

# Canterbury in Bloom 2022

because we **love** our city  
Judges Portfolio





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# Introduction

Canterbury is an ancient city at the heart of the Garden of England and home to a UNESCO World Heritage site comprising Canterbury Cathedral, St Martin's Church (the oldest church in continuous use in the English-speaking world) and the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey. Canterbury has three river tour companies operating on 3km of river, over 30 bridges and you are never more than five minutes from a park or garden. With its three universities, arts and culture scene, Canterbury is a cosmopolitan city with a countryside vibe.

The city itself has a population of 55,240 (with the wider district population, including Whitstable and Herne Bay, of 164,553), plus 30,000 university students and over 7.8 million visitors annually.

In 2019, Canterbury City Council (CCC) declared a climate emergency and appointed a Climate Change Officer in April 2020. The community has also set up the Canterbury Climate Action Partnership and the Biodiversity Network. Kent County Council has set up action plans for both pollinators and trees, and Canterbury City Council is also working on a Pollinator Action Plan.

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## Our history

Canterbury participated in South and South East in Bloom for the first time in 2012. Before then the city centre was largely 'flower free' and the only group that promoted flowers, gardens and all things horticultural was the original Canterbury Community 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 a wonderful 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 enter the South & South East in Bloom competition 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 lacking in floral displays.

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## Our journey

- 2012 **Silver in South & South East in Bloom**
- 2013 **Silver Gilt in South & South East in Bloom**
- 2014 No city centre entry, due to BID campaign.  
Whitefriars Shopping Centre entered their category: **Gold**
- 2015 **Gold** in South & South East in Bloom and Finalist in Britain in Bloom
- 2016 **Gold** in both South & South East in Bloom and Britain in Bloom
- 2017 **Gold** in both South & South East in Bloom and Britain in Bloom.  
**RHS Community Champion** awarded to BID CEO Bob Jones
- 2018 No city entry, due to focus on Green Heritage, incl the country's first Green Heritage Conference, an Up cycling Competition with local schools and an environmental education project aimed at the local community called "Lost Words"
- 2019 **Gold** in South and South East in Bloom.
- 2020 **Gold** in South & South East in Bloom and a certificate of recognition from Britain in Bloom
- 2021 **Gold** in South and South East in Bloom.

# How is Canterbury in Bloom organised?

Partnership is the heart of what we do. 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.

## Bloom partners:

- [Brymore Nature Group](#)
- [Canterbury Business Improvement District](#)
- [Canterbury Cathedral](#)
- [Canterbury Christ Church University](#)
- [Canterbury City Council](#)
- [School of Visual Arts at Canterbury College](#)
- [Eastbridge Canterbury](#)
- [English Heritage](#)
- [Friends of Beverly Meadow](#)
- [Friends of Dane John and St. Mary de Castro](#)
- [Friends of Kingsmead Field](#)
- [Friends of Westgate Parks](#)
- [Kent County Council](#)
- [Love Hambrook Marshes](#)
- [St Martin's Church](#)
- [St Martins Hospital](#)
- [St Peter's Resident Association](#)
- [The Abbots Mill Project](#)
- [The Canterbury Society](#)
- [The Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership](#)
- [The King's School, Canterbury](#)
- [The Oaten Hill & South Canterbury Association](#)
- [University of Kent](#)
- [Whitefriars Shopping Centre](#)

## Horticulture and Sites

### Canterbury City Council (CCC)

The maintenance of the Council's main parks, gardens and open spaces is undertaken by Canenco. Formerly grounds maintenance and cleansing was carried out by a contractor Serco but last year the council ended the contract and brought grounds maintenance under the control of the council's newly formed Canterbury Environmental Company, known as Canenco, which was set up at the end of 2021 for the waste collection service in the district. The current grounds maintenance arrangements replicate the Serco contract but during 2022 the council will review the whole service and consider any improvements and changes that may need to be made to ensure high quality maintenance of our parks and gardens.

In Canterbury City, the areas covered for grounds maintenance include: Dane John Gardens, Greyfriars Garden, Kingsmead Field, Lady Wootton's Green, Miller's Field, St Mary de Castro, Solly's Orchard, The Butterfly Garden, Westgate Parks and the City Walls, amongst many other open spaces. Canenco 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. This work is further supported by volunteer and community groups, many of whom are constituted Friends Groups working in partnership with the council.

## Canterbury BID

Canterbury BID is an independent business-led, not-for-profit initiative voted for by the businesses of Canterbury in July 2014 and again in July 2019 for another five-year term. Nationally, there are over 320 BIDs in the UK, including three in Kent. Our mission is to help make Canterbury a vibrant, exciting, well connected and successful business community, and an attractive, clean, green, safe, enjoyable destination for everyone.



Canterbury BID co-ordinates Canterbury's entry into the South and South East in Bloom competition as well as Britain in Bloom. Our goal has always been to develop relationships across the city between the wide variety of groups engaged in supporting their community associated with horticulture, biodiversity and the environment. Canterbury BID supplies 350-400 hanging baskets to businesses from June to September, which are installed, maintained, and watered by our contractor Windowflowers Ltd. This equates to 1 million flowers displayed across the city and this year they will be Jubilee themed using the following plants; Surfinia Blue, Surfinia Sky Blue, Pelargonium Decora White, Helichrysum Silver Mist, and Verbena Purple.

At the end of 2021 Canterbury BID worked with Canterbury Christ Church University on a pilot study on the suitability of using hanging baskets to monitor air quality in Canterbury using Petunia plants which have shown to carry a stable magnetic signal. Initial results show that, and the magnetic concentration is highest in hanging baskets closest to roads with heavier traffic. The plan is to expand on this research using the baskets for 2022.

This spring Canterbury BID provided 1,000 packets of wildflower for business and residents to help improve the city's green spaces, biodiversity in our urban environment and to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee year! The seed packet contains a mix of Yarrow, Lesser Knapweed, Wild Carrot, Ladies Bedstraw, Rough Hawkbit, Ox-eye Daisy, Ribwort Plantain, Cowslip, Selfheal, Meadow Buttercup, Yellow Rattle, Sorrel, Salad Burnet, White Campion and Red Campion.

Canterbury BID has encouraged business to engage with Bloom and this year have funded the entry of four business into the South and South East in Bloom competition for the first time. In addition on 15 June we hosted our first breakfast 'netwalking' event including litter picking and weeding with businesses.

The Summer City Guide features a piece on 'Keeping Canterbury Blooming' saluting all those who keep the city's green spaces attractive and sustainable. It also contains a call to action, to encourage new volunteers and garden enthusiasts to join in, both for their own social enjoyment and for the good of the city's gardens, hedgerows, borders and parks.

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### 1. Abbot's Mill

The Abbot's Mill Project was incorporated in 2010 and is a social enterprise and Community Interest Company. The mission of the Abbot's Mill Project is to develop an urban hub of environmental and social justice, powered solely by non-centralised, renewable energy. The hub will include an education/research centre and focus on the importance etc of the River Stour in Canterbury's past, present and future.

#### Horticulture

Improvements to the biodiversity of the site have been made through thinning self-seeded sycamores and removing some ivy to reduce shading of the riverbank and promote emergent vegetation. Several new species of flora have appeared in the lightened glades as a result. The next phase is to remove artificial



material from the riverbank, to soften the banks and create habitat diversity. This will include planting more native plants and trees to create and improve nesting, breeding and foraging habitats for wildlife, including otter, water vole and fish. This is all part of the management plan as agreed with CCC and the Environment Agency and is being funded by the latter (A2, B2).

### Community

In the summer of 2021, a new permaculture project for local young people called 'We Are Nature' launched. launched in partnership with Future Food Forests and the Hip Hop Academy. The project launched with a weekend Introduction to Permaculture course which incorporated the start of the design process for the community peace garden. The young team has continued to organise permaculture picnics and other events on the site and the plan is to take the project forward to implement the design ideas, especially around re-indigenisation and creating a flora 'library' on site (C2).

Monthly volunteer team mornings continue on the first Saturday of the month. Volunteers carry out maintenance tasks, litter pick, work on the habitat restoration programme, adding and checking wildlife nesting and feeding boxes. Community engagement, outreach and education work has increased and there is an active network of people who help to care for the site both during organised team days and events and in between times. More wildlife walks and talks are planned throughout 2022 (C1, C2).



*Litter Pick*



*We are nature*

## 2. Beverley Meadow

Beverley Meadow is a much-loved, large multifunctional open space in the heart of the St Stephens community, on the edge of the City. It is popular with dog walkers, and visitors of all ages, and has an interesting history and some unique heritage features such as an old railway bridge.

### Environment

The Friends have been focused on clearing scrub from beneath the trees along the eastern boundary of park to reduce anti-social behaviour. Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership ran a training day for the Friends of Beverley Meadow to instruct them in how to manage the area in the future to maintain some value for wildlife (B2).

### Community

Although the City Council owns and manages this space, The Friends of Beverley Meadow look after and care for the meadows. They meet regularly every 4-6 weeks to plan (C1)



*Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership training*

### 3. Brymore Nature Group

Brymore Nature Group started in 2021 and aims to improve the local environment for people and wildlife on the Brymore Estate which is located to the east of the city. Residents make up the group and work together to keep the area tidy, improve open spaces, create wildlife-friendly habitats and generally make the estate a nicer place to live.

#### Horticulture

In the past year five fruit trees (apple; pear; plum; damson) have been planted to create a community orchard. In addition 10 shrubs, 50 herbaceous plants and over 500 bulbs have been planted, and several wildflower areas have been sown. (A1, A3)

#### Environment

The group has created a bug hotel, log piles, put up bird and bat boxes, replanted a hedge to create a wildlife corridor and sown wildflower seeds. In addition, rainwater-collection and compost and leaf mould facilities have been installed. Stag beetles have been found in the area and so old wood is left to maintain their habitat. (B2, B3)

#### Community

Monthly community gardening afternoons and weekly work parties are organised by the group with the aim to get more residents involved and to make a positive difference to the local neighbourhood. As many as 20 volunteers join the sessions at any one time, increasing community spirit and reducing social isolation. (C1, C2)

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### 4. Canterbury Cathedral



Canterbury Cathedral Precincts are open to both residents (free admission) and paying visitors.

The Cathedral is nearing the end of a multi-million pound programme of restoration and redevelopment which was partially funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). New garden areas have been created in the western area of the Cathedral Precincts as a result of the project.

#### Horticulture

The Cathedral is committed to a green revolution in its gardens, which will take many different forms in the coming years. The Cathedral Precinct beds have recently been planted with a sustainable design, which has a three-pronged approach: water conservation, wildlife interest for pollinating insects, and an aesthetic-pleasing palette of colour and form to echo the Cathedral. (A1, A3, B2, B3). Other planting includes



*Spring Flowering*

drought-tolerant plants in the Infirmary ruins, and perennials, shrubs and bulbs - a good source of nectar for pollinators - around the Buffs statue. (A2, A3). The roses in the Deanery Garden are from David Austin Roses, who have also assisted with the development of a new Thomas Becket rose. Other roses with a local identity are Christopher Marlowe and Brother Cadfael. (A3)

#### Environment

A re-wilding project has begun in No 15 The Precincts. The Gardening team has planted a Hazel copse and mixed native hedges, built two dead hedges, and dedicated an area of the lawn to long grass, with the goal of increasing biodiversity and providing habitats for as much wildlife as possible. They are experimenting



with leaving the grass uncut in a couple of other areas including the infirmary ruins and the cloisters. (B2)

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

The team have created a woodland area within the grounds, leaving 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. Bumblebee hives are located within a wildflower area in the Dean's garden to introduce more queens to the city and increase the bumblebee population. A young beekeeper now has two honeybee hives in the Precincts enabling him to practice his hobby and increase pollinators in the city (B2, C2)

Pests and diseases are treated with organic products such as SB Invigorator and Horticultural soap. Peat-free coconut coir is used 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)

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)



*Herb Garden*



*Roses in the Deanery Garden*

## Community

As part of the NLHF-funded 'Canterbury Journey', the Precincts have been refurbished and a temporary exhibition about the history of the gardens will feature in the future, with exhibits from the archives. Explorer back-packs are available for children to focus on key aspects, including activities relating to the gardens and wildlife in the Cathedral Precincts. (C1, C2). The Cathedral has also launched a new series of guided tours, including the chance to explore the Precinct's gardens in depth. (C2)

## 5. Canterbury Christ Church University (including St Martin's Priory)

Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) is based just outside the city centre and this year celebrates its 60th anniversary. Its green spaces and the species that live there are nurtured for their own sake, and provide resources for learning, community engagement, and for health and well-being.. The green environment is constantly being improved upon, with projects such as the wildflower meadows, the Johnson Wellbeing Garden, the Queen's Jubilee Canopy, and the Jubilee Garden all adding variety and interest.

## Horticulture

Routine planting this year has involved 200 mixed herbaceous plants, 20 trees and 30 mixed shrubs. In recent years, planting has been guided by advice given by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

To celebrate the University's 60th anniversary a Jubilee Garden has been created. Planting took place on 29 April, with 40 staff and students joining in. A variety of plants, vegetables and seedlings were planted in the prepared areas alongside the existing olive trees. Many of those chosen were selected because they can



survive in dry conditions. Three trees were also planted: an Apple tree (*Malus domestica* “Gala”), a Cherry tree (*Prunus avium* “Regina”) and Pear (*Pyrus communis* “Condo”). (A3)

The university took part in the Queen’s Jubilee Canopy project, staff and students were involved in the planting. The university was provided with 420 mixed saplings including Rowan, Oak, Birch, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel, Beech. The saplings have been planted to form a hedge along the west side of Verena Holmes Building, complimenting other new planting there which includes hops, wildflowers and further saplings. (A3)

“Potter and Prune” sessions are run in the Johnson Wellbeing Garden on Wednesday afternoons. Much of the planting has been the result of splitting and moving existing plants, but some additional plants have been donated, for example, a cherry tree, 4 hebes and 3 clematis. The only plants which have been bought for the garden are some wildflower seeds (A3)

## Environment

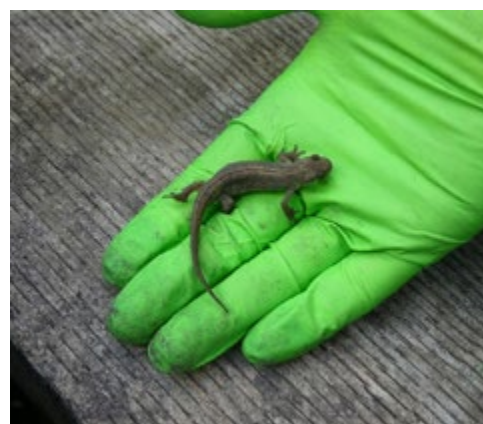
The variety of planting and management strategies used ensures that a wide range of wildlife can find a home somewhere on campus. A number of birds have been seen, such as Goldfinches, woodpeckers, blue tits and jays, in addition to regulars such as blackbirds, wood pigeons, robins and sparrows. Urban foxes are also regularly seen in St Gregory’s Churchyard. Peat use on campus is minimal, and mulch is used extensively on flowerbeds to help retain moisture. Mains water is used sparingly and only used where needed at the base of plants with a watering can.. (A2, B2, B3)

Many of the plants chosen for the Jubilee Garden attract pollinators, such as the trees, flowering vegetables and herbs. Others were chosen because they will need little care once established, while the main area has been heavily mulched to retain moisture. (B1, A3)

Much of the Johnson Wellbeing Garden is kept in a semi-wild state, creating an environment that is good for nature. The most numerous flowers are Comfrey and Wild Garlic, which attract considerable numbers of pollinators. The pond is a valuable water source for a range of local wildlife and being home to smooth newts and water skaters. Mulches are used where practical, but the sheltered nature of the garden (high walls plus overhanging trees) plus the presence of the pond mean that it suffers less from the heat than other locations. Any compost used in the garden is either reclaimed from elsewhere on the campus or from the food composter used to process waste food from the university’s kitchens. (B1, B2, B3)

## Community

The work undertaken by the Grounds and Gardens team is regularly topped up by student and staff volunteers. The Sustainability Team works with local businesses from time to time too. Currently they are working with Canterbury Brewers and Distillers to brew a Kentish Green Hop Ale using the four varieties of hops grown on campus, reflecting the historical production of ale on this site, where the remains of the old brew and bakehouse wall still stand. Each year the hops are harvested by the Sustainability team blessed and carried to the Canterbury Brewers and Distillers in the city centre for brewing. (B1, C3)



*Wellbeing Garden resident -  
Smooth Common Newt*



*Queens Jubilee Canopy project*



*Green Hop Ale making*

The name of the ale that is produced and the design of the labels is different each year and has been made into an integral part of the university's marketing course, with teams of students designing to a set brief and then presenting their designs to a panel. The 2021 ale was called "The Three Choughs", which reflects the Rewilding project that will see the reintroduction of choughs to the cliffs of Dover, as well as the choughs that appear on the coats of arms of St Thomas Becket and Canterbury Christ Church University.(C2)

## 6. Dane John Gardens and St Mary de Castro

Dane John Gardens is a multi-functional formally laid-out park providing a place for people to walk, rest, picnic, play and attend events. Dane John Gardens is a Grade II listed Historic Park and Garden and a Scheduled monument with a history dating as far back as 1st/2nd Century AD. St Mary de Castro is a small, closed churchyard just a short walk from Dane John Gardens. The Friends of Dane John Gardens and St Mary de Castro are a voluntary organisation working with CCC to enhance and improve the environment in both gardens.

### Horticulture

The Friends maintain three borders in the two gardens, two were planted by CCC and have been enhanced since by the Friends with pollinators and drought resistant plants. The third bed was cleared for a school to take over but due to Covid this did not happen so the Friends are gradually replanting it. Two trees have been funded and planted by the Friends in Dane John; an English Oak was planted for the Queens Platinum Jubilee and a Nyssus Sylvatica to replace a tree that died. Two Acers were donated for the Peace Pavement Garden and five Hundred crocus bulbs were funded and planted by the Friends. No fertilisers have been used on any of the beds but some watering has taken place during initial planting. (A3, B1, B3)

### Community

In 2019 CCC consulted with residents on a new play area in Dane John Gardens. Several tender evaluations and shortlisting redesigns and consultations took place throughout 2020 and 2021. After fulfilling numerous Historic England requirements (due to the gardens being a registered Scheduled Monument and Historic Park and Garden status), including commissioning and production of Archaeological Desk Based Assessments, Heritage Statements and production of design visualisations, a final play scheme has been selected.

In late 2021, Historic England recommended that the council undertake excavation of several archaeological trial pits for archaeological investigation prior to the council progressing the project further. A report of the excavation findings has been completed and submitted to Historic England for their consideration. We await their advice and recommendations, but it is hoped that we may be able to apply for Scheduled Monument Consent (and Planning Permission) later this year in anticipation of the new play area being built in early 2023. (C2)

Funds to maintain the work that the Friends group carry out, are raised through hosting a number of events, the latest being a Quiz Night held on the 25 March. (C3)





## 7. Franciscan Way

The Franciscan Way forms part of the riverside walk in Canterbury (behind the Franciscan Chapel and Garden). It was constructed in 1990 by the Council, on land gifted to the city by the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church. It connects Greyfriars Garden to Stour Street and is a popular walkway with residents, workers and tourists. It is lined with flowerbeds some of which are raised, complementing the historic walls. The Franciscan Way is looked after by two volunteers who work in the garden once a fortnight for 3-4 hours.

### Horticulture

Plants have been added to the flowerbeds lining the Franciscan Way with the aim of increasing foraging and shelter for pollinators as well as increasing all year interest. Winter flowering hellebores have been introduced and areas of ivy have been maintained. A range of long and late flowering, pollinator-friendly and drought resistant perennials were planted in July these included Salvias, Osteospermums, Echinaceas, Nepeta, Erigeron karvinskianus and a variety of Erysimums. Early spring flowering crocuses, later spring flowering daffodils, tulips and camassia, as well as Pulmonaria were planted during the autumn of 2021. Autumn flowering plants such as asters, sedums, tall verbenas and nerines have also been selected. Herbs and perennials which have fragrance, taste or texture such as Sarcococca, lavender, thyme, marjoram and rosemary have been included. (A2, A3, A4)



### Environment

Native varieties have been included such as the early flowering Myosotis, hardy geraniums (cranesbill) and a few buttercups. A Sambucus nigra has been planted in the corner flowerbed where it can provide food for the birds. Perennials with silver foliage and purple flowers have been included to attract moths. Solitary mining bees have already been recorded using the flower beds and care has been taken not to disturb them. During May 2022 volunteers spread a thick layer of organic mulch called Strulch to improve moisture retention and reduce growth of weeds. (B1, B2, B3)

### Community

The Franciscan Way is wheelchair accessible and has benches for resting and enjoying the open space, so the enhancing of the planting will be of benefit for enjoyment by elderly and vulnerable residents. The Franciscan Way is also used by parents and children from St Peter's Methodist Primary School nearby. The volunteers ensure that this walkway is kept swept and free from litter and work with the Council to keep the pathway free from graffiti. Volunteers keep the flowerbeds watered with the support of the nearby Mooring Café. (C1, C3)

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## 8. Franciscan Gardens

The Franciscan Gardens are at the rear of Eastbridge Hospital 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. Between January 2020 and June 2021 the gardens received a full renovation, returning the gardens to reflect their medieval origin (along with a nod to its most recent usage as a flower nursery in the 1900s) and opened to the public in July 2021.

## Horticulture

The planting of a wildlife hedge along the riverside in the meadow is now complete. The hedge contains yew, holly, hawthorn, field maple, hornbeam and beech and provides berries, pollen and shelter, year-round for insects, birds and small mammals. Additional heritage fruit trees (walnuts, greengages, plum and five old apple varieties) have been planted in the meadow. Traditionally, medieval monks were buried in unmarked graves beneath apple trees. Planting fruit trees in the meadow gives a respectful, historical nod to the first Franciscans who would have lived (and died) here. The development of the “potager style” Cutting Garden continues. This year, dye plants have been added to the scheme following much interest in this area from visitors. Weld, alkanet, safflower, woad, dyers chamomile, madder etc. are now grown in the Dye bed. Perennials and biennials planted last year are thriving – yarrow; borage; penstemons; thyme; chamomile; marjoram; fennel; phlox; sweet rocket; hollyhocks; tansy; irises; ammi majus; agapanthus; feverfew; larkspur; clary sage; anise hyssop. Annuals raised from seed are interplanted – pot marigold; linseed; sweet peas; nasturtiums; bergamot; cumin; honesty. “Pot herbs” that would have been grown for food by the friars are also grown. Broad beans, peas, welsh onions, leeks, chives, root parsley, chicory and lentils. Dahlia tubers – all single peony-flowered types (great for pollinators) and each one named for a Bishop (very fitting for the ‘Holy Garden’) provide dramatic summer colour. (A1, A2, A3, A4, B1)

A new ‘Snowdrop walk’ has been created beneath the cherry trees along the Lovelace Wall by planting 2000 *galanthus nivalis* last autumn, which flowered in January and will continue to spread and improve year on year. Under the willows in the Cloister Garth, 500 native daffodils have been planted. (A3)

Where possible British native plants are used that would be recognisable to the medieval friars who first gardened this site. Plants are chosen for their heritage qualities. Many Mediterranean plants and herbs are used too as these would have been familiar to the friars who came from Assisi. Original officinalis varieties of common plants are used where possible, rather than modern hybrids and because of this most plants are drought tolerant, very pollinator friendly and self-seed freely. (A3, A4, B1)

## Environment

The wildflower meadow attracts significant wildlife and is unique within the city. Bird feeders recently installed have seen an increase in chaffinches, blue tits, wrens and goldfinches in the garden, alongside our healthy populations of robins, blackbird, jays and magpies. New river birds have arrived recently including heron, white egret and a kingfisher. The resident fox has again had cubs, which can be seen playing on the lawns in the Cloister Garth. Last summer visitors were encouraged to use an ID sheet from the Butterfly Conservation website to spot different species of butterfly in the meadow. In the future an area of the garden near the chapel will be planted to create a symbolic reference to the altar in the layout of the original Franciscan church building. (B2)

Compost is made waste produced on site and borders are mulched at least once a year to conserve water. The entire site is gardened with wildlife in mind. Weeds are “curated” and left in certain areas where appropriate for wildlife. The wildflower meadow and waterside planting provide havens for insects, small mammals and birds. The planting of a mixed native hedge is now complete and offers pollen and berries and shelter for many different species. (B3)





Most of the plants are grown from seed and the team are exploring different peat free mediums, moving away from peat gradually with leaf mould and compost being made on site. Mains water is only used in the Cutting Garden to help establish young plants. The rest of the time a watering can on a rope is used to collect water from the river, which is laborious and time consuming so is only done when absolutely needed! (B3)

## Community

There are 15 volunteers in total, 5 of them in the garden and, 10 are in Eastbridge. Two days per week and do 2 hours per day. Most of the funding comes from supporters and visitors via an entrance fee. In 2021 £45,000 worth of funding came from the National Lottery for a section of the 16th century Tudor wall and medieval gate. (C3)

Outdoor theatre has been held in the Gardens, and it is hoped the gardens will host the winning design for an interactive medieval sculpture designed by architecture students from the University of Kent. Another University of Kent student is currently undertaking a feverfew trial in the Cutting Garden. A new outdoor classroom seating area is being developed in the space provided by the removal of a large leylandii which had to be felled after Storm Eunice. Sections of the trunk are being used to make seats and a table and the rest bark chipped to provide an area for groups to meet. Services are held weekly in the Chapel and have a growing congregation. (C1, C2)

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## 9. Hambrook Marshes

Lying a quarter of a mile southwest of the Westgate Towers, Hambrook Marshes are fifty acres of remarkably unspoilt lowland grazing marsh. 'Love Hambrook Marshes CIO' is an organisation run by voluntary trustees to manage the land for wildlife and recreation. The marshes were acquired in 2014 to ensure that it remained open to the people of Canterbury, while being managed in traditional ways to maintain and enhance its wildlife interest.

### Horticulture

Several hundred willow cuttings have been planted to extend the area of the osier bed as willows are a good food resource for early spring insects. (A3)

### Environment

A small herd of cattle maintains an open habitat with varied height of grass sward, muddy patches, and copious dung that is valuable to many invertebrates. An area mown annually for a hay crop creates a more diverse mix of flowers for pollinators. The osier bed extension project will provide more opportunities for birds such as reed warblers and reed buntings to nest and sequester more carbon. There is no mains water onsite, water is taken from the river Stour, and no peat is used. (B2, B3)

Snipe overwinter on the wetter areas and are joined by kingfishers, herons and little egrets in summer. The breeding population of birds includes mallard, moorhen, reed bunting, whitethroat, stock dove and great spotted woodpecker. 104 species of birds, 242 species of plants and 20 species of butterflies have been recorded; of particular interest is a small colony of marbled white butterflies in the scrub field. Eight species of dragonflies have also been identified, the most distinctive being the Banded Demoiselle. (B2)



*Marsh Orchid*



*Burnt hay*

## Community

Two universities, one college, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, one grazier and about thirty volunteers are involved in maintaining the marshes. Local community involvement is encouraged, tasks include regular litter-picking, fencing and scrub clearance. The local community is kept in touch with via a popular Facebook page, website, and monthly newsletter, while information boards scattered around the site tell visitors a little about the site's history and wildlife. (C1, C2, C3)

## 10. Kingsmead Field Village Green

Kingsmead Field is Canterbury's first designated Village Green. It is owned and managed by (CCC), with active support from the Friends of Kingsmead Field. The Friends group was formed in 2015 after a long community-led campaign to save the field from development. In 2019, CCC voluntarily designated 80% of the field as a Village Green and allocated the remaining 20% to housing development.

### Horticulture

Since 2015, the Friends of Kingsmead Field and CCC have worked together to increase the field's biodiversity, particularly with pollinators in mind. This has involved wildflower sowing, bulb planting and tree planting. (A3)

Last autumn, the Friends group collected green hay from the Franciscan Gardens and spread it on a prepared area of ground at the back of the field with the help of the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership (KSCP). This was an experimental initiative and the area where the hay was placed is being monitored to see if the seeds germinate. (B3)

The Friends group is developing relationships with the Forest Schools from St Stephen's Infant School and St John's School. Last autumn, a group of 15 children from St Stephen's sowed wildflower seeds and planted spring-flowering bulbs on the field, with assistance from the Friends group and the local Kent County Council councillor. The Friends hope to sow a new area with native wildflower seeds this autumn and plan to involve both Forest Schools in the sowing. (C2)

In December 2022, the Friends group requested permission from the CCC to soften a new concrete headwall that was installed next to the river for surface water drainage from the new development next door. CCC agreed and paid the KSCP to plant 50 hazel and native dogwood saplings. The saplings are being watered by members of the Friends group weekly. (A3)

Each year, the Friends group selects a major fundraising project in consultation with CCC. In 2022, the fundraising appeal will be for 5 semi-mature trees which will be planted along a section of footpath which gets very hot in the summer months. The criteria that will be used for the selection of the trees are that they: i) provide shade; ii) provide aesthetic appeal throughout a large part of the year and iii) have value for insects and wildlife. A willow tree will also be planted on the riverbank to replace the large willow that had to be felled earlier in the year. (A3)



*Green Gym Opening*



*"Our Village Green" bench*



*Green hay laying*



*KSCP River Warden*



## Environment

The Friends group and CCC work hard to develop a sense of place and local pride in Kingsmead Field. Welcome signage was installed last year and further signage will be installed when the development at the back of the field has been completed.

The Friends group operates a zero tolerance policy to litter and adopts a pro-active role in keeping the field clean. Over the last year, the group has spent £400 on litter-picking equipment. The litter rota was set up during the pandemic and is going from strength to strength. The group also organised a community litter-pick as part of this year's Great British Spring Clean. 35 sacks of litter were collected by over 40 volunteers in a 1.5 hr period. (B1, C1)

Enhancing the field for biodiversity is one of the central objectives of the Friends group. A photographic record is made of all the flora and fauna seen on the field, and it is hoped that a representative of Bumblebee Conservation will be able to conduct a formal pollinator survey of the field next year. Bee hotels have also been installed on one of the alder trees by the river. The work of the group to enhance the field for wildlife was rewarded in July of last year when video footage was taken on a trail camera showing an otter visiting the wetland area of the field. (B2)

The Friends group is an active member of the Canterbury Riverside Group and works closely with the KSCP. Several members of the Friends group are both river wardens and riverfly monitors. They hold regular river cleans and monitoring sessions to assess the diversity of invertebrate life in the river. The group has played a key role in raising awareness of the importance of the river Stour (as one of only 215 chalk streams in the world) In October a Family River Dipping event was held on the field in which over 20 local families took part. The adults and children learned at first-hand about the diversity of wildlife in the river and the importance of keeping the river clean (B2, C1).

## Community

The Friend groups seek to arrange a year-round programme of activities to keep the local community engaged and interested in the field. The main projects over the last year has been the provision of outdoor recreational facilities, the importance of which was widely recognised throughout the pandemic. CCC and the Friends group worked very hard in 2021 on the design and procurement of a Green Gym for the field. It was installed over the winter months and a launch event was held in February involving the funders and members of the local community. The Green Gym was funded by CCC, Kent County Council, the Kent County Playing Fields Association and the Friends of Kingsmead Field and has proved to be immensely popular. (C1, C3)

The Friends group communicates to its 200+ members via monthly emails, its Facebook pag and a website which is updated on a regular basis and sends frequent press releases to the local paper about events on the field. (C2)

The Friends group works together with CCC and other partners in the Canterbury Riverside Group, Canterbury's Litter Roundtable and the East Kent Parks Forum. It also assists new Friends groups in the process of formation. Representatives of the Friends group were founding members of the Canterbury Biodiversity Network. (C2)

## 11. The King's School

The Kings School is an independent school set in the heart of Canterbury, which embraces the Cathedral and precincts. It is a key and vital area for both community and visitors alike.



## Horticultural

The main focus has been the Malthouse Garden, which is a ½-acre area of unused land that is being transformed into a welcoming space for students and visitors to the Malthouse Theatre. It will include a small Japanese Garden, seating areas, soft landscaping, arbours and a patio area, along with a pond, woodland walk area and will also house the School's new greenhouse. Plants will be propagated in the greenhouse for use around the school and offered them to parents, the proceeds of which will be donated to the School's chosen charity. This project is currently in progress and is due for completion late Autumn 2022. (A2, C1)

This year 2000 bedding plants 1100 bulbs and 1500 Herbaceous have been planted. Drought tolerant plant species have been used throughout the gardens, along with more native and pollinator friendly plants. No chemicals are used on plants to combat/control pests and disease. Instead, nature is relied upon to assist, along with physical control. (A3, B3)

Some of plants that have recently added to the gardens include drought tolerant *Artemisia*, *Eryngium*, *Trachelospermum jasminoides*, *Stipa tenuissima*, *Geums*, *Perovskia*, *Penstemon*, *Pennisetum*. To complement this the following pollinators have been incorporated: *Geranium*, *Hebe*, *Geum*, *Salvia*, *Astrantia*, *Verbena bonariensis*, *Fatsia*, *Helenium*, *Buddleja davidii*, *Dahlia*, *Thyme*, *Origanum*, *Antirrhinum*, *Scabiosa*. (A3)

## Environmental

The second project is the re design of the garden at no 25 the Precincts, a key area for the school. It will have a formal design with the planting complementing and replicating the architecture of the building along with year-round interest and fragrance, beneficial for both human and wildlife. Focus has been on improving the soil quality, incorporating 'homemade' mulch and compost. A solar powered water feature is also being introduced. (B1, B3)

Improving the soil quality in all the gardens, is allowing it to be more sustainable, with the use of homemade mulch, with fewer weeds, requiring less soil disturbance, resulting in reduction of carbon emissions. The introduction of bird feeders has seen the bird population increase. Regular visitors are wrens, tits, chaffinches, robins, sparrows, and blackbirds. The use of tree stumps, wood piles and grass piles has increased the valuable shelter for a variety of insects to the School's city centre location. (B2, B3)

Mowing and weeding frequency has been reduced in some less visible areas of the school to encourage the pollinators and insects. With the approval of the schools garden committee, the plan is to extend these areas. Compost is produced on site and the plan is to introduce water butts to as many buildings that will allow it. Bird feeders have been placed around the School to encourage birds into the grounds. (B2, B3)

## Community

The Gardens team at Kings is made up of 9 members of staff, 3 apprentices and 2 gardening assistants employed through the government run Kick Start programme, with the hope that they may be employed by Kings when their six-month contract expires. There are plans for a "staff" working day (C1, C2)

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## 12. Miller's Field

Miller's Field is owned by the 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. The flower beds continue to host 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. Where the daffodils grew in the spring the grass has been left to grow through the summer to provide an inviting habitat for local wildlife. (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 which received an award in the Canterbury Society Design Awards and was shortlisted for a National Civic Voice award. (B1) Bat, bird and insect boxes are positioned on several of the mature trees in the field, 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)



## 13. Oaten Hill Area

The Oaten Hill & South Canterbury Association (OHSCA) is a residents' association with 400 members. The aim is to do something positive for the area and have three gardens that have been entered into the South and South East in Bloom Its Your Neighborhood competition. Members support the active gardening group financially and with gifts of plants and bulbs. Some are also keen litter-pickers. The focus for planting is for year-round interest. Last August two big beds by the Fire Station were rebuilt and replanted with drought-tolerant plants as it is a very hot dry spot. Tree planting continues and there are now 63 street trees to help offset global warming.



## 14. St Augustine's Abbey



St Augustine's Abbey was one of the most important monasteries in medieval England. For almost 1,000 years it was a centre of learning and spirituality. The abbey was founded in 598, after St Augustine arrived in Kent on a mission to convert the pagan Anglo-Saxons to Christianity. Within 100 years, the work begun by Augustine had converted the whole of England, and the abbey that bore his name was at the heart of English Christianity. However, the Suppression of the Monasteries under Henry VIII saw much of the once great abbey destroyed. In later years, St Augustine's became the site of a royal palace, a poorhouse, a gaol and a school. The abbey now forms part of Canterbury's UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognised for its great importance to the history of Christianity in England. St Augustine's Abbey is now looked after by English



## Horticulture

Early flowering is provided by snowdrops under the larger trees and along the top of the Campanile mound. Later in the year areas of grass within the Abbey are encouraged to grow, allowing wildflowers, which in turn provides an area for bees and butterflies to thrive. (A2, B2)

## Environment

The landscape plan for the site balances the on-going preservation of the monument against presentation of the site to visitors whilst ensuring that biodiversity is supported. Partners work together across the World Heritage Site to draw attention to the open spaces that sit between the various historical sites to enhance understanding and awareness of the outstanding universal values of the sites. (B1)

The visitor building has been fitted with water saving technology to reduce water use and rainwater is harvested from the roof for re-use on the grounds. (B3)

### 15. St Martin's Churchyard



St Martin's Church (the oldest church in the English-speaking world) forms part of Canterbury's UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is closed for burying so CCC are responsible for its maintenance, with the assistance of the Friends of St Martin's. It was entered in the South and South East in Bloom Churchyards category and has won Silver Gilt for the past three years. The Friends group works hard to keep the country churchyard atmosphere and have added daffodils and more summer flowering plants to boost the established flowers. Since the autumn there is now a flourishing cherry tree taking pride of place by the entrance to the churchyard.



### 16. Solly's Orchard

In 1236, the Dominican Order of Friars Preachers, or 'Black Friars', founded a priory in this area. They erected several buildings, including a church. By 1650, most of the buildings had been demolished, including the gatehouse which originally stood on part of Solly's Orchard. In 2005, CCC and the local community initiated a project to enhance this historical site. In recognition of its Dominican heritage, and its 17th century use as an apple orchard, several new religiously-themed apple trees were planted, including: Chorister Boy, Christmas Pearmain, Easter, Orange, Eden, Harvest Festival and Ten Commandments. Volunteers from the St Peter's Residents' Association work alongside the Council to maintain Solly's Orchard.

#### Horticulture

To the north of the Orchard a vast ash tree had die-back and was removed last summer. The extensive stump was ground down and the woodchip spread across some of the beds in the orchard. In its place three choice flowering trees have been planted: *Hoheria sexstylosa*, an evergreen New Zealander, white flowers in summer; *Albizia julibrissin*, a leguminous tree from Persia to China, with pink fluffy flowers in summer; and *Pistacia chinensis*, the Chinese Pistachio (not the tree with edible nuts!) which has elegant foliage with good autumn colour. To provide interest while the trees are getting established the whole area has been planted up with perennials (many taken as divisions from





the main border) and some annuals. Sadly a number of the apple trees have developed honey fungus and will have to be removed and the area left unplanted for a number of years, but we will look at an alternative future planting scheme for the future in due course.

(A2, A3)

## Environment

A leaf-mould container was constructed in 2019 from natural material, and leaves are raked from Solly's by volunteers. Since 2021 all beds have had leaf-mould spread on them from leaf rakings with an estimated 3 cubic metres of leaf-mould. This should minimise the need to water and will help reduce the amount of watering required during the summer months. (B3)

## Community

A huge amount of time has been devoted by volunteers to the Orchard. It is one of the main routes into the heart of Canterbury for visitors arriving at the Coach Park by Sainsburys or the St. Radigund's Car Park and we do receive plenty of encouragement from passers-by.

# 17. The Butterfly Garden

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. 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, to help with the costs of planting.

## Horticulture

A mixture of dwarf rockery tulips have been planted: 'Red Riding Hood', 'Pinocchio', 'First Love', 'Albion Star' and 'Calypso'. Evergreen, Hardy Geranium *Pyrenaicum* 'Bill Wallis' (a deep blue) were planted for the summer along with trailing nasturtium. The earliest display in the central sunny bed comes with crocus, snowdrops and primroses, while winter aconites appear in the shaded area. These are followed by tulips, daffodils and Cardamine. Alliums and Camassia have been planted amongst the dahlias in the sunny bed to provide interest. 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' has been used for contrast and white *Oenothera lindheimeri*, formerly *Gaura lindheimeri*, (Beeblossoms) give 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, scabiosa, thyme and marjoram. Lavender and jasmine, on the west-facing wall, provide perfume in the summer. In the shady bed, height is provided by *Aruncus* 'Horatio', an improved goat's beard. The white flowered potato vine, *Solanum laxum* 'album' provides a backdrop for the newly planted rose. 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. Many plants have been donated by members of the Kent Branch of The Hardy Plant Society; for example, a *Dregea sinensis*, a choice climber and a very generous donation of blue camassia from Swallowfields Nursery, Elmsted. (A1, A2, A3, A4)



## Environment

The plants were chosen with the aim of encouraging pollinators such as butterflies and bees. Structural diversity has been considered to provide both foraging and shelter for wildlife, by including shrubs, climbers, perennials, herbs and ground creepers. Plants were chosen with consideration for creating; long, varied and successional blooming to extend the availability of nectar and pollen. As far as possible double or multi-petalled flowers have been avoided. The open, single flowers of the two varieties of dahlias were chosen to provide landing pads for pollinators' easy access to nectar and pollen. Wherever possible, clusters of one species have been created to attract more pollinators rather than scattering individual varieties throughout the garden. By consistent dead-heading, the dahlias provide a valuable source of late nectar as well. These, along with the salvia, verbenas and scabious also provide close clusters of flowers which means bumblebees can access many flowers without needing to expend a great deal of energy. In contrast, the digitalis, penstemons and honeysuckle provide deep corolla with more nectar per flower for the garden bumblebee and the common carder bee with their longer tongues. Hand-weeding of the paved area is used to avoid the use of pesticides and organic peat free compost and mulching are used. In May 2022 volunteers spread a thick layer of organic mulch called Strulch (made from wheat straw) which will improve the moisture retention and reduce the growth of weeds. (B1, B2, B3)

## Community

The Canterbury Society has two volunteers who attend to the garden weekly, while small volunteer groups are called upon to help with planting spring bulbs in the autumn, watering, mulching, weeding, dead-heading flowering plants in the dry summer months, as well as pruning and attending to the creepers. Volunteers also keep the garden litter free. (C1)

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## 18. The Kent Community Oasis Garden (KentCOG)



*Bee and Bug Hotel*

The 'Kent Community Oasis Garden' opened in 2018 on the University of Kent campus. It is designed as an outdoor space which promotes wellbeing and environmental awareness among staff, students, and members of the local community.

The Garden is now seeing the blooming of over 1000 daffodil and tulip bulbs, planted last autumn to enhance the visual appearance of the garden in springtime. The garden is run in partnership with East Kent Mind focusing the garden's activities on wellbeing, with sessions on coping with anxiety and improving low mood alongside the usual garden activities. Over the last year the garden has grown expanding its vegetable plots and creating the start of a pollinator garden and invertebrate hotels. In addition, the team worked with the Canterbury School of Visual Arts to create a Bee / Bug Hotel that was installed at the Oasis Garden. (A3, C2)

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## 19. Three Cities Garden

The Three Cities Garden, in the heart of the city, is designated as a Closed Churchyard owned by the Canterbury Church of England Diocese, with CCC maintaining the grounds. Originally called the Best Lane Garden it was re-dedicated as the Three Cities Garden in 2010. The Three Cities Association was formed in



1985 to develop understanding, friendship and support between the citizens of Canterbury, Bloomington-Normal (Illinois) in the USA and Vladimir in what was then the USSR. The garden was therefore planted with native species from England, Russia and the USA.

The garden had fallen into some neglect and in 2021 work started to replant and restore the garden, with species from England, Russia and the USA, with funding received from the Martello Fund and the Three Cities Association. In September 2021 a work party day was organised to begin the work. 21 volunteers cleared 10 bags of litter and replanted the three flowerbeds with hundreds of spring bulbs and 52 hardy, drought resistant perennials.

## Horticulture

The garden has two magnificent Magnolia trees (one spring and the other summer flowering), a Parrotia persica (Persian ironwood tree) and several Camelia japonica. A Malus 'Evereste' (crab apple) has been planted which will provide spring blossoms for the pollinators, fruit for the birds in autumn and beautiful autumn foliage. Three more small trees will be planted; Sorbus aucuparia 'Autumn Spire', along the boundary next to the Olive Grove in the autumn of 2022. These trees will provide blossoms in the spring for pollinators, berries in the autumn for the birds and beautiful autumn leaf colour. (A3, B2)

In the autumn of 2021 a 1000 crocus Sieberi Tricolor, 500 Amenone Blanda, 100 Scilla siberica (Siberian squill), 30 Erythronium Pagoda (Dog's Tooth Violet), 20 Camassia Leichtlinii Alba, 20 Camassia Leichtlinii Blue, 50 Iris reticulata, 500 Puschkinia Libanotica ("Russian Snowdrop") and 100 daffodil bulbs donated by a local councillor, were planted by volunteers. (A3)

52 Perennials were planted. The front sunny flowerbeds were planted with Phlox, Penstemon, Gaillardia, Rudbekia, Echinacea (Cone flower), Helenium, Salvias, including Salvia yangii (previously known as Perovskia atriplicifolia) 'Blue spire' (Russian sage), Coreopsis, Veronica and New England asters. The aim is to create a Prairie style planting with excellent foraging and shelter for pollinators. The wall border, which is shady, has been planted with Digitalis, Hellebores, Pulmonaria, Brunnera 'Jack Frost', Aстранtia 'Star of Beauty', Dicentra spectabilis 'Alba', and a range of Heuchera. Several ferns have also been planted, such as Dryopteris Erythrosora, Polystichum and Polypodium. The Olive Grove Restaurant next door has planted a Honeysuckle climber. (A3)

## Environment

In May 2022 the Canterbury Society worked with the Council to repaint the railings in the walls with funding from the Martello Fund. The flowerbeds were composted with peat free compost in autumn 2021 and in spring 2022 they were mulched with organic Strulch. The paving is hand weeded to avoid the use of pesticides. (B1, B3)

## Community

Monthly work party events are organised by the Canterbury Society to maintain the flowerbeds. These are usually attended by approximately ten volunteers for 2-3 hours of work. The Canterbury Society volunteers also work in collaboration with the neighbouring Olive Grove Restaurant who assist with housing the hosepipe and providing the water for watering the garden. (C1, C3)



Planting

## 20. Vauxhall Field

Vauxhall Field is a large open space next to the river Stour serving a local community in an area of high deprivation. The field is owned by CCC and managed by Housing. The open space has suffered from long-term problems of littering, fly-tipping, metal-stripping and the burning of household waste. To help tackle these problems, a multi-stakeholder group was created under the leadership of CCC. One of the main objectives of the group was to fulfil the community's long-held ambition for a play area. Early consultation on a play area took place in 2020 to gather the views of local children and their families, and the project was tendered by the council. Following initial tender evaluations, consultation took place in May 2021 to get residents views on two shortlisted designs. A further evaluation was carried out and a final scheme was selected and installed in autumn 2021. The play area is proving hugely popular. Over the coming year, further steps will be taken to improve the field. These will include the installation of benches and a new bin within the play area to help keep it clean (B1, C3).

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## 21. Webb's Garden at St Martin's Hospital

Webb's Garden is a beautiful two-acre walled garden situated within the grounds of St Martin's Hospital, which provides mental health services for people across Kent and Medway and is managed by Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT). Webb's Garden is named after Arthur and Ellen Webb who's home originally faced the garden in the 1930s. Today, Webb's Garden is run by KMPT Voluntary Services and volunteers.



### Community

The purpose of Webb's garden is to improve wellbeing and mental health through connecting people with nature. They wish for the garden to be more than just vegetable beds; rather it is a welcoming and supportive space that encourages wellbeing through sowing the seeds of community engagement and connectivity. They aspire to improve the wellbeing of service users, NHS staff members, volunteers and the local community through providing connections with nature.

A wide range of vegetables, fruit and cut flowers are grown in the garden. These are sold to staff within the hospital and to members of the local community and all proceeds are invested back into the garden. (C2, C3)

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## 22. Westgate Parks

Westgate Parks are an important gateway to the city and the Stour Valley. Consisting 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 and given to the City of Canterbury in 1936 by the family.

### Horticulture

The main area of focus has been in the Physic Garden with each separate bed devoted to plants useful for medicating specified bodily systems. Over the winter the beds had become overgrown, some key plants having been lost/died out, others had spread to neighbouring beds. This spring work has taken place to ensure that the right plants are present and in their rightful places. (A3)

The lavender maze has been replanted as the previous plants had grown old, woody and some had died.



Volunteers grubbed out the whole maze and re-planted with new lavender seedlings.

The wall that forms the backdrop to the Physic Garden is planted with apple trees and the bed in which they stand has been planted with spring bulbs. A dozen *Cotoneaster franchetii* plants have been planted against the wall to create an intermediate 'layer' below the trees and behind the bulbs and herbs at the front of the long bed, to give all-year interest. The berries in winter are attractive, often eaten by birds, and the flowers are attractive to bees. This particular *Cotoneaster* is also considered excellent for absorbing air pollution. (A3)

## Environment

In the Physic Garden the ceramic signs which were vandalised have been replaced. Trustees have also designed a new information board for the Bingley Island Nature Reserve as not many people realise that this area is in fact a nature reserve and it is hoped that when it is put in place later in 2022, it will engage interest and help conserve the area. (B1)

In October the Tannery Field wildflower meadow was mowed and raked by Trustees and volunteers. The Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership (KSCP) organised riverfly surveys from May to November and river dipping sessions with Parkside Primary School on two days in November. KSCP have also been involved with conservation tasks which included maintenance of the feeding station planters in the river in Westgate Gardens, a litter pick by punt around Bingley Island and scrub clearance on Bingley Island itself. (B3, C2)

## Community

The Friends of Westgate Park continue to help maintain and manage the park through a formal agreement with CCC. The group now operates with a formal memorandum of understanding, sets out the group's aims, how it will work together with CCC, and the areas which the group will maintain, such as the community murals (one totally repainted during 2021), physic garden and wildflower meadow (mown each autumn). The Friends also work with members of the adjacent Umbrella Centre when opportunity arises. In addition to gardening, the Friends regularly help clear litter, as part of their attempt to improve any park visitors' enjoyment of a real city asset, working in collaboration with CCC's parks maintenance contractors (Canterbury Environment Company). The Friends also support events in the parks, including the annual Medieval Pageant, education, and the promotion of research on the local archaeology and biodiversity. The Friends of Westgate Parks communicate with their users through a Facebook group (570+ members) and a website. (C1, C2, C3)



*Lavender maze replanted*



*Plane tree Featured in the Queen's Green Canopy*

## 23. Whitefriars Shopping Centre

Whitefriars Shopping Centre makes up around 24% of Canterbury's city centre shopping space. Whitefriars retailers pay into a landscaping service charge budget so each year they are responsible for providing floral displays and planters to enhance the shopping centre and customers experience. The idea is to soften what is often seen as a harsh concrete space and create a colourful and pleasing shopping environment for visitors and provide opportunities for wildlife. Whitefriars

## Horticulture

Whitefriars have once again partnered with local nursery Meadow Grange to create their colourful bloom display. The nursery has supplied over 50 hanging baskets, plus 50 window box troughs, 12 wall planters and 158 1litre pots to create a mini living wall to display in the shopping centre. The flowers will bloom from May through to September and include varieties that will appeal to local pollinators, including the bees based in a hive on the roof of the shopping centre. In addition, six large wooden planters have been positioned within the square with a variety of shrubs and flowers. They plan to introduce new displays each year adding to the growing number of basket & planters. Whitefriars will also be introducing a winter display to provide greenery through the winter months. (A3)



*Whitefriars - Bee and Bug hotel*

## Environment

All the baskets and floral displays are watered using harvested rainwater. Meadow Grange grow all the plants in either recycled or reused plastic pots. The bags the compost comes in are also recycled and the pallets are reused at the nursery site. (B3)

## Community

A wild-flower bed approximately 150sq m in size will be created above the Halifax Bank building at the Clocktower to encourage wildlife and plan to relocate the beehives we currently have to this new location, near to the wild-flower bed. A series of 'Bee Hotels' which students from the Canterbury School of Visual Arts made during their community week will be mounted in and around Whitefriars. The letters are made from clay, fired and they will be mounted with bamboo put around and in-between the letters to produce a community of bees to complement the hives Whitefriars have on the roof. (C2, C3)

# Environment

## 1. Local Identity and Pride of Place

### Canterbury School of Visual Art's Living Sculptures

Over the last 12+ months CCC and the Friends of Westgate Parks (including representatives of Friends' groups) have been working with Canterbury College on a student sculpture project for a river-themed sculpture for Toddlers Cove. This work is continuing and the sculpture should be in place towards the end of 2022. It is hoped this will be the start of a continuing relationship to boost public art in our parks and open spaces working with local colleges.

### Canterbury BID Window Vinyl Project

Over the past year, Canterbury BID has continued to add to the 120 bright, bold, window vinyls created to support the city's reopening since 2020. This year themes have included the Platinum Jubilee, with photos of the Queen visiting Canterbury and ReWilding, which is a Bison and Chough vinyl project in partnership with The Canterbury Society, Wildwood Trust and Kent Wildlife Trust. Informative vinyls highlight the reintroduction of Choughs to Kent and Wild Bison, pigs, otters and more to The Blean (just 10 minutes outside Canterbury). This is





in addition to the Canterbury in Bloom vinyls we produced in partnership with Kent County Council to celebrate the city's green spaces with vibrant images covering empty retail units. Each window reflects an entry in the Canterbury in Bloom portfolio with images of the space in bloom, details of the volunteers that look after it, and pollinators found in that particular location. A green map has also been designed so people can find the city's green spaces along with a QR code taking people to the BID's Green Spaces webpage.

### Canterbury City Council Community Safety Unit and Enforcement

Tackling littering, graffiti, dog fouling and fly tipping form one of four key components of Canterbury City Council's Corporate Plan for 2021-23 and are a key focus. Various techniques are being used to change people's behaviour including tough enforcement against those that break the rules and publicising the punishments they receive. The Enforcement team carry out regular patrols under an operation called Operation Foul to target dog walkers that do not clear up after their pets and to educate owners.

An enormous amount of work is going into cleaning graffiti, catching those that carry out the criminal damage with the help of £500 reward for information from the Council and helping business and private property owners to design out the opportunities for tagging etc. Working together with Kent Police, Canterbury BID and others to tackle antisocial behaviour in all its forms as well as its causes is top of the agenda as evidenced by a joint effort to secure £382,358 in Safer Streets 2 funding from the Home Office for more CCTV, bike and property marking kits in the city centre, lots of crime prevention freebies such as purse dipping bells etc and equipment for engagement events.

A night-time closure trial of the Dane John Gardens is currently underway, funded by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner. The initiative aims to reduce the amount of anti-social behaviour that occurs in the park overnight.

### Canterbury BID

This spring both CCC cleaning team, Canenco, and Canterbury BID have invested in new equipment to ensure that the city is looking its best. Thanks to a successful Low Carbon Grant application, Canterbury BID has been able to invest in an eco-friendly cleaning machine that will help provide additional cleaning in the city centre for businesses. Working collaboratively, the two teams will be targeting spots that have in the past been difficult to access and clean. CCC currently provides street cleaning in all public areas, streets, car parks and parks. The investment in the new zero carbon machines brings not just new technology to the streets of Canterbury but will also contribute to the overall air quality of the city. The fully electric, battery powered machine can collect large items like coffee cups, beer bottles and it is very powerful when it comes to removing cigarettes ends from in between slabs. It also has the capacity to clean bird residue, as it is equipped with pressure sprayer. Anti-graffiti wipes are now handed out, free of charge to BID businesses



and our team of Ambassadors report daily on any graffiti issues across the city. In addition, they attend a weekly meeting with the Police and other organisations to follow up any issues of concern.



## 2. Natural Environment

### Canterbury Biodiversity Network

The Canterbury Biodiversity Network is now in its second year. It was set up in January 2021 by a coalition of local groups with the aim of drawing attention to the biodiversity crisis which tends to get eclipsed by the media's focus on the climate crisis. The Network's membership has doubled over the last year (from 35 to 70+) and it has now held five meetings. The meetings have included presentations on the Wilder Blean project; the Green Recovery Challenge Fund project in Blean Woods and Seasalter Levels;

the biodiversity-related activities of the University of Kent (UKC) and Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU); and Bumblebee Conservation's projects across Kent. The next meeting of the Network will focus on Kent Wildlife Trust's Wilder Parishes initiative and the activities of local councils in promoting biodiversity in the rural areas of the district. The Network sends out monthly updates about local events relating to nature conservation and biodiversity and organises site visits to places of particular interest for biodiversity. The Network took part in the Climate Week of Action that was organised by the Canterbury Climate Action Partnership in October 2021 and helped to organise a workshop on Nature-based solutions to Climate Change. Members of the Network's Steering Committee administer the Wild Canterbury Facebook group. Wild Canterbury now has over 1,000 members and provides a valuable way of engaging the broader public in biodiversity-related issues.

### Kent County Council's Plan Bee

A pollinator action plan has been developed by Kent County Council (KCC) to take the lead and encourage local communities to improve the food sources and general habitat for pollinators in Kent. Pollinators such as bees, wasps, butterflies, moths, and hoverflies are vital for food, economy and environment and we must act to reverse their rapid decline. KCC have made changes and implemented policies to improve and protect habitats for pollinators. Changes have been made to the months grass verges and hedges are cut and how the road verges are categorised to balance road safety with providing benefits to bees, insects and birds. [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

### Kent County Council's Plan Tree

Throughout March and April 2022 Kent County Council (KCC) consulted on their proposed Tree Establishment Strategy for the county, which includes targets for increased trees and extended tree canopy cover in Kent and the principles that should underpin any tree establishment. The Strategy also outlines what objectives they want to deliver by extending tree cover in Kent and delivering Plan Tree. KCC have set out what action they will take over the next 10 years to realise these ambitions and objectives. The strategy will result in woodlands and trees that are thriving with biodiversity and delivering services to help us to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies facing our county. Following the end of the consultation a full analysis and report will be completed and will be presented to the Cabinet Member for Environment before the Strategy is agreed, finalised and presented to the Council for adoption.

### No Mow May

Canterbury has joined the 'No Mow May' campaign again this year leaving many of the verges to go wild along with strips of park area. This forms part of the national campaign run by Plantlife, an initiative to encourage the growth of flowers for pollinators.



## Pollinator Action Plan

An initial pollinator workshop to develop a Pollinator Action Plan was held in 2021 however, due to CCC staff changes, the continued development of the Pollinator Strategy had to be put on hold. Following the recruitment of a new Environment Team Leader all the previous thinking and intelligence has been revisited and is being drawn upon to inform our next steps in completing the Strategy. To ensure stakeholders are aware of the current position, updates have been shared with the Council's Biodiversity Working Group as well as the Canterbury Biodiversity Network, and both bodies will have an opportunity to inform and comment on the next draft of the Pollinator Strategy. Current programming is showing a completion of the draft Pollinator Strategy in Autumn 2022. This strategy may form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation.

## University of Kent Bio Blitz

Students from the School of Anthropology and Conservation hold their annual BioBlitz at the University of Kent Canterbury campus on the 11 June 2022. A BioBlitz is an intense biological survey, normally taking place in a 24-hour period that aims to record all living species within a designated area. The students organised a series of sessions that were open to other students, staff members and the local community, which were led by naturalists, taxonomic experts and volunteers around the campus to survey for birds, bats, small mammals, hedgehogs, badgers, invertebrates, bryophytes and much more! The data from the event is still being analysed however, the latest count shows 244 different species being recorded in a 24-hour period on the Canterbury Campus. Further information will be published on the University's website about the event showcasing the findings and highlighting some special finds. The data will also be used to inform the University's new Landscape and Biodiversity Management Plan. The event was supported by staff from the School of Anthropology and Conservation, Estates Department, and the Safety, Health and Environment Unit.

## 3. Environmental Management

### Canterbury City Council (CCC)

To enhance biodiversity within Canterbury's parks and open spaces the maintenance team have adopted 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.

All the main parks and open spaces have pollinator friendly beds including beds in the Dane John Gardens and Westgate Parks. Some ornamental beds have been converted with planting for pollinators and will be maintained as such going forwards, they may take several years to fully establish.

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. (B3). During the second half of 2021 the focus of the council has been on the inception and set up of the new grounds maintenance contract but now this is in place, 2022 will provide opportunities for a fresh focus on improving and enhancing the planting in the city's parks and open spaces.

The Grounds Maintenance specification has changed from last year and there is more emphasis and requirement for hand weeding and less use of chemicals. Regarding water, in the Westgate Gardens water is extracted from the river for watering. CCC are working through 2022 towards accreditation for ISO 14001 – Environmental Management, and 9000 Quality and 45000 Health & Safety. New mowers are the latest spec to Tier 5 for clean air, and we are reviewing again through 2022 the use of electric and battery-operated tools for clean air and reduced impact on the environment.

### **Canterbury Climate Action Partnership (CCAP)**

In June 2019, the community set up the Canterbury Climate Action Partnership (CCAP), an independent Community Interest Company, on which many of the Bloom partners, including the BID sit. CCAP has now grown to include representatives from other local civic groups, the three universities, business, residents' associations, faith groups, youth groups, Greenpeace and many others. The group has launched the city's first Repair Café; organised Canterbury's first Climate Change Festival as part of the 2021 Canterbury Festival and sent an official delegation to COP26 with Canterbury's 'Commitment to Climate Change'.



As part of the Festival in 2021 Canterbury BID, held a Green Business Day with over 50 local businesses in order to share stories, ideas and expertise on how to reduce our carbon footprint, move towards circular economy models and improve biodiversity.

In April 2022, the city's first Climate Action Awards launched, recognising businesses, community organisations, educational institutions, and individuals/households that show exemplary commitment to positive climate change and improving biodiversity - winners will be announced at a special Awards Ceremony held on Sunday, 25 September during the 2022 Canterbury Climate Festival and the Great Big Green Week.

### **Canterbury Riverside Group and the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership (KSCP)**

The Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership (KSCP) works closely with landowners and local communities to promote both landscape and nature conservation and develop opportunities for appropriate access and informal recreation. It operates as a working partnership of sponsoring organisations, staff and local people. Partnership staff have many years of experience of habitat management, practical conservation, working with farmers and local communities on a wide range of projects.

Over the past year KSCP along with their Thursday volunteer group have:

- Bus Company Island – annual mow to maintain suitable open habitat for translocated population of slow-worms.
- Himalayan Balsam – control of invasive non-native plant along the banks of the Stour.
- Litter pick with Canterbury Punting Co – clearing litter from the riverbed by punt from the CPC base on Stour Street to Bingley Island.
- Whitehall Meadow (CCC-owned) – maintenance of ditches on rotation by periodic clearing of vegetation to maintain open water habitat.



- Beverley Meadow – clearing scrub from beneath trees along east boundary of park to reduce anti-social behaviour.
- Bingley Island – scrub clearing around the pond to reduce shading and anti-social behaviour.
- Kingsmead Field – planted 50 native trees to mask a new outlet into the Stour.
- Hambrook Marshes – KSCP run 4 volunteer tasks here each year. Including fencing repairs, clearing ditches and ponds, and coppicing on the old railway embankment to maintain open habitat for viviparous lizards.



*Tree planting*

### **Plastic Free Canterbury**

Plastic Free Canterbury have teamed up with Surfers Against Sewage with the aim of reducing the use of plastics in Canterbury, focusing initially on Single Use Plastics. The goal is to achieve Plastic Free Accreditation for our city. Plastic Free Canterbury meets regularly and report to Canterbury Climate Action Partnership (CCAP). Working with Canterbury BID and the Universities, 67% of the target for businesses and 27% of the community allies has been achieved to date. Businesses signed up include Unboxed, The Veg Box, The Drapers Arms, Micro Roastery, The Cheese Shop and Garage Coffee. Community Allies already committed include Tesco, Curzon Cinema, the Mosque, and in process is a local Beavers Group.

Two rallies have been held in 2022 to clear plastic and other litter from the district. One was a litter pick of the Old Park and Chequers Wood area of extraordinary site of ecological, archaeological and historic importance which was attended by over 40 people and rescued several ancient trees from plastic debris as well as clearing a large area around the medieval reed pond. The second was a litter pick of the World Heritage Site around St Augustine and St Martin's Church.

### **No Food Wasted Forum (Produced in Kent)**

Produced in Kent started a "No Food Wasted" Forum in early 2020. The group was set up to reduce food waste and create greater access to good food. In June 2020, the group announced the launch of a new business-to-business app called Food Loop for the county's growers, producers, butchers, farmers and shops, restaurants and pubs with the aim of reducing food waste and getting food to those who need it. Food Loop is the first B2B app of its kind and differs from existing food exchange apps including OLIO or Too Good to Go – which work on a business to consumer (B2C), or consumer to consumer (C2C) Food Loop is in the first phase of a 12-month trial period and is embarking on a crowdfunding campaign as well as being part of Community Renewal Fund bids. The app connects businesses with businesses introducing suppliers of surplus food across the food chain – growers, producers, retail and hospitality, as well as community initiatives who are dealing with surplus in donated food stuffs – operating in urban and rural areas. It encourages suppliers to be a force for good and redistribute a larger part of their food surplus, thus creating a sense of community.

### **Litter Round Table**

Over the last year, the Litter Roundtable (a community initiative bringing together councillors, council officers, Canterbury BID, and representatives of residents' associations) has continued to meet. Items under discussion have included the Council's cross-party working group on Waste, Recycling and Litter; the Council's new Local Authority Trading Company (CANENCO); the revival of the Council's 'Love Where We Live' campaign; and



participation in the Great British Spring Clean 2022. The next Litter Roundtable meeting is scheduled for early autumn and will focus on issues with enforcement.

# Community

## 1. Year-Round Activity and Future Commitment

### Canterbury City Council (CCC)

The Environment Team works closely and in partnership with the friends and community groups on jointly improving and enhancing the council's owned public open spaces. In Canterbury we work with the following groups: Friends of Dane John Gardens and St Mary de Castro, Friends of Kingsmead Field, Friends of Westgate Parks, Friends of Beverley Meadow, St Peter's Residents Association, Canterbury Society, Canterbury Riverside Group and the Abbots Mill Project. We also work with many external organisations for the benefit of the wider community, such as Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, Kent Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Environment Agency and others.

The Environment Team work closely with the council's Contracts Team and Canenco, holding regular joint meetings to input into the new grounds maintenance contract to give feedback and make suggestions, including feedback from Friends and community groups. This is an important aspect in fine tuning to provide the best possible service.

### The Canterbury Society

The Canterbury Society is a Civic Society which is concerned with maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in Canterbury and works on a number of key projects each year. The Society is an active member of the Canterbury Riverside Group, a founder member of

Canterbury's Litter Roundtable and a founder member of the Canterbury Climate Action Partnership. All Canterbury Society events are widely publicised on social media through the Facebook group and page, as well as on the Canterbury Society website and in a monthly newsletter.

The Canterbury Society is leading the Canterbury Wild Walls initiative, which aims to use the visual arts as a way of raising public awareness of the biodiversity crisis. Unlike the Climate Crisis, there is relatively little public awareness of the Biodiversity Crisis. In recent years there has been growing realisation that human activities are leading to the extinction of animal and plant species at an alarming rate and that this has now reached a crisis point. In East Kent, the Wildwood Trust and Kent Wildlife Trust are implementing a ground-breaking project (the 'Wilder Blean' project) to help address this biodiversity crisis. This project involves the controlled introduction of free-roaming bison to Blean Forest are now recognised as 'ecosystem engineers'. This means that they have a dramatic impact on the landscapes that they inhabit, creating new habitats and ecological niches which will increase biodiversity overall.

The other project that has just been completed is a mural of a bison in Blean Woods painted on a wall next to the Gulbenkian Theatre at the University of Kent. It's been painted by the highly respected London-based, street artist, Mark Anthony, who has a long track record of painting spectacular murals of threatened and endangered species. The aim of the bison mural, together with the accompanying plaque which will help explain its significance, is to create a linkage between local people and the natural environment on their doorstep. The University of Kent is set within the context of Blean Woods and is the seat of the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology



(DICE). The painting of the mural is timed to coincide with the KCC Youth Summit. The mural will also be accompanied by a presentation to the Youth Summit about the Wilder Blean project and the concept of Wilding which will be delivered by Kent Wildlife Trust and the Wildwood Trust. This is a joint project between Canterbury Society, the University of Kent, Kent Wildlife trust and Wildwood Trust.

## 2. Communication, Education and Awareness

Partners each develop their own communication and press programmes. The following pages have been developed to bring news to the community of the work created through Bloom's volunteers and community groups.

- [Canterbury in Bloom](#)
- [Wild Canterbury](#)
- [Canterbury Trees](#)
- [Canterbury Climate Action Partnership](#)
- [The Canterbury Society](#)
- [My Canterbury](#)
- [Canterbury BID](#)

## 3. Funding and Support

The council's Environment Team is responsible for capital, Section 106 (developer contributions) and externally funded improvements and enhancements to the council's public open spaces. In the last year the team have delivered improvement schemes and new facilities such as Green Gym at Kingsmead Field, new children's play area at Vauxhall Field, entrance signage and interpretation signage projects, as well as supporting many Friends groups, and especially newly forming groups such as Friends of Beverley Meadow. Individual partners each fund their own activities through their own fundraising.

# Conclusion

This is the ninth time that Canterbury has entered the South & South East in Bloom competition. The breadth and variety of partners has been our strength and privilege from the very beginning. Our 'strength in diversity' continues to flourish as our existing groups continue to grow and new groups join us. We thought last year was tough – but 2022 has been even more challenging to our efforts for 'Canterbury in Bloom'. There has been no operator, volunteer, employee or business that has not been impacted by the global pandemic. In 2020 and 2021, has meant that planning and implementation of some horticultural and environmental projects has not happened on time or has been postponed. This will inevitably have an impact on Canterbury once again this summer. That said, work on climate change mitigation, decarbonisation and improving biodiversity and is increasing. We are already aware that the local authorities and businesses are keen to keep the city blooming and thriving. The open spaces in and around Canterbury have played a significant role throughout the crisis of this pandemic, supporting well-being and economic recovery, turning crisis into opportunity. We are always delighted by how much is still going ahead, and by the care and investment made in the city's horticultural scene.





# Appendix 1:

A selection of the press coverage from this year:



Community and organisation representatives with their certificates

## Bloomin' marvellous reward

Canterbury has struck gold in the prestigious South and South East in Bloom Competition for the sixth time.

The award is the result of a huge community effort co-ordinated by Canterbury BID. Almost 20 groups carried out numerous spring cleaning, planting and biodiversity

projects to show the city's public spaces at their best to the judges, with BID also funding 380 hanging baskets around the city centre.

On Tuesday, Canterbury's community bloom members were invited to a special awards ceremony organised by BID at Tower House to receive

certificates for their efforts. Its boss, Lisa Carlson, praised the effort that had gone into helping the city secure its sixth gold and top place in the city category.

"It's reward for all their hard work and is great for the reputation of the city in attracting visitors," she said.

CanterburyCommunityMagazine

www.communityad.co.uk

## Green gym opens at Kingsmead Field

A new outdoor green gym at Kingsmead Field is bringing the community together and helping people to get fitter at the same time.

The facilities include various pieces of gym equipment to work those muscles and get the blood pumping, supplied by equipment company Fresh Air Fitness.

The £20,000 project has been funded by Canterbury City Council, the Friends of Kingsmead Field, the Kent County Playing Fields Association and former Kent county councillor Graham Gibbens using part of his member's grant.

It is one of a number of improvements to Kingsmead Field over the last few years, which also include a children's play area, picnic tables and benches, paths around the field and cycle racks.

The city council's lead councillor for open spaces, Cllr Ashley Clark, said: "This is another successful project delivered on the field in

partnership with the Friends group. Our working relationship with them continues to go from strength to strength, as it does with so many similar groups we have across the district to help look after our open spaces.

"Well done to all involved in turning an idea first mooted some time ago into reality. We hope it provides many years of enjoyment to come."



## Weight's over for outdoor gym

A new £20,000 outdoor "green gym" has been created in the city in a bid to encourage health and wellbeing.

The facilities at Kingsmead Field have been officially opened, following a joint project funded by the city council, the Friends of Kingsmead Field, the Kent County Playing Fields Association, and former Kent county councillor Graham Gibbens who contributed a donation from his member's grant.



The launch of the new gym at the Kingsmead Field

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PRaise for Nature-Friendly Spaces

Maria Thomas, centre, receiving her prize from Canterbury Society's Richard Scuse and Secretary Helen.

Lisa Wilks, left, with Canterbury Society chairman Richard Scuse and chairwoman Secretary Helen.

### Prize-winning gardeners creating wildlife havens

By Gerry Warren

Canterbury Society's gardeners have been recognised for their efforts in creating wildlife havens in their gardens. The society's gardeners have been awarded prizes for their efforts in creating wildlife havens in their gardens. The prizes were awarded by the Canterbury Society's chairman Richard Scuse and chairwoman Secretary Helen.

The prizes were awarded to the gardeners who have created wildlife havens in their gardens. The prizes were awarded by the Canterbury Society's chairman Richard Scuse and chairwoman Secretary Helen.