Huntingdon
In Bloom
Portfolio 2019
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Front Cover Image – Riverside Park ‘Wildflower walk’.

Huntingdon In Bloom’s Theme for 2019 is Anniversary Celebrations, which include, 60th Anniversary of Shakespeare at the George, 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11 Moon Landing and Concorde, along with 35th Anniversary of St John Ambulance being established in Huntingdon.

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Welcome to Huntingdon in Bloom 2019

2019 is Huntingdon In Bloom’s 5th year since it reformed in 2015. The group was thrilled to be a part of the Anglia In Bloom campaign, and after two years of building up our ‘In Bloom’ activities, we were delighted to receive a Gold award for the 2017 and 2018 town’s entry. We were also honoured to win the best Local Authority Award for our Shipwreck, Deck Chair and Corn Drill displays, in 2017. The local community remains at the core of Huntingdon In Bloom, playing a huge part in all aspects of the campaign. Many existing partnerships have been strengthened over the past 12 months, with many new ones formed; all with the goal of improving and enhancing Huntingdon’s local environment.

Work on the 2019 campaign had commenced before the 2018 one had even finished, and we are already planning for 2020 as well! Funding applications were being submitted and projects were being planned for across the year. As always, the success of Huntingdon’s entry has heavily relied on the generosity and time of volunteers and sponsors. It has been amazing to see how much the local community thrives when working together and to see new partnerships and support networks formed because of Huntingdon In Bloom. We have been extremely lucky that the volunteers from the very beginning have all been passionate about continuing work in the town. Our groups and volunteers have been of all ages and abilities, but the only skills required to be a part of the team are enthusiasm and passion for the town!
Huntingdon Town Council’s Estates Services Team works tirelessly to ensure that the town’s flowerbeds are filled with beautiful floral displays throughout the year. To continue from our 2017 and 2018 wow factor displays, three new themed beds for 2019 have been created using recycled material and a lot of creative flare! As well as floral displays, the In-Bloom entry consists of a range of projects around the town, involving a wide range of different groups from the local community. Many projects we have worked on are all contained within this portfolio, however some of the highlights over the year have included:

- Obtaining a grant of £12,000 to enable improvements in Bloomfield Park
- A town-wide Yarn Bombing project, involving hundreds of people and over 2000 knitted articles
- The partnership with Shakespeare at the George to create a 3D ‘Midsummer Night’s Dream’ floral display
- A partnership with the WI in celebration of their Centenary, to create a bespoke designed mosaic display
- The Best Kept Competitions – Front Garden, Pub Garden/Floral Display and Allotment Garden
- Community Litter Picks across the town including the national Great British Spring Clean, ‘Keep Britain Tidy’
- The planting of a Marie Curie Field of Hope on Hartford Road
- The appointment of a new Horticultural Apprentice, to provide support to a number of community groups
- Improvements to the Hinchingbrooke Hospital Courtyard Gardens

**WW1 Tanks Display – Spring 2019**
Judging Route 2019

Date: Thursday 17th July
Start: 9.30am at Huntingdon Town Hall
Finish: 12.30pm at The Falcon Inn for Lunch

1. Town Hall
2. St John’s (closed) Churchyard
3. Sebastopol Cannon
4. Hinchingbrooke Country Park
5. Hinchingbrooke Hospital Courtyard Gardens
6. Bloomfield Park
7. Primrose Lane Allotments
8. Castle Hills Display
9. Bus Station Display
10. Market Square & All Saints Church
Huntingdon In Bloom Route 2019

Wednesday 17th July 2019 – 9.30am until 1.00pm

(including extra time for presentation and a youth project)

1. Huntingdon Town Hall: Welcome and presentation
   
   Arrive: 9.30am
   Leave: 9.50am

   DRIVE (Ring Road, High Street)

2. St John’s Closed Churchyard Display: Meet with representatives of St John Ambulance (Huntingdon Branch) to unveil 35th anniversary display
   
   Arrive: 9.55am
   Leave: 10.05am

   DRIVE (High Street, George Street, Brampton Road)

3. Sebastopol Cannon Site Display: Meet with Shakespeare at the George to look at their Midsummer Night’s Dream Display
   
   Arrive: 10.10am
   Leave: 10.20am

   DRIVE (Brampton Road, Hinchingbrooke Park Road)

4. Hinchingbrooke Country Park: to meet with Park Rangers and have a tour of current projects, along with meeting the beekeepers at the park’s Apiary.
   
   Arrive: 10.25am
   Leave: 10.40am

   DRIVE (Hinchingbrooke Park Road)

5. Hinchingbrooke Hospital Gardens: Meet with the Hinchingbrooke Hospital Garden volunteers in the pond and Costa gardens
   
   Arrive: 10.45am
   Leave: 11.00am

   DRIVE (Hinchingbrooke Park Road, Brampton Road, Ring Road)

6. Bloomfield Park: Meet the Estates Services Team to look at planting and meet with Hartford Junior School pupils to talk about Horticultural Apprenticeship day
   
   Arrive: 11.05am
   Leave: 11.20am

   DRIVE (Ring Road, Priory Road, Primrose Lane)

Marking Criteria

Presentation:
B2
C2
C4
C5

St John’s Closed Churchyard
A1
A2
A5
B2
B3
C1
C3

Sebastopol Cannon Site
A1
A2
C3
C5

Hinchingbrooke Country Park
A5
B1
C1
C2
C5

Hinchingbrooke Hospital Gardens
A2
A4
C2
C3
C4

Bloomfield Park
A2
A5
B5
C5
7. Primrose Lane Allotments and Priory Road Cemetery: Meet with Site Representatives of Primrose Lane allotments to look at site and schemes, such as green waste recycling etc. Then walk across to Priory Fields cemetery.
   Arrive: 11.25am
   Leave: 12:00noon

   **DRIVE (Primrose Lane, Hartford Road, Ring Road)**

8. Castle Hills Display: Observe the 50th Anniversary Concorde floral display
   Arrive: 12.05am
   Leave: 12:05am (drive passed along the Ring Road)

   **DRIVE (Ring Road, Princes Street)**

9. Bus Station Display: Meet Estates Services Team, Hartford Junior School and Huntingdon & Godmanchester Twinning Association to observe the 50th Anniversary Moon Landing floral display
   Arrive: 12.10pm
   Leave: 12.25pm

10. Market Square, All Saints’ Church and the Falcon: To observe the town centre floral displays, including bedding displays in All Saints’ Church and the Falcon courtyard garden
    Arrive: 12.30pm
    Leave: 1.30pm

11. Bloomfield Park: walk across to Bloomfield Park for a walk around the park to view the sustainable bedding.
    Arrive: 1.35pm
    Leave: 1.55pm

   **DRIVE JUDGES BACK TO PREFERRED LOCATION**

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### Marking Criteria

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3D Floral Display Pericles Shipwreck (photo taken 04/07/17)

Huntingdon In Bloom Committee

The Huntingdon In Bloom committee meets at the Town Hall roughly every six weeks. These meetings focus on projects, planting plans and engaging with the local community. An agenda and minutes are produced and circulated prior to each meeting. The committee consists of 8 members with over 50 associate members.

List of Committee Members

- Natasha Pierson – Chairman
- Philip Peacock – Huntingdon Town Council (HTC)
- Peter Haynes – HTC
- Alyce Barber – Community Development Officer
- Town Councillors Sarah Gifford and Karl Webb
- Susan Mulcahy – Community Member
- David King – Community Member, Huntingdon & Godmanchester Twinning Association

List of Associate Members

- Chris Cowles – HTC
- Nathan Watson – HTC
- Donna Dear – HTC
- Andrew Marshall – HTC
- Rob Bradshaw
- Thomas Parris – HTC
- Shilpa Desai Sakaldip – HTC
- Sue Bradshaw – BID Huntingdon
- Jeannette Rowden – BID Huntingdon
- Emma Stannard – Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC)
- Helen Lack – HDC
- Terry Barry – HDC
• Judith Arnold – Countryside Manager HDC
• Matt Hall – Senior Ranger at Hinchingbrooke Country Park
• David Robinson – Hinchingbrooke Country Park
• Alison Gray – Hinchingbrooke Country Park
• Alex West – Hinchingbrooke Country Park
• Pearl Ewing – Hunters Down Carehome
• Yvonne – Cromwell House Care Home
• Yvette Christy – Churchill Retirement Living
• David Ogilvie – David Ogilvie Engineering
• Leon Beards – Churchmanor Estates
• Chris Pritchard Wilkes – The Workman Group
• Julie Dew – Castle Hill House
• Jon Randall – Reverend All Saints Church and St Mary’s Church
• Simon Maylor – Shakespeare at the George
• Richard Brown – Shakespeare at the George
• Martin Page – RHS Campaign for School Gardening
• Claire Matthews – RHS Campaign for School Gardening
• Peter Levitt – Hartford Open Gardens
• Ken Challenger – Rotary Club of Huntingdon Cromwell
• Mike Baker – Rotary Club of Huntingdon Cromwell
• Angie Linton – Fusion Huntingdon Youth Centre
• Alison Preece – Youth and Community Coordinator Cambridgeshire County Council
• Harriet Chapman – St Johns Primary School
• Jacqui Woodcock – Hartford Junior School
• Julia McIntosh – Spring Common School
• James Singleterry – Stukeley Meadows Primary School
• Katie Toone – Hinchingbrooke School
• Jo Pearson – Thongsley Fields School
• Bob Delaney – Huntingdon Regional College
• Peter Downes – Friends of Hinchingbrooke House
• Jenny Connal Jones – Huntingdon Rainbows
• Hazel Gough – Girl Guiding
• Helen Turley – Cornerstone Pregnancy Advice
• Marcia Paul – NHS Newtown Centre
• Gerard Hughes – Groundwork Cambridge and Peterborough
• Esme Richardson – Snack Shack
• Paul Robins – Huntingdon Scout Group
• Andrew Starkey – Huntingdon Scout Group
• Bernard Dable – Huntingdon Grafham Water Lions Club
• Jacqui Buckley – Huntingdon Grafham Water Lions
• Ann Colbert – Hinchingbrooke Hospital Gardens
• Barry Pridmore – Volunteer Manager, Hinchingbrooke Hospital
• Su and Pauline – Huntingdon Community Centre
• Dean Boyall – Princes Trust
• Gill Geach – Huntingdon and Peterborough WI
• Anna Bradley Doorman – Huntingdon and Peterborough WI
• Roger Wood – Huntingdon Bee Keeping Association
• Dennis Smith – Best Kept Gardens Judge
• Ted Cooper – Best Kept Gardens Judge
• Mark Brickell – Primrose Lane Allotments
• Scott Dickson – Primrose Lane Allotments
Huntingdon In Bloom Calendar

**August 2018** – Coneygear Park Ranger Training Event, National Citizenship Service Litter Pick, Stukeley Meadows Spending Plan Installation, Best Kept Allotment Competition, Huntingdon In Bloom Committee meeting, Huntingdon Community Centre project meeting.

**September 2018** – Anglia In Bloom Awards Ceremony 2018, Meeting with the WI to discuss their centenary plans for mural and floral display, Hinchingbrooke Country Park’s Annual Meeting, Huntingdon In Bloom Committee meeting.

**October 2018** – Stukeley Meadows Brownies Litter Pick, Groundworks Green Team Celebration Presentation, St Johns School garden project meeting, Cromwell Academy Eco Committee meeting and RHS kit presentation, Huntingdon Youth Centre planting day, Hunters Down Care Home bulb planting activity, Huntingdon Poppy Appeal Launch.

**November 2018** – Anglia In Bloom Seminar, Remembrance lamp post poppies displayed in town centre, planting of daffodil bulbs in the Hinchingbrooke Hospital gardens, Daffodil bulb planting at Hunters Down Care Home, Christmas trees installed in Market Square, Sainsbury fore court and Church garden, Huntingdon In Bloom Committee meeting.

**December 2018** – Approval of Bloomfield Park Improvements Spending Plan, Pensioner’s Christmas Lunch event, Huntingdon In Bloom article in ‘Huntingdon’ magazine, Thongsley Fields Primary School garden opening, Best Dressed Christmas Window competition, Cambridgeshire Reach Fund grant application for poppy project materials, Huntingdon In Bloom Committee meeting.

**January 2019** – Bloomfield Park site visit, meeting with Huntingdon Regional College regarding poppy project, Shakespeare at the George floral display meeting.

**February 2019** – WI mural display meeting, Hartford School snowdrop planting in Bloomfield Park, Huntingdon’s Annual Pancake Flipathon, Princes Trust church railing painting activity, delivery of stones, paint and brushes to Hartford School for ‘Moon Rock’ painting, Huntingdon In Bloom Committee meeting.

**March 2019** – Anglia In Bloom Spring Launch event, ‘Huntingdon’ magazine article, St Benedict’s Court flower bed clearance and planting, The Great British Spring Clean event, Stukeley Meadows and Thongsley Fields School litter picks, Hinchingbrooke Hospital garden session.

**April 2019** – Huntingdon Grafham Water Lions meeting regarding In Bloom projects, HGTA Art Festival, with installation of Yarn Bombing across the town Hinchingbrooke Hospital courtyard garden visit, Hunters Down Care Home Apprentice garden assistance, St George’s Day Flag Raising, Huntingdon In Bloom Committee meeting.

**May 2019** – Norfolk Road Memorial Anniversary, 3D floral displays installed, Twinning Association Art Festival 2019 Meeting, Hunters Down Care Home Gardening Day, Hospital poppy installation, Huntingdon Community Centre creation of raised beds presentation.

**June 2019** – Huntingdon In Bloom Launch event, Pensioner’s Summer Tea Party and Best Kept Competitions (front garden and pub), hanging baskets and tower planters arranged in town centre, Huntingdon In Bloom Committee meeting.
This year’s Huntingdon In Bloom launch event saw the unveiling of several floral displays around the town. The event welcomed over 100 representatives from the local community gather to mark the occasion, all of whom have been key to the success of the In-Bloom campaign to date.

The displays themselves were created by Huntingdon Town Council’s Estates Services Team, with the hand painted Moon rocks created by Hartford Junior School. In addition, Yarn Bombing representatives from the local community incorporated into many of the displays. The vast majority of each display was created using recycled materials, making use of ‘left-over’ resources or materials no longer required for their original purpose.
SECTION A: Horticultural Achievement

A1: IMPACT
The main theme of the summer bedding plants around Huntingdon this year is has been to celebrate Anniversaries, which are represented in the designs and floral displays in and around the town. The flowers used include: geraniums, begonias, fuchsias, cosmos, amaranthus and marigolds. The flowers in the tower planters, window boxes and barrier baskets represent are a mixture of pinks, purples and whites and yellows.

In order for our planting to have maximum visual effect, there is a variety of different shrub beds and herbaceous plants across the town’s displays.

To enhance on the floral displays already in the town, Huntingdon Town Council has recently taken on additional flower beds across Huntingdon, contracted by Cambridgeshire County Council. Partnerships have also been formed with a business landlord and a retail developer to contract additional town centre seasonal bedding displays.

Locations across the town that lack colour and vibrancy have also been addressed to try and create additional areas of visible impact and the Huntingdon town sign has been refurbished.

With the number of new contracts and planting locations, the vast majority of planting in the town is now maintained by Huntingdon Town Council, with the Estates Services Team watering and dead heading all floral displays in accordance with the weather and its demands.

Hanging baskets and tubs are watered twice a week and are maintained to the highest possible standard. Additional tubs have been installed at the NHS Newtown Centre, the Cornerstone Pregnancy Centre and Castle Hill House.
The plants used in the floral displays around the town have been grown in house from seeds or plugs and are cultivated and maintained by the Estates Services Team at Huntingdon Town Council.

Sustainability has been taken into consideration through the use of drought resistant plants in the summer bedding and the introduction of sustainable displays.

In order to ensure that all bedding plants and displays have the best chance of flourishing, base fertiliser and compost is laid down prior to planting and all hanging baskets are given liquid food once a week. To try and avoid the use of any chemicals, disease resistant plant varieties are selected for planting and pest control is only used if necessary. To ensure a high-quality plant selection, 30,000 bedding plants are grown per year by Huntingdon Town Council at the KGV Nursery.

To try and make planting as sustainable as possible, herbaceous borders are planted on top of seasonal bedding for year-round displays. Plants such as lavenders are planted in the cemetery gardens to encourage biodiversity and enhance local wildlife.

The water for all plants is extracted from the river to save on resources and recycle natural materials available. Huntingdon’s bedding displays are planted twice a year for summer and winter displays. It is hoped that in the long term, these display areas will be expanded on to enhance visual impact and encourage more wildlife to the town.
A3: RESIDENTIAL AND COMMUNITY GARDENING

Residential gardens have got involved with the In-Bloom activities through the annual ‘Best Kept Front Garden’ and ‘Best Kept Pub Floral Display’ competitions. The allotment sites in Huntingdon continue to be popular with plot holders entering the annual ‘Best Kept Allotment’ competition. Last year, £12,000 of funding was secured to provide one water butt and one compost bin per allotment plot.

Huntingdon’s four allotment sites offer over 250 allotment plots, all of which are in constant demand. The Primrose Lane allotment site continues to run its ‘Chicken Club’ where a number of plot holders work together to look after each other’s chickens. All excess produce and scraps are kept aside to feed the chickens.

There are also a number of shared residential and communal spaces that benefit from the local community working together to improve the areas that they live in. Examples of these spaces are the Hunters Down Care Home communal gardens, community group allotments and Victoria Square Garden.

Huntingdon is lucky to host a large number of public buildings, many of which have maintained outdoor spaces to enhance the surrounding landscape. The Huntingdon In Bloom team has worked with a number of schools to improve their outdoor spaces and the Estates Services Team from Huntingdon Town Council works hard to visually enhance public buildings around the Town such as the churches, the Town Hall and the Medway Community Centre.
Installed in 2017, the town’s Corn Drill display now permanently resides at Castle Hill House. The building used to house a beautiful flower bed many years ago, however up until last year, the management of the building had led to the garden becoming a plain grassed area. Huntingdon In Bloom contacted the House and an agreement has been made to recreate a floral display, giving the front of the building a warm and bright feel. We were delighted to win the Best Local Authority Display award for the Corn Drill display, along with others in 2017.

A4 BUSINESS AND PREMISES
Local businesses and organisations have also been keen to be a part of the In-Bloom campaign.

Many local businesses have participated in the yarn bombing project, collecting and donating spare yarn which was transformed into bright displays for the Bridge Arts Festival.

Additionally, there has been planting all around town, including the train and bus station, the local churchyards and other tourist attractions such as the Cromwell Museum, the Thinking Soldier and the Sebastopol Cannon Site. A number of town centre hanging baskets and tower planters have also been sponsored.

Many local pubs expressed great enthusiasm into entering the ‘Best Kept Pub Garden/Floral Display’ competition. The Falcon Inn has made huge efforts to bring the pub back to life, converting the former Car Park into a Pub Garden and making sure the courtyard area looks bright and welcoming at all times. The front of the building has been enhanced with a beautiful display of hanging baskets, making the Market Square it sits on a vibrant, welcoming space.

Retail outlets along the High Street have entered into the In-Bloom spirit, with businesses such as Gathercole and Ward using their small outdoor space to inject colour and visual enhancement to the High Street. The Oxfam Bookshop makes their window available throughout the year for community groups and projects, to promote their work. Throughout the ‘Yarn Bombing Project’ in April 2019, run by Huntingdon and Godmanchester Twinning Association for the Bridge Arts Festival, several shops along the High Street displayed different yarnbombing displays in their windows. Including: Oxfam Book Shop, Niche Comics, James Cox and Huntingdon Library.
Local businesses have also been extremely generous with supporting the In-Bloom campaign, particularly with funding, sponsorship and volunteering time. This year, the Huntingdon Rotary Club has sponsored a number of the town’s summer floral displays. As with last year, Huntingdon Tesco Extra’s Community Champion has been instrumental in the success of the campaign, offering endless hours of volunteer time. BID Huntingdon has also been a key stakeholder in the town’s entry, encouraging all town centre businesses to partake in the poppy project.

**A5 GREEN SPACES**

Parks and open spaces around the town are maintained by Huntingdon Town Council and Huntingdonshire District Council. Both tiers of local government work closely to ensure that Huntingdon’s green spaces are highly maintained, to improve and enhance the town that we live and work in.

Huntingdon is lucky to have so many Parks and Open Spaces for everyone to enjoy. The areas maintained by Huntingdon Town Council area; Bloomfield Park, Coneygear Park, Castle Hills, KGV Field, Claytons Way, Hartford Playing Fields and Sallowbush Green. On top of these outdoor open spaces, there are also some great woodland areas at Hinchingbrooke Country Park and at Jubilee Park.

It is important to the Town to constantly encourage new growth. Bulb and tree planting has taken place over the last six months at Bloomfield Park, Castle Hills and Stukeley Meadows. As a result of Huntingdon’s ongoing planting efforts, copses can be found at both Coneygear Park and Hinchingbrooke Park. Hinchingbrooke Park boasts a fantastic orchard, having a variety of fruit trees. By having an orchard like this, it is hoped to help to enhance sustainability in the local community, offering a sustainable area to improve community involvement and ownership.
Shelterbelts are important in Huntingdon, helping to make the landscape more resilient and sustainable. Shelterbelts can be found at Castle Hills and Coneygear Park. These shelterbelts help to conserve fertile soil, protect water quality, enhance air movement and biological connectivity in the landscape.

**PLANTING EFFORTS**
Best Kept Competitions

The In Bloom Committee traditionally runs a series of ‘Best Kept’ Competitions. Photographs of the top front garden entries can be seen below. All gardens were judged on their overall design and appearance, the health of plants, cleanliness and tidiness of the garden, lack of weeds, plants that attract birds and wildlife and evidence of water conservation.
Huntingdon’s Best Kept Pub Competition

The Falcon

Wetherspoons

The George Courtyard

The King of the Belgium's

The Barley Mow
Huntingdon’s Themed Floral Displays

2016 saw the introduction of 3D floral displays in Huntingdon and last year, we were thrilled to be awarded the Best Local Authority Display for our efforts. Over the past two years, the displays have been in the form of; a Royal Crown to mark HM The Queen’s 90th Birthday; a Lancaster Bomber Plane to mark 75 years of the Lancaster; a Deck Chair scene to mark 75 years of BBC Radio 4’s Desert Island Discs and a Shipwreck Display for Shakespeare’s ‘Pericles’. This year, there are several displays, a sneak peek of which can be seen below! All of these displays have been created using recycled materials, even down to old plastic flowerpots and abandoned pallets!
SECTION B: Environmental Responsibility

Introduction

Huntingdon is fortunate in having large areas of open space where biodiversity can flourish. Conservation areas in Huntingdon are extremely important to the town and arrangements are in place to ensure these spaces are well maintained and protected. A number of these areas are:

- Hinchingbrooke Country Park
- Spring Common
- The Great Ouse Riverside Meadows – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Bloomfield Park
- Coneygear Park
- Churches and Cemeteries
- Stukeley Meadows
- Castle Hills

(Photo of a National Citizenship Service Litter Pick in Bloomfield Park, Autumn 2017)

B1 CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY

Huntingdon is lucky to have many outdoor spaces rich with biodiversity. There are a number of preserved areas such as Riverside Meadows and Hinchingbrooke Park, both of which have teams to ensure they are well maintained. Hinchingbrooke Park is probably the space that is most well-known for its biodiversity, due to the number of activity and educational days held there all year round. These days are arranged for local schools and also for members of the public wanting to learn more about their local environment. Evening activities at the Park include countryside walks and bat trails, and for those interested in our nectar rich friends, the Huntingdonshire Beekeeping Association (HBKA) keeps 12 hives at the Park’s Apiary. Huntingdon In Bloom has worked with HBKA during their educational days to inform local school children about how important bees are for the local environment and more recently, awarded a grant to enable a wheelchair/pushchair accessible ramp into the viewing gallery.
Huntingdon In Bloom has strong links with local schools in Huntingdon. Hartford Junior School (pictured to the left) participated in a ‘Horticultural Apprentice’ Day this year, the children learnt about grounds maintenance, planted spring bulbs for 2020 and even named our tractor ‘Christine’. Hartford Junior School also participated in our ‘Moon Rocks’ project and painted rocks to be displayed along with our Apollo Launch Display.

Many businesses and organisations in Huntingdon also partake in the annual national ‘Keep Britain Tidy’ event, which this year, took place on from 22nd March – 23rd April 2019. Promotional bin liners were also provided to all town centre businesses via the Huntingdon BID to carry out a town wide litter pick.

Huntingdonshire District Council was a key partner in the Keep Britain Tidy litter pick, with key outcomes listed below:

- Over 2 tonnes of rubbish was collected across Huntingdonshire
- Social Media was hit with positive messages of support and good will from the community to those who helped
- As a result of the campaign, there are a number of residents in different areas of the town who have formed litter picking groups to continue the fight against litter and clean up their local patch.

**B2 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Efforts are high in Huntingdon to make the most of resources and to reduce waste. A number of Huntingdon Schools have either been awarded the Green Flag award or are working towards achieving it. Many schools also have Eco Committees, who work across the school grounds, growing produce and taking on small gardening projects.

Huntingdon is also lucky to have lots of community groups in the town who actively engage in making our town the best place it can be. The ‘Train to Achieve and Gain’ group (TAG) take in old or abandoned bicycles and repair them where possible, and for irreparable bikes, they use creative flare to recycle them into desirable features! This year Huntingdon in Bloom donated soil to their sensory garden project. New raised planters made from recycled materials were installed in the garden of Huntingdon Community Centre.

This year, volunteers from TAG also planted spring bulbs in Bloomfield Park, ready for Spring 2020 (pictured to the right).
Through the Neighbourhood Greens funding, each of Huntingdon’s 250 allotment plots now houses a free water butt and compost bin; this is to encourage sustainability across the sites. The Big Lottery funded waterless toilets at the allotment sites provide a free facility for all plot holders, providing additional compost through waste material. During certain times of the year, Huntingdon Town Council also provides tree chippings to the allotment sites for improvements to pathways and local schools have benefitted from donations of logs following scheduled tree felling in the town.

Hartford Junior School has also worked in partnership with the Woodland Trust and received 780 saplings. Huntingdon in Bloom provided equipment and advice when planting the new trees. This tree planting event involved the whole school.

With over 30,000 plants grown and planted by Huntingdon Town Council each year, there’s a lot of watering to be done. To save on resources, water is taken from the River Ouse to keep the Town’s floral displays to the highest possible standard.

Huntingdon Town Council has also made use of recyclable materials in its floral displays this year, which will be featured on the judges’ tour.
B3 LOCAL HERITAGE

Huntingdon is fortunate to have a number of Listed Buildings, memorials and plaques which are centrally located to enable the residents to enjoy and feel the character of this historic town which was granted a Royal Charter in 1205. The Huntingdon Town trail gives visitors a walking tour of 41 significant sites around the town whilst specific trails are available relating to Oliver Cromwell and the part Huntingdon played in the Great War.

The renowned Architect Robert Hutchinson had a significant influence on the Town and designed the Priory Road Grade II Cemetery chapels, mortuary, adjacent lodge and provided the layout of the cemetery. He was also involved in the rebuilding of the Cromwell Museum in 1877 and construction of the Archdeaconry Library and Hall. Robert Hutchinson died in 1894 and is buried in the Priory Road cemetery he had created.

Oliver Cromwell was born in the town and like Samuel Pepys, attended school at the now Cromwell Museum. The future of the Cromwell Museum was at one point in jeopardy but is now owned by Huntingdon Town Council. The museum runs under the management of a Trust, with the building managed by a Curator and team of volunteers. The Huntingdonshire History Festival returned in 2019 for the month of July, with a huge variety of events and activities.

With Huntingdon being home to so much history, a bid is currently being prepared to the Heritage Lottery Fund, to introduce a 3-5-year heritage programme. This will provide an educational platform for residents and visitors to find out more about the history of Huntingdon and surrounding areas.

2019 projects to enhance and restore Huntingdon’s heritage include:

- The renovation of Cromwell Museum, which is due to take place in Autumn 2019
- Huntingdon & District Sea Cadets Freedom Parade on Sunday 22nd September 2019
- Huntingdonshire History Festival – which ran from June – July 2019
- Works to St Mary’s Church, restoring the tower and floor
- Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade
Huntingdon Town Council’s Estates Services Team maintains the churchyard gardens and grounds at; St Marys, All Saints, the closed churchyards at St Johns, in addition to the cemeteries around the town. Planting schemes within these areas are renewed throughout the year.

The Market Square surrounded by Georgian and Listed Buildings has recently been enhanced by the re-opening of the 16th Century Falcon Inn, which reputedly held the headquarters of Oliver Cromwell during the Civil War. The Grade II* Town Hall dominates south side of the Market Square with the “Thinking Soldier” War Memorial sculpted by Kathleen Scott, the widow of Scott of the Antarctic. It was paid for by the Women’s Institute and was unveiled in 1923 by the Earl of Sandwich.

**B4 LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**
Huntingdon prides itself on looking after its environment as a community. There are a number of stakeholders’ key to ensuring that the Town is safe, clean and welcoming. These include:

- **BID Huntingdon Town Rangers** – responsible for removing fly posting, ad-hoc Town Centre litter picks and reporting of any graffiti or vandalism
- **Huntingdonshire District Council** – Bin collections, road and path sweeping, anti-chewing gum posters, grass cutting, car park maintenance
- **Huntingdon Town Council** – litter picks, floral displays and baskets, graffiti removal, vandalism repairs, dog foul bins, and following the bad weather earlier on this year, grit bins.

The Town Council team gritted the town centre, bus station and entrances to community buildings during the snowy weather back in February, ensuring businesses could run as usual and residents could still utilise services in the town.

**B5 PRIDE OF PLACE**
We are lucky to have a town full of such wonderful parks and open spaces, but without clean and safe furniture, clear and welcoming signage and effective upkeep of these areas, Huntingdon wouldn’t be what it is today. Huntingdon Town Council works tirelessly to ensure that street furniture is regularly cleaned and refurbished when necessary as well as making improvements to the landscape where possible.

Huntingdon In Bloom secured funding of £12,000 from a local residential housing developer to make improvements at Bloomfield Park, one of Huntingdon’s most used open spaces. A number of additional picnic tables, bins and raised flower beds were installed, as well as five new ladybird themed benches in memory of Freeman of the Town and Ladybird Boat member, Ted Bocking.
In 2019, in conjunction with Huntingdonshire District Council we held a flag raising ceremony for the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. Huntingdonshire District Council also held a short service to celebrate Armed Forces Day.

Additionally, the Huntingdon Rotary Club have commissioned a bespoke Rotary bench and interpretation board, which will be installed in St John’s Closed Churchyard.

Signage is very prominent in Huntingdon with noticeboards installed around the town, at the four allotment sites in Huntingdon and at many of the Parks and Play areas. To mark different events, anniversaries and visits throughout the year, flags are flown around the Market Square in Huntingdon to raise awareness across the community of events taking place.

The Thinking Soldier War Memorial in the Centre of the Market Square standsprominently, often with personal tributes laid and wreaths from memorial ceremonies.

Huntingdon is proud to mark a number of important dates throughout the year, including: Commonwealth Day, Armed Forces Day, the Battle of Passchendaele, Sea Sunday, The Battle of Britain, Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day.
SPRING BULB PLANTING AND TREE PLANTING

From top to bottom:

- Hartford Junior School planting donated trees from the Woodland Trust
- Students from Hartford Junior School planting spring bulbs
- Volunteers from Huntingdon Community Centre planting bulbs in Bloomfield Park (TAG)
SECTION C: Community Participation

C1 DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUITY

Huntingdon In Bloom has partnered with many local groups of volunteers, schools and organisations to help bring the community together in working to make their town a nicer place to be. All projects have been planned and implemented to ensure sustainability and improvement to the areas worked on. Some of the ongoing projects undertaken as part of the In Bloom initiative have been:

- Partnership with Cromwell House Care Home to spend £5,000 on improvements in the residents’ garden (cheque presentation pictured behind)
- Ongoing support to Hunters Down Care Home in the residents’ gardens, with the Town Council’s Horticultural Apprentice giving regular gardening help
- An annual spring and summer planting day at Hunters Down Care Home
- The creation of raised growing beds at St John’s Primary School
- The partnership with The Princes Trust, offering a group of young people the opportunity to learn new horticultural skills
- Continued support to NHS Hinchingbrooke Hospital and the NHS Newtown Centre, offering financial and in-kind support in the Courtyard Gardens all year round

The results of these projects will be hugely beneficial to many people in the community. The ongoing improvements to Hunters Down Care Home’s residents’ garden will provide a calm and reflective space for residents and their relatives. The projects with all youth groups will provide an ongoing platform of learning about the environment and the importance of sustainability. The photograph to the left shows The Princes Trust group after completing one of their activities.

Coneygear Park has continued to benefit from ongoing improvements, with plans in place to introduce a community centre in Autumn 2019. In anticipation for the build, a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) has been installed at the park, which is being highly utilised. The much-loved Snack Shack has a series of summer events planned for the summer holiday season, offering lots of activities for young people. Last Autumn, the Snack Shack put on an event for young people to become Coneygear Park Rangers!

Many of the local schools have Eco Committees and Gardening Clubs, with the produce being used in the schools themselves and also for children to take home and enjoy. To help educate children as to where their food comes from Huntingdon Tesco Extra continues to offer ‘Farm to Fork’ tours, showing the younger community where their food comes from.
C2 COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION
Huntingdon In Bloom has worked with many groups to engage with different community sectors and to increase awareness about key issues in the town. Environmental issues such as littering and keeping the town clean have been raised with local schools and youth groups through the creation of posters and group litter picks. Biodiversity and life cycles have been topics covered through educational days at Hinchingbrooke Park as well as through Huntingdon Tesco Extra offering educational trips to the supermarket. A fantastic amount of press coverage has been achieved to tell the local community about the activities of Huntingdon In Bloom, which can all be found on pages 30 and 31. Coverage has been achieved in Huntingdon’s local paper, the Hunts Post, in BID Huntingdon’s LIVE magazine, in Huntingdon Town Council’s ‘Huntingdon’ magazine, on Twitter, Facebook and in noticeboards.

C3 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
Huntingdon In Bloom has engaged with many local groups with the hope of expanding relationships and links over the coming years. As with last year, the 2018 campaign has been lucky to have so many ages, abilities and dedicated volunteers to help make our town a vibrant, safe and welcoming place to live and work. Members of the community ranging from toddlers to those reaching the 100 milestone have taken part, all bringing value to the overall goal of the In Bloom initiative. From partnering with schools, care homes, disability groups, churches, retail outlets, public houses and residents, the In-Bloom team has encouraged participation from the whole community to strengthen the aim of making everyone aware about how important our environment is.

C4 YEAR-ROUND INVOLVEMENT
We hope that this portfolio and our tour of Huntingdon will be able to demonstrate the huge amount of work that members of our community have put in over the last few months. Our press cuttings demonstrate that many of the projects have been showcased to the wider community, sending out a message that Huntingdon cares about its surroundings and natural environment. There are already plans in place for the 2019 and even 2020 campaign, including:

- The introduction of a Christmas Tree Festival in conjunction with local churches
- The expansion of the Huntingdon In Bloom Business Network
- New themed floral displays
- The continued work at the Hinchingbrooke Hospital Courtyard Gardens

C5 FUNDING AND SUPPORT
The amount of support shown for the return of Huntingdon In Bloom has been overwhelming – not just from a funding aspect, but from the amount of time and dedication offered from voluntary members of the community. Huntingdon Town and District Councils have worked tirelessly to ensure that the town’s floral displays bring bursts of colour and scent; encouraging wildlife and biodiversity as much as possible.
Press Coverage

Through the use of social media and local press, Huntingdon In Bloom continues to engage with all community groups and stakeholders to encourage as much support and participation as possible.
Hartford Junior School
12 March

Tree planting in the rain
A massive thank you to Huntingdon Town Council Grounds Maintenance Team, Mr. King, and Mrs. Daly, with your help, staff and pupils managed to plant 780 saplings this afternoon.

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Hartford Junior School
4 June

Our Land Management Apprentices attended the grand opening of Huntingdon In Bloom today.
The moon rocks look fantastic around the lunar module that has landed near the bus station.

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In Bloom team hoping historic theme will help them scoop top awards

Several historic landmarksmen are being celebrated by Streetscape in Bloom over the 2023 season.

The competition, open to all, aims to encourage the community to bring their streets to life with historic-themed displays.

Each display will be judged on its creativity, presentation, and historical accuracy. The winning entry will receive a cash prize and recognition as the best display of the season.

In Bloom is a community initiative that brings together local businesses, organizations, and residents to celebrate the unique history and culture of the town. It is organized by Streetscape.

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Funding and Sponsors

Huntingdon In Bloom would like to thank the following sponsors:

- Huntingdon Tesco Extra Community Space
- Cranbrook Plants
- Huntingdon Town Council – Grant Award
- Huntingdon Rotary Club – Floral Display Sponsorship
- Shakespeare at the George – Floral Display Sponsorship
- Huntingdon Grafham Water Lions – Floral Display Sponsorship
- The Workman Group – Floral Display Sponsorship
- Huntingdonshire District Council – Bloomfield Park s.106 Fund

The level of sponsorship has increased hugely since Huntingdon In Bloom reformed in 2015.

Huntingdon In Bloom would like to thank the following volunteers:

- Alyce Barber, formerly Huntingdon Tesco Extra Community Space
- Susan Mulcahy, formerly from Huntingdon Town Council
- Sarah Gifford from Huntingdon Town Council
- David King for his wonderful photographs, many of which are in this portfolio
- Simon and the rest of the Shakespeare at the George team
- Members of the Huntingdon Grafham Water Lions Club
- Pearl and residents from Hunters Down Care Home
- Marcia Paul from the NHS Newtown Centre
- Jacqui, Bernard and the rest of the Huntingdon Grafham Water Lions Club
- Gill Geach and the rest of the Huntingdon & Peterborough WI team
- Ann, Peter and the brilliant team of volunteers from the Hinchingbrooke Hospital Gardens
- Lisa Moule and the wonderful pupils from Thongsley School
- James Singleterry and the wonderful pupils from Stukeley Meadows Primary School
- Peter Levitt from the Hartford Open Gardens
- The brilliant Stukeley Meadows Brownies
- The equally brilliant Huntingdon & District Guides
- Esme Richardson at the Snack Shack
- Dennis Smith, Ted Cooper and Sarah Gifford for judging the Best Kept Front Garden competition
- Roger Wood from the Huntingdonshire Beekeepers’ Association
- Everyone in the amazing team at Hinchingbrooke Country Park and all of the wonderful volunteers
- Mark and Scott the allotment representatives at Primrose Lane Allotments
- And everyone else who helped to be a part of Huntingdon In Bloom 2019 – you have all been instrumental in the success of your projects!

Huntingdon In Bloom continues to plan in advance, with a number of projects in the planning stages for 2019 and 2020. Some of these include:

- Further themed floral displays
- Additional Fields of Hope
- Hartford Junior School Eco Club
- Cromwell House Care Home Roof Terrace
- Hunters Down Horticultural Apprentice Support
- Hinchingbrooke Hospital Courtyard Gardens Apprentice Support
- St John’s Primary School Growing Area Installation
- Spring Common School Gardening Project
- St John’s Churchyard bench and interpretation board installation
- Cromwell Museum Planting
- Flagpole installation at the Sebastopol Cannon Site