welcome, tranquil haven of rest within the city.'* (C2)

A15. The Kent Oasis Community Garden (KentCOG)



'Wishing tree to celebrate mental health week'
Photo credit: Gemma Young, Black Piranha Photographic

In 2018, a new community garden opened on the campus of the University of Kent. It is designed to become an outdoor space which can promote wellbeing and environmental awareness among staff, students and members of the local community. The Kent Oasis Community Garden is being developed by the University's Student Wellbeing Team in partnership with the local charity 'Kent Enterprise Trust'. Other organisations involved are the Whitstable & Herne Bay Beekeepers group and the Gardening & Foraging Society of Kent Union.

KentCOG is open Monday to Wednesday from 10am to 2pm, and visitors are welcome. In addition, it hosts RHS Level 1 horticultural training sessions. It has also obtained funding to plant over 1000 daffodil bulbs around the edge of the site this autumn. It plans to do this in partnership with local schools and community groups. KentCOG has entered It's Your Neighbourhood for the first time this year.

A16. Webb's Garden at St Martin's Hospital

Webb's Garden is a beautiful 2-acre walled garden within the grounds of St Martin's hospital. It was created in 1985 to provide a therapeutic experience for the hospital's mental health patients and continues to provide a haven of calm and relaxation today. It is run by the hospital's Friends for Mental Health in conjunction with a group of volunteers. The garden is open three mornings a week and cultivates a wide range of vegetables, fruit and cut flowers. It relies on a small grant and the money it earns from selling produce to hospital staff and members of the public. This is the first year that Webb's Garden has made links with Canterbury in Bloom, and hopefully these links will be strengthened in years to come.



A17. Westgate Parks

Background

Westgate Parks are identified as Canterbury City's premier open space and an important gateway to the city and the Stour Valley. Westgate Parks consist of Westgate Gardens, Toddler's Cove, Tannery Field and Bingley Island. Situated next to the Westgate Towers, the Westgate Gardens are ornamental formal gardens created by the Williamson family who lived in Tower House. Tower House was given to the City of Canterbury in 1936 by the Williamson family.



Platanus orientalis (Oriental plane tree) in Westgate Gardens



Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip Tree)
Westgate gardens 2019

Horticulture

Westgate Parks first gained Green Flag status in 2016 and have maintained it since. Green Flag assessment was a condition of the substantial HLF funding from 2013-18. Westgate Parks are managed by the Council and the new Parks and Community Development Officer, with support from Our Stour, Kent County Council, and the Friends of Westgate Parks. Our Stour continue to help maintain Toddlers' Cove riverbank and Bingley Island pond. The wildflower meadow, the native hedge in Toddlers' Cove and the physic garden are maintained by the Friends of Westgate Gardens. (A2)

Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership have added a further four river planters or 'window boxes' at Westgate Gardens with their volunteer group. All have been back filled and planted with wetland plants. These planters provide some limited riverbank vegetation in areas where hard revetments largely prevent colonisation by plants. (A3)

Planting in Westgate Gardens is a combination of perennial and annual plants, which has been well received by local residents, who complimented the team on this. This is now delivered on 25% of the beds as it is more environmentally friendly and has proved very popular. (A3)

Heritage and Environment

The gardens are steeped in history. Tower House incorporates one of the ancient city wall bastions and, hidden beneath the lawns and borders, lie part of the Roman city wall, a section of Roman Watling Street and London gate. The parkland is also strategically important as a gateway to the riverside walk that connects to other green spaces within the city and countryside beyond. The park is included in the Great Stour Local Wildlife Site and the river provides typical chalk stream habitats supporting a range of wildlife including invertebrates, bats, birds, reptiles, amphibians and riverside plants. Bingley Island is a Local Nature Reserve (LNR). (B1)



Westgate Gardens summer 2018



Westgate Gardens summer 2018

A variety of different methods of signage, such as welcome signage, directional signs and interpretation panels, are used within the parks and open spaces to enhance the public's engagement with area. Notice boards at the entrances by Westgate Towers and Toddlers' Cove display maps of the park to help users to plan their route. The notice boards are also used to display any upcoming events within the parks, including the educational workshops. The interpretation panels make the history, wildlife and plant life more accessible for visitors. They also help people to notice and appreciate wildlife which might not be immediately obvious. Seven different panels have been introduced, each with their own educational elements about the history or natural heritage of the parks. (B1)

The improved conditions in the parks have also led to an increase in their biodiversity, as the physical works have created new habitats such as the pond and coppiced willow on Bingley Island. The wildflower meadow on Tannery Field was identified as one of the most beneficial additions for biodiversity due to the range of wildlife relying on meadow habitats. The Physic Garden has also provided food sources pollinators and other species. (B2)

Species monitoring schemes have been introduced as a part of the project, including the Riverfly Partnership monitoring scheme, volunteer butterfly monitoring, an invertebrate project in partnership with the University of Kent, bird monitoring and regular bat walks. Through this monitoring, it has become evident that careful management has had a very positive impact on the Parks' wildlife, with 28 new species of bird having been identified since the start of the project, and 70 new beetle species identified on Bingley Island. As of 2019, a total of 83 different bird species have been identified within the Parks. (B2)

Community and Communication

Westgate Parks also offers an educational programme called 'Wild about Westgate' through Anna Outdoors. This is complimented by the activities of the Friends of Westgate Park who hold events such as the Easter trail, Arts in the Park, bat and moth evenings, a scarecrow trail, scary scavenger hunt and creepy crafts. The Friends group also provides frequent opportunities for volunteering, e.g. litter picks. (C1)

In 2017, a Westgate Gardens Tree Trail was published (including an online version). This tree trail was produced in collaboration with the Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School as part of their 'Talking Trees' enrichment work, also involving Age UK Canterbury. The trail allows the visitor to explore the Gardens' heritage trees, such as the 200-year old oriental plane (*Platanus orientalis*) recognised by its distinctive trunk, the tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and the maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba*). (B1, C2)

Westgate parks communicates with its users through a Facebook group (530+ members) and a website (www.westgateparks.co.uk). (C3)

A18. Whitefriars Shopping Centre

Background

Whitefriars Shopping Centre, which is 24% of the city centre shopping space, is once again partnering with The Fifth Trust charity to design and plant its annual Whitefriars in Bloom Campaign throughout the summer which includes floral displays around the shopping centre. The charity runs the Vineyard Nursery in Elham and works with adults with learning difficulties, providing fulfilling work opportunities, including horticulture.

Horticulture

Whitefriars has installed over 50 hanging baskets throughout the shopping centre to bloom over the whole of the summer period, as well as a tiered cascade of colourful planters on the balcony of Next. (A1)

In addition to assisting in the planting of the floral displays, Fifth Trust students will also be making regular maintenance visits to keep them looking pristine throughout the summer period. They will water the hanging baskets using harvested rainwater. 💧 (A2)



Floral display on Next balcony 2018

Environment

About 1000 years ago, the 'white' friars that lived on the site kept bees. They ate honey, used it to brew honey wine (mead) and made candles for their church with the beeswax. Now, 700 years later, Whitefriars continues to work closely with the Canterbury Beekeepers Association. Whitefriars currently have two beehives on the roofs of the shopping centre to help pollinate the city centre's flowers. Each generates in excess of 50lbs of honey annually, which is sold to fund educational activities for aspiring beekeepers on the site. (B1, B2)

Whitefriars has installed a 720 litre tank to harvest rainwater from the shop roofs for all the hanging baskets. No mains water is used. 💧 Whitefriars received another Zero Waste Award this year for its efforts to promote recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. All of the shopping centre's waste, which amounts to half a million tonnes annually, is now either recycled or transported to the nearby Hersden 'Refuse Derived Fuel' facility by their waste contractor, Veolia. (B3)

Whitefriars has installed 240 solar panels on the roofs of the shops and car park. They have also fitted low energy light fittings in their service area and corridors that switch off when no-one is around. These photo voltaic cells supply around 15% of the energy needs of the car park and service areas. (B3)

Community

The launch event in May 2019 featured plant and craft stalls by The Fifth Trust, as well as a display by Canterbury Beekeepers. Free tea and cakes were offered to shoppers and there was face-painting and live jazz. Visitors were invited to contribute to the charity and over £200 was raised in donations and sales. (C1)

Whitefriars is staging a series of events throughout the summer of 2019 to encourage shoppers and visitors to linger in the centre and enjoy the floral displays and associated activity. The garden area will be used to showcase local musical talent, with a series of live weekend gigs running throughout the summer. Whitefriars will be partnering with the rest of the city centre for the Medieval Pageant on 6 July.

Throughout July and August there will be a range of free activities for families, including giant games, crazy golf, arts and crafts, live music and drama performances, a pirate day and teddy bears picnics. There will also be pop up artisan and food markets and free Pimms & Shop promotions. (C1)

Whitefriars ran an online photographic competition in association with photographic retailer Jessops. Winning and shortlisted designs have been displayed on large digital screens around the centre and in store in Jessops in the Marlowe Arcade. (C2) Whitefriars also partnered with art materials supplier Cowling & Wilcox to run a 'floral themed' art competition. This was open to artists of all ages, with prizes of up to £100 to spend in-store and goody bags for all entrants. The winning entries will be displayed on digital screens around the centre and in the newly opened restaurant Stag Coffee & Kitchen in the Marlowe Arcade. (C3)

Whitefriars is continuing its £5,000 annual sponsorship of the KM Charity's 'Walk to School' initiative. The scheme engages with some 40,000 children and their families across the county, encouraging them to get out of their cars and walk to school – a healthier, more environmentally-friendly alternative. Whitefriars is also working with the KM Charity to develop competitions that tie in with their Kent Literacy Awards, a partner project that encourages children to write about their walking experiences and the natural things they see along the way. (C3)



Storytelling in Whitefriars 2018

Environment

B1. Local Identity

Heritage, Signage and Interpretation

The Council and the Canterbury Riverside Group identified six sites for riverside signage in 2016. Interpretation panels focussing on heritage and wildlife have now been installed in four of those locations (Abbot's Mill, Kingsmead Field, Miller's Field and Solley's Orchard). Signage for the riverside footpath near Sainsbury's and Barton Mill will be installed over the coming 18 months.

The city has an extensive array of public art, commissioned since 1977, and ranging from benches to a giant face, Bulwark, at the Marlowe Theatre. The Council has developed a 3.2 mile sculpture trail across the city, taking in all 14 pieces of public art, including awarding-winning riverside benches and the statue of Chaucer in the High Street. An excellent self-guided map for visitors was produced in 2018.



Art in the Landscape

A number of initiatives have taken place over the last two years to use art to improve unloved areas of the city. In spring 2018, a 'Love to Paint' event was held to transform a run-down footpath next to Canterbury East Station. The initiative was organised by a local resident in cooperation with the station manager and the Council. It involved a competition to create a mural on the footbridge over the railway, as well as a community day to encourage local families and artists to depict a flower on the wall of the carpark inspired by the motto 'A weed is a flower in the wrong place'. The competition was won by a local fine arts student, Gloria Treseder, with a stunning mural depicting the plant 'Traveller's Joy' in all four seasons. The community day proved so popular that another similar event was held a month later.



Detail from 'Traveller's Joy' mural 2018

Unveiling of 'Traveller's Joy' 2018

Another initiative using art to improve unloved public places is the renovation of the Wincheap underpass. This was inspired by one of the local councillors for Wincheap ward and involved a photographic competition to depict the landscape and wildlife of Hambrook Marshes on the banks of the River Stour. The winning entries will be featured in the Wincheap underpass as part of the current renovation works.

B2. Natural Environment

Enhancing Biodiversity

A large number of initiatives have been undertaken over the last two years by partner organisations to protect and enhance the natural environment and to improve provision for wildlife. Many of these have been mentioned in section A. A couple of others are listed below.

Canterbury Christ Church University has adopted a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) which now guides all greenspace developments on site. The BAP also set out the decision-making structure for landscape aspects of the university Master Planning process over the next 10-20 years. It is based on three priorities:

- To protect and enhance biodiversity across the site;
- To raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity amongst staff and students;
- To ensure a consistent approach to biodiversity management.

The Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership (KSCP) has planted trees in Greyfriars' Garden, created wood piles at Solly's Orchard, installed bat boxes on suitable trees along the riverside path from Toddlers' Cove to Barton Mill and planted a native hedge around the carpark at Miller's Field.



Removing Himalayan balsam along the River Stour



Litter pick at Toddler's Cove



Wetland planting at Kingsmead Field

Improving the Aquatic Environment

The Council's draft Heritage Strategy (January 2019) recognises that the River Stour has been '*the lifeblood of Canterbury from its earliest days*' and that the Stour has played a critical role in shaping Canterbury's heritage. This recognition of the importance of the Stour is also reflected in the Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy (adopted in November 2018): '*The Great Stour River is undoubtedly one of the most significant green*



Aqualab River dipping Kingsmead Field 2018

infrastructure assets of the city of Canterbury. Not only is it of outstanding nature conservation value, it forms an important linking corridor for recreation and wildlife through the centre of the city, and links with the countryside and other Biodiversity Opportunity Areas. Improving the river corridor for both wildlife and access has been a long-term ambition for the Council, with many improvements already implemented and others being taken forward through the Riverside Strategy and the Local Plan.'

Many recent improvements to the River Stour have been implemented by the Canterbury Riverside Group, which brings together the Council, the Environment Agency, the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership (KSCP) and local community groups. KSCP has undertaken additional work, such as the installation of riverside planters throughout Westgate Gardens and the creation of a wetland area at Kingsmead Field. It has also launched a three-year 'Our Stour' project which consists of six distinct components:

- Rivers in Focus (using photography to highlight the value of the Stour);
- River Wardens (to help protect and monitor the river);
- Aqualab (a mobile classroom to bring the flora and fauna of the river to life);
- Flowfilm (using film-making to highlight environmental issues on the river);
- River conservation tasks for volunteers;
- Landowner workshops (to promote river-friendly land management).



Aqualab, Our Stour – river dipping Kingsmead Field 2018

The Our Stour project has been very well received. There are now 12 river wardens in the city of Canterbury and 19 in the district as a whole. Over 1000 children have taken part in river-dipping and Aqualab sessions.

For the past two years, the Canterbury Riverside Group and the Abbot's Mill Project have been working with internationally renowned water feature sculptor, William Pye to explore the possibility of commissioning the construction of a fountain near Solly's Orchard and the mill race. The fountain would utilise river water, as well as being powered by it.

B3. Hard Surfaces and Open Grass Areas

Canterbury City Council

Litter & fly-tipping: On Valentines' Day 2018, the Council launched its 'Love Where We Live' campaign which aims to keep the district clean and tidy, and encourages residents to have pride in their neighbourhood. In 2018 and 2019, a deep clean of the verges of the entire stretch of the A2 through the district took place and was publicised by social media. The Council has also employed a 'man in the van' to investigate reports of litter and fly-tipping on a rapid-response basis. This has enabled the Council to carry out enforcement and clean-ups swiftly without needing to wait for clearance from its contractor. Over the last two years, the Council has also increased its number of enforcement officers.

Graffiti: Over the last year, the Council has stepped up its action against graffiti by:

- The appointment of an officer dedicated to monitoring online reports and carrying out spot cleans;
- Training of an extra graffiti cleaning operative
- Spending £5,600 on removing tags from Toddlers' Cove and the Castle Street multi-storey car park;
- Creating a graffiti taskforce which includes the Council, Kent Police, and the BID to share intelligence on graffiti prevention;
- Making it easier to report graffiti on-line;
- Writing to retailers to remind them about the legislation concerning the sale of aerosol spray paint.

Action soon to be taken includes:

- Installing cameras in graffiti hotspots;
- Appointing a second officer dedicated to tackling graffiti;
- Identifying tagging hotspots which will benefit from anti-graffiti paint.

Single-use plastics: The Council is aiming to lead by example in reducing the amount of single-use plastics in its offices, venues and events. The Council offices, are moving back to using traditional cups and glasses. Where single-use items cannot be avoided, plastic is being replaced by Vegware low carbon products. The Council has also become one of the first organisations in Kent to sign up to the national Refill Scheme, so it is now possible to fill up one's reusable water bottle for free at a number of venues in the district, including the Marlowe Theatre, the Beaney and the Guildhall. Businesses throughout the district can also get involved in the Refill scheme. The Council is also encouraging event organisers on its land to adopt similar initiatives.

Dog-fouling: Action to tackle dog-fouling has featured prominently in the 'Love Where We Live Campaign' and free dog poo bags have been given away in a number of the city's open spaces. The Council has also introduced a Public Space Protection Order (Control of Dogs) to ensure that dog owners understand people's expectations of them when they are with their dog in a public area.

Anti-social behaviour: The Council is working together with other agencies in the Canterbury Community Safety Partnership to reduce anti-social behaviour, including littering, fly-tipping and graffiti. The Council has also secured a 1-year emergency injunction in the High Court to prevent unauthorised encampments on its land. This is an important move to prevent large-scale littering and fly-tipping on public land.

The BID

Canterbury BID completed a new round of deep-street cleaning in early June 2019. Graffiti removal and deep-street cleaning were identified as key areas for improvement by traders. The BID responded to these results with graffiti removal in November 2018 followed by deep-street cleaning in key parts of Canterbury which was planned for June 2019 ahead of the busy summer period in the city. The BID's graffiti removal in November 2018 meant that four grot-spots in the city were cleaned and painted with anti-graffiti coating which means any re-tagging can be more easily removed with soap and water plus they are continuing to research how they can help more with graffiti cleaning in the future. Anti-graffiti wipes are now being handed out, free of charge to BID businesses. Based on feedback and consultation with traders, going forward the BID will commission a regular programme of deep street cleaning and a rapid response cleaning service.

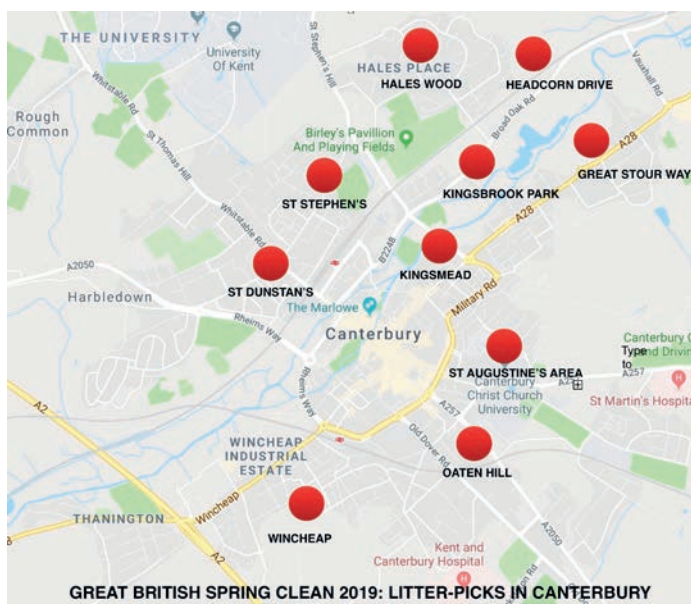
The Local Community

The local community has played a dynamic and catalytic role in promoting action to tackle the problems of litter, fly-tipping and graffiti. Residents' associations and community groups have worked collaboratively with the Council and the BID and have set up a Litter Roundtable to provide a forum to discuss ways of addressing the problems with councillors and council officers. This meets three times a year.

Volunteer litter-picks are held all year round in residential areas and open spaces, often using equipment provided by the Council. Ten additional litter-picks were held during the Great British Spring Clean 2019 (see map). These involved more than 200 residents and resulted in the collection of over 250 sacks of litter. The degree of community engagement in litter-picks has become such a local feature that it merited front- and centre-page coverage in the summer edition of the Council's District Life magazine in 2019 (see below).

A 'Canterbury grot-spot' Facebook group has been set up as a means of flagging up problems when they arise and is jointly administered by campaigners and councillors.

Over the last two years, community organisations in the city have led a campaign to highlight the ecological importance of the River Stour and the need to keep it clean. Frequent river cleans have been held by the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, the Canterbury Society and the Friends of Kingsmead Field. River wardens have also lobbied the Council for better provision of bin infrastructure along the riverside path and for more regular emptying of the bins. River tour companies have also litter-picked in the river as part of their routine operations.



First of the Canterbury Great British Spring Clean litter picks by Kingsmead Community – largest ever seen in Canterbury 2019



Last of the Canterbury Great British Spring Clean litter picks - Canterbury Society World Heritage Site (for its 30th anniversary) litter pick – with King's School students 2019

Community

C1. Year-Round Activity and Future Commitment

Canterbury in Bloom's partners all deliver extensive programmes throughout the year. Over the last 12 months the focus on Green Heritage and nature education has been particularly important.

Green Heritage

In 2018, Canterbury in Bloom took a sabbatical from the South & South-East in Bloom competition and used the opportunity to initiate an innovative joint project in order to widen the local Bloom agenda. This resulted in the Bloom partners holding a ground-breaking conference in autumn 2018, involving BBC Gardeners' World presenter, Nick Bailey, and Canterbury's poet laureate, Lemn Sissay. The aim of the conference, entitled 'Growing Canterbury's Green Heritage: Inspiring the Future', was to trigger a debate on Canterbury's existing green heritage and to identify ways of enhancing and expanding it.

The conference had a range of positive outcomes. Firstly, it enabled Bloom partners to work together in an imaginative way, leading to the creation of Bloom's 2019 project on nature education (see below). Secondly, the conference directly influenced the green heritage component of the Council's Heritage Strategy which was being drafted at the time. Thirdly, the conference raised the profile of the River Stour as one of the most important features of the city's green heritage. The latter was triggered by Lemn Sissay's participation in the conference and the recital of his poem for Canterbury, Cantuarian, celebrating the life of the River Stour. This in turn has laid the seeds for a potential future project which Bloom partners are hoping to initiate - the Festival of the Stour.



Simon Reed and Lisa Carlson from Canterbury in Bloom, Nick Bailey from Gardener's World and teachers from St Stephen's and St Peter's schools at 'Growing Canterbury's Green Heritage Conference' 2018

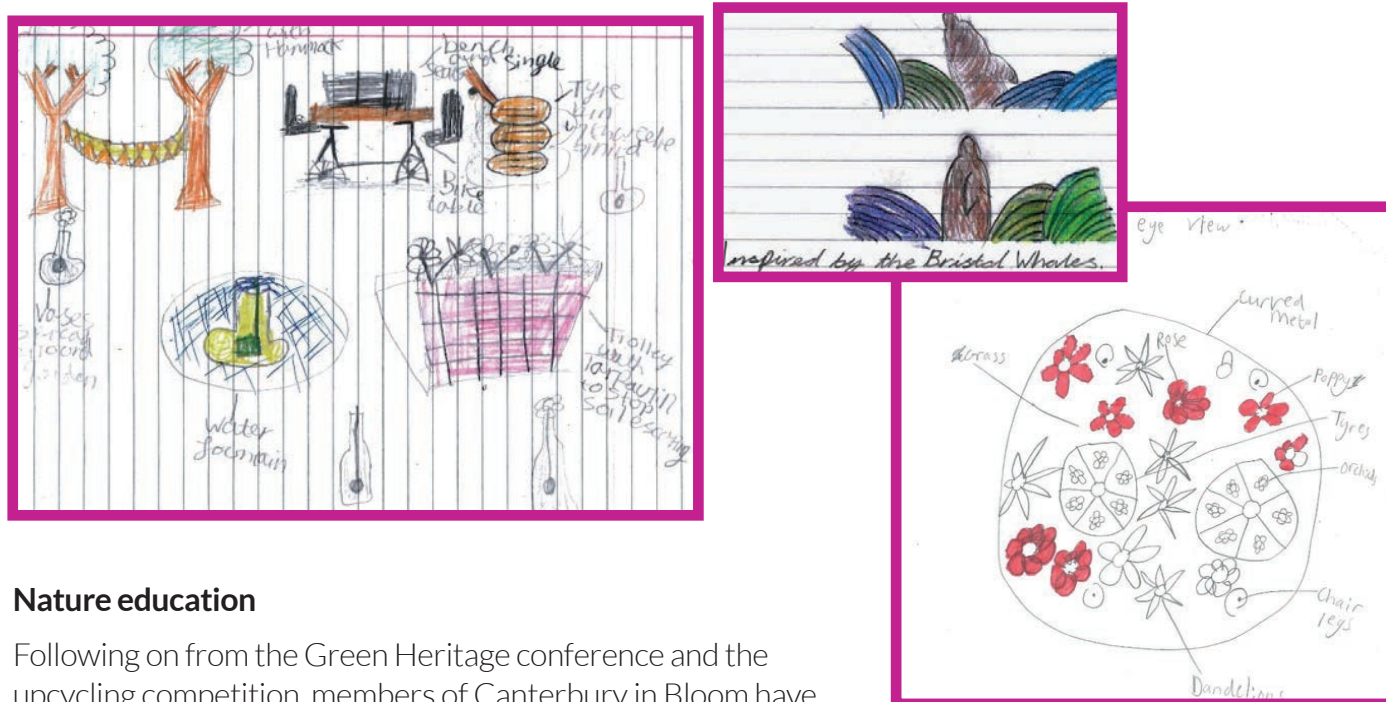


Upcycling Schools Competition

As part of the Green Heritage conference, Canterbury in Bloom held an upcycling competition for local schools in June 2018. The challenge to local primary school children was to design a sculpture that 'transforms street rubbish into something that is visually and horticulturally striking'.

There were over 30 entries which was shortlisted by members of the Bloom committee to 6. These were then judged by BBC Gardeners' World presenter, Nick Bailey, and Simon Reed of Rough Old Wife Cider. One winner was selected, a year 4 pupil from St Stephen's Junior School, who proposed a raised garden from old chairs and bicycle wheels planted with climbing plants and plants native to Kent. The two runners-up were for an innovative re-use of a discarded shopping trolley fashioned into a bench, and the transformation of discarded plastic bottles to create a leaping fish, symbolic of the effects of river pollution and the impact on our oceans.

The Canterbury in Bloom committee is working with the three pupils and with design & landscape students from Hadlow Agricultural College to transform the pupils' visions into reality. The sculptures will be displayed in Canterbury during the summer of 2019. Here are some of the ideas submitted by pupils (which were on display at the Green Heritage conference):



Nature education

Following on from the Green Heritage conference and the upcycling competition, members of Canterbury in Bloom have been working together in 2019 to deliver a nature education project for families. The project consists of a series of seven workshops which are being held on Canterbury's open spaces with the aim of connecting children with the nature on their doorstep. The inspiration for the initiative came from the children's book, 'The Lost Words', by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris, which seeks to recapture the magic of nature by flagging up those words, such as kingfisher and dragonfly, which are rapidly disappearing from childhood vocabulary. The project is being financed by the Council, the BID and local councillors, and is being assisted by a number of community groups. So far, three workshops have taken place in Westgate Parks, Kingsmead Field and Vauxhall Field (which is located in one of the most deprived areas of the city).

One of the many positive spin-offs from the HLF-funded project in Westgate Parks has been the creation of a local company focussed exclusively on nature education by the former parks officer for Westgate Parks ('Anna Outdoors'). This new development has ensured continuity of outdoor educational provision and has increased the number of communities that are benefitting from outdoor learning opportunities. Anna Outdoors offers a wide range of creative workshops in natural spaces, including the 'Wild about Westgate' programme in Westgate Parks. Anna Outdoors is also delivering six of the workshops in the 'Lost Words' project. The seventh one is being delivered by the Abbot's Mill project.

The HLF-funded 'Canterbury Journey' at Canterbury Cathedral includes an extensive range of education programmes which include the Precincts, gardens and biodiversity. One example of this is the workshop on 'Plants and Print-making' which will be held in July and August 2019.

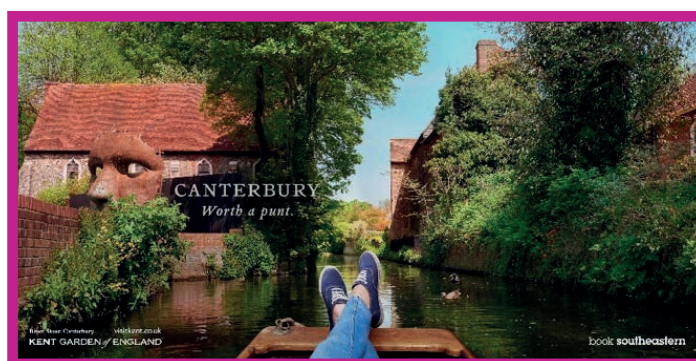
Lost words Workshop Kingsmead Fields – Kingfisher collage and dragonfly paper sculptures 2019



C2. Communication and Awareness

Partners each develop their own communication and press programmes. Below are some examples of coverage throughout the year. The BID publishes a MyCanterbury 'Summer in the City' guide (25,000 copies) which promotes many of the public events taking place on Canterbury's green spaces. These, and other bloom related initiatives, are also promoted via email and social media, including [@canterburybloom](https://twitter.com/canterburybloom).

Additionally, the BID invests in the Visit Kent London campaign with a striking image of the city which highlights the city's contrast of urban heritage environment with a setting on the river and connection with a natural setting.



C3. Funding and support

Individual partners each fund their own activities through their own fundraising. In 2018, Canterbury In Bloom's Green Heritage Conference and Schools Upcycling Competition was organised by Canterbury BID and was funded by Canterbury BID (£2,000), CCC's Innovation Fund (£1,000) and the University of Kent (£1,500). In 2019, Canterbury In Bloom's 'Lost Words' project received £700 from the Canterbury Forum Opportunities Fund, £500 from the Council's Open Spaces Team, £300 from the member's grant of KCC Cllr Robert Thomas (who is now also leader of Canterbury City Council) and £100 from the BID.

Whitefriars funds their own campaign from the service charge raised from their businesses and also provide support to Canterbury Bee Keepers Association which has hives on the centre's roof.

In further breaking news, the Sainsbury's store in Kingsmead has pledged to the BID and Bloom teams to provide 150 days of support for community-based work from their own staff as part of their 150th year anniversary. Canterbury in Bloom will also be working with them to re-generate and re-plant a seating and relaxation area close to their store, and other projects will follow.

The BID funds the city-wide hanging basket programme and also provides campaign coordination, entry fees and the portfolio from BID resources. Hanging baskets on business premises has increased from 245 in 2015, 340 in 2017, 370 in 2018 and 400 in 2019. The planting is selected to maximise the floral impact for the longest period whilst still retaining both the ability to be a source of nectar to bees and other pollinating insects and absorb pollutants to help improve air quality.



Herb Garden Cathedral Precincts

Conclusion

This is the sixth time that Canterbury has entered the South & South East in Bloom competition. The breadth and variety of partners has been our strength from the very beginning. Our 'strength in diversity' continues to flourish as our existing groups continue to grow and new groups join us.

During our 'sabbatical' from In Bloom competitions in 2018, we aimed to increase innovation and joint working between our partners. As a direct result of this cooperation, we held the UK's first Green Heritage conference in September 2018, together with a Schools Upcycling Competition. The conference was a big success and is already leading to other initiatives, such as the Green Heritage workshop which will be held in Canterbury Christ Church University on 19 June.



Daffodils planted on the verge of Kingsmead Road by Friends of Kingsmead Field

One of our targets two years ago was to promote Bloom to more young people. We are beginning to achieve this target with our Schools Upcycling competition and our Lost Words project. A second target was to achieve greater cooperation with the University of Kent. We made important progress in this respect during the Green Heritage conference with UKC helping to fund and promote it.

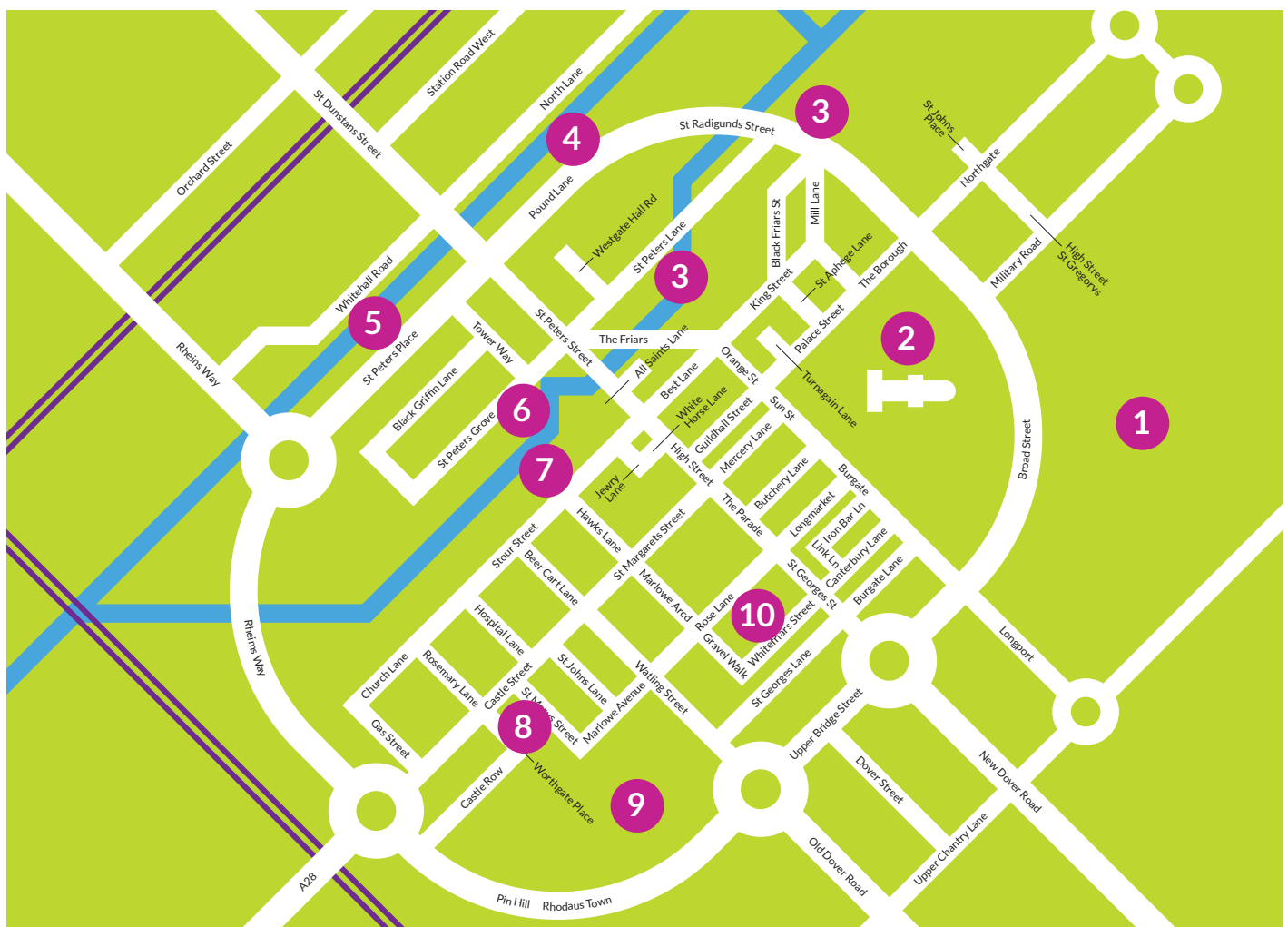
We are conscious that there is still much more to do, especially where our ring road and roundabouts are concerned. We made a start on this in 2018 by planting 1000 daffodil bulbs along the eastern stretch of the ring road. This provided a stunning display in the spring. We will be planting another stretch in the autumn.

We look forward to welcoming our judges and to sharing our enthusiasm and enjoyment of Bloom in Canterbury.

Appendix 1:

Judges Tour

- 1 **Canterbury Christ Church University**
- 2 **Canterbury Cathedral**
- 3 **Solly's Orchard and Abbots' Mill**
- 4 **Miller's Field, Riverside Walk and Butterfly Garden**
- 5 **Westgate Parks**
- 6 **St Peter's Methodist Primary School**
- 7 **Franciscan Gardens and Pathway**
- 8 **Mary de Castro Gardens**
- 9 **Dane John Gardens**
- 10 **Whitefriars Shopping Centre**



Appendix 2:

Here are a selection of the press coverage from this year:



Reporting and Cleaning Graffiti – 2 April 2019



Battling Graffiti - Simon Jackson, BID Ambassador

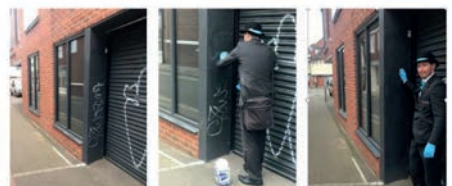
"As part of my remit as a BID Ambassador I attend a monthly Graffiti Forum at the City Council. This is attended by various key stakeholders within the community, such as the local police officers and the Council Graffiti Officer. It is at events like this that I am able to give businesses a voice and share intelligence in order to try and make the city a more pleasant place.

My typical day involves a walk around of the city centre in order to see if any new tags have appeared. Ambassadors have access to our bespoke app to be able to flag instances of graffiti and this information gets forwarded to the city council's graffiti officer.

The BID has invested in graffiti Safe Wipes which are ideal for small scale tags, and work brilliantly at removing most types of graffiti. I can often be seen cleaning a bin or removing a tag from business premises. If your business has a small tag then please contact your ambassador or report it on the council website.

It is also really important to report these instances of criminal damage to 101, the non emergency police number, as it enables the local authorities to build up a case against the perpetrators and is more likely to lead to an arrest or increased awareness of the problems.

You can now report instances of graffiti and flytipping on the City Council's website and the new process is quick and effective and they will give you a reference number once you have logged your ticket. Businesses get two free cleans per year up to a size of 5m squared."



Pupils' blooming impressive ideas

The winners of Canterbury in Bloom's Schools Competition were unveiled at the city's first green heritage conference this month.

Taking first prize in the contest, which asked primary school children to turn street rubbish into visually and horticulturally striking sculptures, was St Stephen's Junior School's Alya.

The Year 4 pupil won £300 for her novel way of using abandoned bikes and old chairs.

The two runner-up prizes were claimed by Year 6 pupils at St Peter's Methodist School, who were each awarded £100 for an innovative idea to use recycled bottles to highlight the dangers of pollution to sea and river wildlife, and to create a bench from a

damaged shopping trolley.

The winners were picked from a total of 32 entries.

The conference at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge on Saturday, October 6 was hosted by Canterbury Connected BID and the Canterbury in Bloom Committee, and speakers included BBC presenter Nick Bailey and RHS award winner Kevin Hughes.

Hundreds of graffiti tags blitzed as vandals hunted

By Marijke Hall
mhall@thekmgroupp.co.uk

Hundreds of ugly tags have been removed from the district's streets and buildings as part of a blitz on graffiti.

Around 400 have been cleaned since October by a council officer dedicated to tackling the unsightly vandalism, and 234 removed from Toddler's Cove and Castle Street multi-storey car-park - costing £5,600 for the two sites.

Council chiefs have also set up a group to share intelligence with police and the Business Improvement District. In the coming weeks cameras will be installed in hotspots to help catch vandals in the act.

The action forms part of a raft of measures aimed at cracking down on the ongoing issue.

Douglas Ratnay, head of safer neighbourhoods, said: "What might be considered by some to be low-level anti-social behaviour is having a real and tangi-



Graffiti campaigner Clir Nick Eden-Green

ble impact on our community," he said.

"Graffiti adds to the fear of crime for people living, working and studying here and spoils an area that attracts thousands of visitors from home and abroad which contribute to the vibrancy of the local economy."

It is also costing the residents affected, businesses, the utilities, public transport providers such as Network Rail and council taxpayers thousands and thousands of pounds to clean. This is not a

victimless crime.

"We have been working on this issue for some time and this money would be much better spent on other frontline services. "It is especially galling when we clean an area or remove a tag and the vandals take it as an opportunity to offend all over again."

"The public thinks we just haven't bothered."

After the expensive clean-up at Toddler's Cove, the wall was tagged again soon after.

As part of the scheme, the council is offering owners of private properties free clean-ups to four times a year and twice for businesses.

Owners of substantial holdings or high profile buildings will also be penalised if they continuously fail to tackle graffiti on their premises.

Graffiti campaigner Clir Nick Eden-Green says he welcomes the new initiative, but questions why action is only being taken now.

"We are closing the stable door

after the horse has bolted.

"Why was action not taken months ago to stamp out graffiti before it became rife?"

"Why has it taken months of complaining at endless council meetings - and with the enormous help of the Gazette in highlighting it - to get any action?"

A full meeting of the council last Thursday (April 25) unanimously voted in favour of a new policy offering a £500 reward for information about graffiti taggers if it leads to a conviction.

Other measures include discouraging shops from selling spray cans to minors.

There are also plans in place to hire an additional officer focused on sharing intelligence with the police and supporting businesses that are often targeted.

This officer would also be able to issue community protection warnings or notices to properties who do not tackle this state of vandalism, starting with very high-profile buildings.

Graffiti can be reported online on the council website.

Community

A regular update from the University of Kent for local residents and businesses | Issue 6

University of Kent



Kent sponsors Green Heritage Conference

We were proud to sponsor Canterbury's first Green Heritage Conference, held in the city at the start of October.

The conference featured best-selling author and BBC Gardener's World presenter Nick Bailey, who spoke on the importance of green spaces within urban environments. Dr Karen Jones, of the School of History, and Dr Eirini Santsi, of the School of Anthropology and Conservation, spoke on the history of green heritage and possible next steps for growing Canterbury's green space.

The event was organised by Canterbury Connected Business Improvement District (BID) to help stimulate debate about improving the city's green heritage and to generate ideas for the next Canterbury in Bloom.

Forum to explore green heritage

By Gerry Warren
gwarren@thekmgroupp.co.uk

BBC Two Gardeners' World presenter Nick Bailey will be in Canterbury on Saturday to give the opening presentation at one of the first conferences about green heritage in the country.

He will be highlighting the importance of 'greening the urban environment' - one of the

big challenges facing towns and cities as they respond to rapid housing growth and the transformation of the high street.

His talk at the Cathedral Lodge in the Precincts will be part of a day-long conference with other distinguished guests and will end with a tour of the city.

Nick, who is also a best-selling author and Chelsea Flower Show medalist, has created and managed gardens on four continents,

and has redesigned London's famous Chelsea Physic Garden. Other inspiring talks are expected from Drs Karen Jones and Eirini Santsi who will delve into the history of our green spaces.

RHS winner Kevin Hughes will also offer practical tips about ways of making gardens, streets and parks more wildlife-friendly. Canterbury's Poet Laureate Lemn Sissay will read his poem,

that took inspiration from the River Stour.

Later in the day, the overall winner of the Canterbury in Bloom schools competition will be revealed.

They were challenged to design a sculpture that transforms street rubbish into something visually and horticulturally striking.

The event has been organised and financed by the Canterbury

Business Improvement District Group - known as BID - as well as the University of Kent and Canterbury City Council, which has enabled tickets to be heavily subsidised.

The conference starts at 10am and tickets cost £10. They are available to buy at www.canterburybid.co.uk/green-heritage.

The full agenda and timings are also available on the website.

