

HUNTINGDON IN BLOOM



PORTFOLIO 2022

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Front Cover Image – Huntingdon In Bloom Launch – 29th June 2022

Huntingdon In Bloom's Theme for 2022 is Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This is depicted in the 3D floral display at the Bus Station and in the town centre hanging basket and troughs. A number of the projects we will showcase on our judging day will demonstrate our town's rich history and civic pride.

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Welcome to Huntingdon in Bloom 2022



Huntingdon In Bloom's 2021 3D Floral Display to celebrate 80 years of the National Fire Service

2022 is Huntingdon In Bloom's 8th year since it reformed in 2015. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the group was thrilled to enter the RHS National Community Awards in 2021, receiving the overall Outstanding Award for Green Solutions. The following awards were also received:

Nourishing Your Community – Highly Commended
Cultivating Your Community – Achievement Award

The local community remains at the core of Huntingdon In Bloom's efforts, playing a huge part in all aspects of each year's campaign. Many existing partnerships have been strengthened in recent months due to everyone coming together in supporting different sectors of the community recover from the impact of Covid-19. Locally and nationally, outdoor and horticultural activities have played a more vital role in people's mental wellbeing than ever before.

We are delighted to be welcoming judges back to Huntingdon this year to see the huge amount of work that has been undertaken since the last visit in 2019! Our biggest achievement since our last visit has been our recent application and successful award for the RHS Community Garden for England, being created at Coneygear Park, which we are looking forward to showing you. The garden itself can't be judged as part of the RHS award, but a huge amount of work has gone into bringing the idea for a community garden to life with lots of different groups, which we can't wait to tell you about.

As always, the success of Huntingdon's In Bloom campaign has heavily relied on the generosity and time of volunteers and groups across the community. It has been amazing to see how much the town 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. In line with tradition, the town proudly displays two 3D floral displays this year, one to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and the other in support of local charity, Shakespeare at the George for their 2022 production of Romeo and Juliet. Both displays 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 last 12 months have included:

- Winning the national RHS competition for a £50,000 Community Garden at Coneygear Park
- Securing funding of £25,000 to install new town centre street furniture and planting
- Securing funding of £25,000 to install parklets in the town centre
- Installing a Covid 19 Memorial Bench in All Saints' Churchyard
- The installation of the Natter Box and raised planters at The Coneygear Centre in partnership with Groundwork East and The Green Team
- The partnership with Shakespeare at the George to create a 3D 'Romeo and Juliet floral display
- The Best Kept Competitions – Front Garden and Allotments
- Further improvements to the Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Courtyard Gardens
- Support to Huntingdon Community Centre for their Community Garden and growing area
- The running of the town's second Eco Fair
- The move of the Town Council's Estates Services Team to a new Depot and Glasshouse facility
- The installation of Cromwellian themed planters at The Cromwell Museum
- Tree planting across the town for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee as part of the Green Canopy



Coneygear Seniors and Volunteers Weeding at the Natter Box

Huntingdon In Bloom Route 2022

Wednesday 20th July 2022 – 9.30am until 1.15pm

(Including extra time for presentation and 2 x youth groups)

1. Hinchingsbrooke Country Park: Welcome, Presentation (15 minutes) and Park Tour

Arrive: 9.30am

Leave: 10.15am

SPECIAL AWARD – BEST CONSERVATION OR BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

DRIVE (Hinchingsbrooke Park Road)

2. Hinchingsbrooke Hospital: Meet with Hospital Garden Volunteers in Education Garden

Arrive: 10.20am

Leave: 10.50am

SPECIAL AWARD – BEST FLORAL DISPLAY BY A COMMUNITY

MIKE AMES AWARD – ANN COLBERT

DRIVE (Hinchingsbrooke Park Road, George Street)

3. Sebastopol Cannon Site Display: View Shakespeare at the George's Romeo and Juliet 3D Floral Display

Arrive: 10.50am

Leave: 10.55am

DRIVE (George Street, Ring Road)

4. St John's Closed Churchyard: Meet Rotary Club and Stukeley Meadows Primary School (TBC – extra 15 minutes) to talk about bulb planting and sponsored furniture/signage

Arrive: 11.00am

Leave: 11.15am

DRIVE (George Street, Ring Road, Ambury Road)

5. Huntingdon Community Centre: Meet the Gardening Team to look at growing areas and sensory garden

Arrive: 11.20am

Leave: 11.50am

SPECIAL AWARD – BEST GARDEN FOR ADDITIONAL NEEDS

DRIVE (Avenue Road, Cowper Road, Ring Road, Princes Street)

6. Bus Station Green: Meet the Town Council's Estates Services Team to look at the Platinum Jubilee 3D Floral Display

Arrive: 11.55am

Leave: 12.05pm

SPECIAL AWARD – BEST LOCAL AUTHORITY DISPLAY

WALK (Princes Street, Malthouse Close, Literary Walk, High Street)

7. Literary Walk, Newtowns Court, The Market Square, All Saints' Church and The Cromwell Museum: Tour of the Market Square, All Saints' Church and Cromwell Museum planting displays via the new art installations along Literary Walk and Newtowns Court

Arrive: 12.10pm

Leave: 12.30pm

SPECIAL AWARD – BEST COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL AREA

DRIVE (George Street, Ring Road, Hartford Road, Sapley Road, Coneygear Road)

8. Coneygear Park: Tour of Huntingdon's RHS Community Growing Garden (Garden not to be judged as part of this year's entry), meeting with community groups and Thongsley Fields Primary School Children (extra 15 minutes)

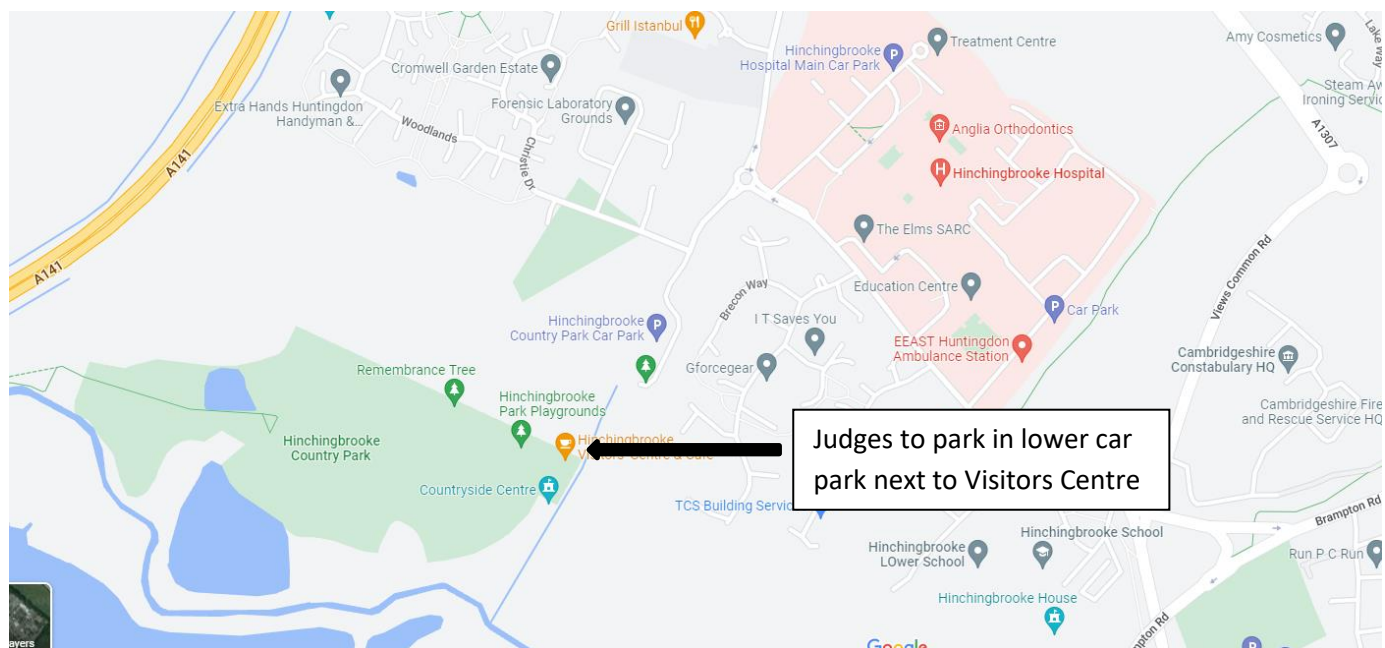
Arrive: 12.35pm

Lunch: 1.15pm

SPECIAL AWARD – BEST COMMUNITY PROJECT

SPECIAL AWARD – BEST PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

**DRIVE JUDGES BACK TO PREFERRED LOCATION AFTER LUNCH
(HINCHINGBROOKE COUNTRY PARK IF VEHICLES LEFT THERE FROM START OF TOUR)**



Map of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park – Judging Day Meeting Point



Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting at Coneygear Park

Huntingdon In Bloom Committee

The Huntingdon In Bloom Committee has recently returned to face to face meetings following the pandemic. These meetings focus on projects, planting plans and engaging with the local community. The committee consists of 8 members with over 50 associate members.

List of Committee Members

- Natasha Pierson – Huntingdon Town Council
- Philip Peacock – Huntingdon Town Council
- Peter Haynes – Head Groundsman, Huntingdon Town Council
- Town Councillors Sarah Gifford and Karl Webb
- David King – Community Member
- Chris Jordan – Community Member
- Shilpa Desai Sakaldip – The Coneygear Centre Manager
- Paul Sweeney – BID Huntingdon
- Joss Warman – Tesco Community Champion

List of Associate Members

- Andrew Buddle - HTC
- Chris Cowles – HTC
- Donna Dear – HTC
- Rob Bradshaw – HTC
- Jamie Sellwood – HTC
- Jamie Young – HTC
- Musa Kesmen - HTC
- Thomas Parris - HTC
- Mags Clark – BID Huntingdon
- Rosemary Styles – Hinchingbrooke Hospital Gardens
- Dave and Liz Hart – Hinchingbrooke Hospital Gardens
- Ann Colbert – Retired Hinchingbrooke Hospital Gardens
- Jo Travers – Hinchingbrooke Hospital Volunteer Manager

- James Faulkner – Huntingdon Community Centre
- Toni Scrivener – Huntingdon Community Centre
- Helen Lack – Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC)
- Ellie McCreanor - HDC
- Judith Arnold – Countryside Manager HDC
- Matt Hall – Senior Ranger at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park
- Moira Munro – Hunts Beekeepers
- Jon Randall – Reverend All Saints Church and St Mary's Church
- Tim Brooks – All Saints' Church
- Simon Maylor – Shakespeare at the George
- Alison Findlay – RHS Senior Community Outreach Advisor
- Ken Challenger – Rotary Club of Huntingdon Cromwell
- Mike Baker – Rotary Club of Huntingdon Cromwell
- Angie Linton – Fusion Huntingdon Youth Centre
- Tracey Halliday – Huntingdon Community Action Projects
- Jo Harvey – Moody Mondays
- Patrick Kadewere – Oxmoor Community Fridge

- James Singleterry – Stukeley Meadows Primary School
- David Jones – Thongsley Fields Primary School
- 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
- 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 Launch Event – 29th June 2022



This year's Huntingdon In Bloom launch event saw the unveiling of our 3D floral displays around the town. The event welcomed many different 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 vast majority of each display 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 has been to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, represented in the designs and floral displays in and around the town.

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 taken on additional flower beds across Huntingdon, contracted by Cambridgeshire County Council. Funding has also been secured from Huntingdonshire District Council and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority to install a number of new town centre planters, with matching Cromwellian themed street furniture to brighten the Market Square area and Chequers Court Shopping Centre.

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.



A2: HORTICULTURAL PRACTICE

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. Since our last in person judging back in 2019, Huntingdon Town Council has invested in a new Depot and Glasshouse facility, which is located adjacent to our new state of the art and environmentally focussed Crematorium. The Glasshouses have a much greater capacity than the former set up, and all the waste heat from the Crematorium is recycled and used to heat the new facility.

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. This figure is set to increase with the additional bedding displays and planters, with the extra space at the new glasshouses.

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' competition. The allotment sites in Huntingdon continue to be popular with plot holders entering the annual 'Best Kept Allotment' competition. The awards for these competitions are presented at the Allotment Holders' Forum in August each year and the full Town Council meeting in September. This year, the entries were judged by the town's former Parks Manager, the Mayor of Huntingdon and the Town Council's Amenities Officer.



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.

Our local care homes are very active with their outdoor activities and Huntingdon In Bloom works closely with them to provide support, whether that be to send volunteers in for community planting days, or to provide flowers and/or bulbs for seasonal planting. Back in October, the Mayor of Huntingdon attended Hunters Down Care Home for a bulb planting morning in time for the Marie Curie Field of Hope day each April.



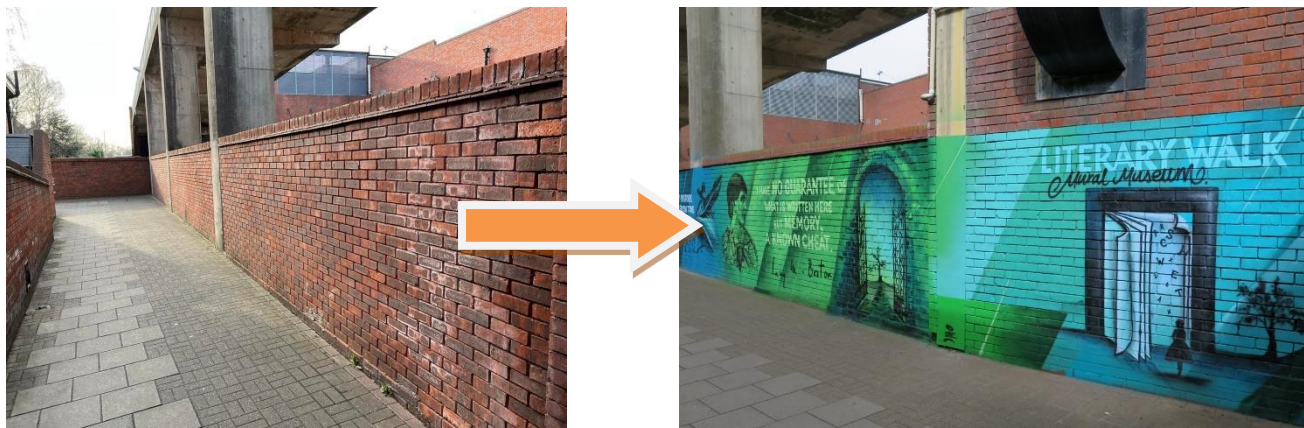
Huntingdon is lucky to host a large number of public buildings, many of which have

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 recently built Coneygear Centre (2020).



A4 BUSINESS AND PREMISES

Local businesses and organisations have also been keen to be a part of the In-Bloom campaign. A recently set up campaign by the town's BID has seen a series of improvements to formerly neglected areas of the town in need of a revamp. BID partnered with a series of stakeholders in the town, including the Cromwell Museum to come up with a 'Mural Museum' along Literary Walk – very apt for the name! This project forms one of many for the 'Discover Huntingdon' campaign.



The Market Square has had a recent makeover through the securing of external funding. Bespoke designed street furniture, including benches, bins and planters have been installed. Similarly, along the frontage of Chequers Court shopping centre, a series of promenade planters have been funded and installed to provide additional colour along the walkway.



Another area that has benefitted hugely from a bit of attention has been the area to the back of St Benedicts Court, which had become very overgrown and unsightly. Huntingdon In Bloom approached the building landlord and an agreement was made for initial clearance and then ongoing planting and maintenance of the two flower bed areas.



St Benedict's Court Before and After

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 Hinchingsbrooke 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 Hinchingsbrooke Park. Hinchingsbrooke 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.

Huntingdon's Themed Floral Displays

2016 saw the introduction of 3D floral displays in Huntingdon and they have been greatly anticipated and received by the local community and beyond ever since. We have had reports from visitors that they plan their trips to Huntingdon during the summer months specially to see what's on display! As a result of our efforts, we have been thrilled to be awarded the Best Local Authority Display for our efforts in past years.

The pictures below showcase some of our displays over the past two years that you won't have seen due to the pandemic.



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:

- Hinchingsbrooke 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)

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 Hinchingsbrooke Park, both of which have teams to ensure they are well maintained. Hinchingsbrooke 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.



Riverside Park Wildflowers



Hartford Junior School Horticultural Apprentices

Huntingdon In Bloom has strong links with local schools in Huntingdon. Hartford Junior School (pictured to the left) participated in a 'Horticultural Apprentice' Day to learn about grounds maintenance, planted spring bulbs for 2020 and even named our tractor 'Christine'.



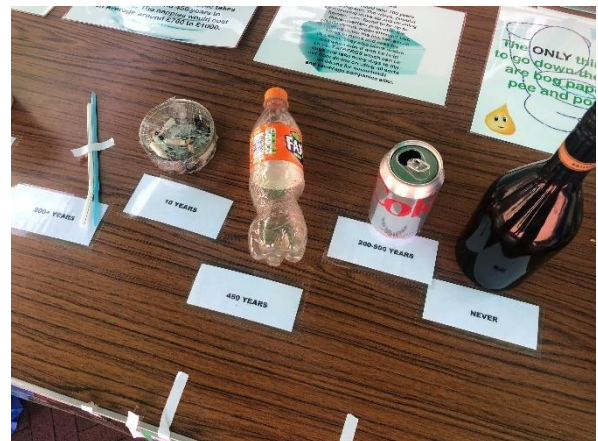
At the Town's recent Eco Fair, the Town Council's Estates Services Team was represented, demonstrating their electric vehicles and equipment, including an eco composter. The composter is used to make use of waste material from various sites across the town to create a rich compost for the town's displays.

Many businesses and organisations in Huntingdon also partake in the annual national 'Keep Britain Tidy' event. Promotional bin liners were provided to all town centre businesses via the Huntingdonshire District Council 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.

Pictured below is a community litter pick and the 'Rubbish Rebels' stall at last year's Eco Fair last year to teach people about how long items of litter take to degrade.



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. In 2021, Huntingdonshire District Council received the Green Flag Award for Hinchbrook Country Park.



The recent build of Huntingdon's Crematorium and new Estates Depot/Glasshouses have had resource management at the heart of the project. Every feature of the builds have taken into account the environmental impact, and how the buildings can be used to be as environmentally efficient as possible, ensuring no resources are lost. Waste heat from the cremators is used to heat the glasshouses, and rain water harvesting from the buildings means that the glasshouses can run almost self-sufficiently.

Another project of Huntingdon In Bloom that has had resource management at the forefront is the RHS Community Garden. The garden has been built using native, renewable materials and composting forms a key part of the garden. An additional community grant of £500 has recently been secured to install further composting facilities at the park using raw vegetable waste from the weekly Coneygear Senior's lunch sessions to go back into the growing beds that will be producing crops for the meals. IBC water tanks are being installed around the perimeter of the Coneygear Centre to avoid the use of mains water supply in the Community Garden as much as possible.

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 and plants to their sensory garden project, along with left over whips from the new Crematorium grounds. New raised planters made from recycled materials have been installed in the garden of Huntingdon Community Centre.



This year, volunteers from TAG also planted spring bulbs in Bloomfield Park, ready for Spring 2023.



Big Lottery funded waterless toilets at each of the four allotment sites

Through the Neighbourhood Greens funding, each of Huntingdon's 250 allotment plots 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. Compost from the Town Council's Eco Composter may also be provided to the allotment sites dependent on the volume generated.

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.



£12,000 of funding was secured to provide a water butt and compost bin per allotment plot

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 this year for the duration of July, with a huge variety of events and activities. The first of which saw a 2-day living history weekend at Castle Hills. New interpretation boards have recently been installed on the Market Square and outside the Museum to inform visitors of the town about the local heritage our town centre is so lucky to have.

2022 projects to enhance and restore Huntingdon's heritage include:

- The installation of Cromwellian themed street furniture in the town centre
- The installation of a 'Museum Mural' along Literary Walk, featuring quotes from figures linked to Huntingdon
- The installation of an artistic mural at the entrance to Newtowns Court depicting buildings and memorials of historical interest in the town
- The introduction of a Heritage Open Day in Priory Road Cemetery for visitors to research ancestors and details of the Commonwealth War Graves



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 several 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 grit bins. The Town Council team grits the town centre, bus station and entrances to community buildings during the snowy and icy weather, ensuring businesses can run as usual and residents can still utilise essential 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.

Each year, the town looks ahead to relevant anniversaries and events to mark, and last year, the introduction of marking National Police Memorial Day was added to the



town's events diary. A Church Service took place, followed by the laying of flowers at the Thinking Soldier War Memorial.



The flying of flags is very much a tradition in Huntingdon, with a calendar for appropriate occasions, both nationally and locally to be marked. In addition, the Town Hall, All Saints' Church and the Bandstand in Bloomfield Park all have colour changing lights to mark special occasions. Most recently, the Town Hall was illuminated green as requested by the local branch of St John Ambulance to mark St John's Day in June.

Additionally, the Huntingdon Rotary Club has commissioned a bespoke Rotary bench and interpretation board, which has been 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. An audit is currently being carried out of all town noticeboards to repair/replace and expand our noticeboard offering with a more uniformed look.

The Thinking Solider War Memorial in the Centre of the Market Square stands prominently, 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, Sea Sunday, The Battle of Britain, Trafalgar Day, Remembrance Sunday and Remembrance Day.



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:

- The RHS Community Growing Garden at Coneygear Park
- Ongoing support to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Courtyard Gardens
- Ongoing support to Huntingdon Community Centre
- Working with Thongsley Fields Primary School to facilitate their Forest School at Coneygear Park
- Sapling planting from the Woodland Trust with Thongsley School, GROW and Moody Mondays
- Support to Shakespeare at the George with their display for Romeo and Juliet
- Support to Hunters Down Care Home in their residents' garden areas



The results of these projects will be hugely beneficial to many people in the community. The pandemic faced our community with many challenges, in particular, loneliness and isolation, which in turn affected people's mental wellbeing. Continuing with projects when it was safe to do so provided people with a life line and something to look forward to. For some, gardening projects and sessions were the only social interaction people had. By adapting and maintaining our projects, not only did it benefit the people involved, but also those

visiting or using the spaces in question. The picture to the left shows some of the volunteers at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital who maintain the building's courtyard gardens. Ann Colbert, second in from the right retired from running the group back in June but will continue to volunteer on an ad hoc basis when she is able to. Ann established Huntingdon In Bloom over 25 years ago and has supported the campaign ever since.

Almost all of Huntingdon In Bloom's projects are long standing ones that build up over time. Whether it be support through the supply of tools and plants, small community grants or providing extra pairs of hands for tasks, we pride ourselves on building wonderful relationships with our groups which last.

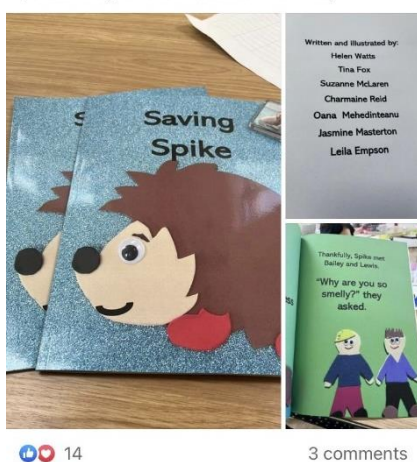


Many of the local schools have Eco Committees and Gardening Clubs, with the produce being used in the schools themselves and also for children to take home and enjoy. To help educate children as to where their food comes from Huntingdon Tesco Extra continues to offer 'Farm to Fork' tours, showing the younger community where their food comes from.



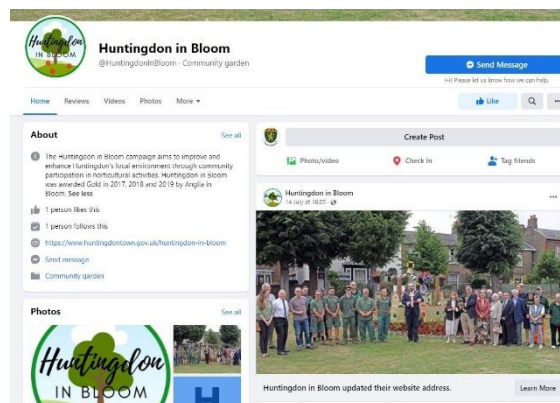
C2 COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

So we have written a children a book all about coneygear park and poor spike the hedgehog it's a rhyming book about how children can help keep our community spaces clean and safer ! If anyone would like a copy it's £4 all proceeds go back into the community



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, dog fouling and keeping the town clean have been raised with local schools and youth groups through the creation of posters and group litter picks. A group from the Coneygear Centre have created a story book about the importance of keeping the park clean. 500 copies of the book have been printed with all profits going towards enhancing the park and the events that take place.

Huntingdon In Bloom has been without a dedicated presence on social media until this year's campaign. Facebook and Instagram accounts have been set up and will launch with the 2022 judge's visit on the 20th July. These pages will allow our efforts



and communications to be more widely reached, and to a target audience who show an interest in our pages. The pages will communicate projects, news and events and will let people know when and where there are opportunities for community involvement. As well as an official In Bloom Facebook page, there are many other community pages that we can network with – residents' litter picking groups and eco pages etc.

Huntingdon Town Council has a quarterly publication called 'Huntingdon' magazine. 'Huntingdon' is delivered to every household in the town during March, June, September and December.



Huntingdon In Bloom updates feature in each issue, telling residents what has been happening and what is coming up. Press coverage is regularly 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. Huntingdon In Bloom has also made national news from winning the RHS Community Garden for England, being featured on BBC's The One Show!

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.

Each year, the number of groups we work with in the local community grows, which is a testament to our town and how proud and passionate people are of our local environment. When applying for the RHS Community Garden for England award, we worked with a huge number of groups in the local community to bring our idea of a community growing garden to life. These groups involved:

1. Huntingdon Town Council
2. Coneygear Seniors
3. Coneygear Community Café
4. Thongsley Fields Primary and Nursery School
5. The Oxmoor Community Fridge
6. Huntingdon Community Action Projects
7. Moody Mondays
8. Tepees of Hope
9. GROW
10. The Snack Shack
11. Fusion
12. Huntingdonshire Community Group
13. Unity in the Community
14. Huntingdon Mosque
15. St John's Little Learners
16. Oxmoor Friendship Club
17. Oxmoor Christian Fellowship
18. Bedazzle
19. Huntingdon U3A
20. Huntingdon Girls' Football Club
21. Wild Together
22. Rhyme Time
23. Family Fun Project
24. Hunts Blind Society
25. Centre 33
26. Huntingdon Allotments
27. Huntingdon Community Centre Gardening Group



28. Godmanchester Foodbank and Community Hampers
29. Diamond Hampers
30. Healthy You
31. Skeels Court Assisted Living
32. Medway Court Assisted Living
33. Coneygear Court Temporary Accommodation
34. The National Teaching & Advisory Service



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 two years. 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 2023 campaign, including:

- The refurbishment of street furniture at Castle Hills in conjunction with the Huntingdon Rotary Club
- The launch of Huntingdon In Bloom's Social Media Pages
- New themed 3D floral displays
- The continued work to the RHS Community Garden at Coneygear Park
- The creation of new bird and bat boxes with the local Scout group
- The installation of a recycling 'whale'



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. Particular funding highlights include:

- The winning of the £50,000 RHS Community Garden, with £5,000 annual maintenance support for 3 years. The award also includes the opportunity for a member of the local community to undertake the RHS Level 2 Qualification.
- £25,000 for the installation of new street furniture, including benches, tree seats, bins and interpretation boards
- £25,000 for the installation of town centre parklets, offering new spaces for residents to sit in the town centre, enjoying the incorporated floral displays (example parklet to the right)



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.

[The Hunts Post](#) > [News](#) > [Local Council](#)

Coneygear community come together to celebrate RHS garden day

Alexander Gilham



Published: 7:50 AM May 5, 2022



Members of the Royal Horticultural Society at the Coneygear Park community garden day. - Credit: Hunts Post

A Huntingdon community held celebrations to share the joy of gardening on Monday following the announcement of the new Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) Community Garden for England being created at Coneygear Park.

The event was kindly sponsored by the RHS and hosted at the park alongside the site for the new community garden on May 2.



Huntingdon Town Council

Published by Hayley Burns · 5 April ·

And it's official, we've won! Huntingdon in Bloom was the winning entry for England, with the chosen location for the Community Garden being Coneygear Park. A huge thank you to everyone involved - we've demonstrated what a fantastic community we are and how the garden will support so many groups/people of all ages. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in our application being chosen as the winner and keep an eye out for updates as the project becomes a reality. We'll be calling on the community to help with planting days too!



10,285

People reached

1,254

Engagements

—

Distribution score

Boost post

85

12 comments 32 shares



Huntingdon First

28 June at 09:01 ·

Great to see people appreciating our #MuralMuseum in #Huntingdon



Debbie Davies



Published: 8:00 AM June 30, 2022 Updated: 2:05 PM June 30, 2022



The Shakespeare at The George display in Huntingdon. - Credit: HUNTS POST

The official launch of this year's Huntingdon in Bloom took place on June 29.

The launch event saw the unveiling of the town's 3D floral displays at Walks East and the Sebastopol Cannon site. Groups from the local community joined the Mayor of Huntingdon, Councillor David Landon Cole, to mark the occasion.

RHS Garden Day first new RHS Community Garden announced

A community in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, will receive a new garden created by leading garden designer Arit Anderson as part of a new RHS Community Grant Scheme to create four new gardens, one in each of the Nations.

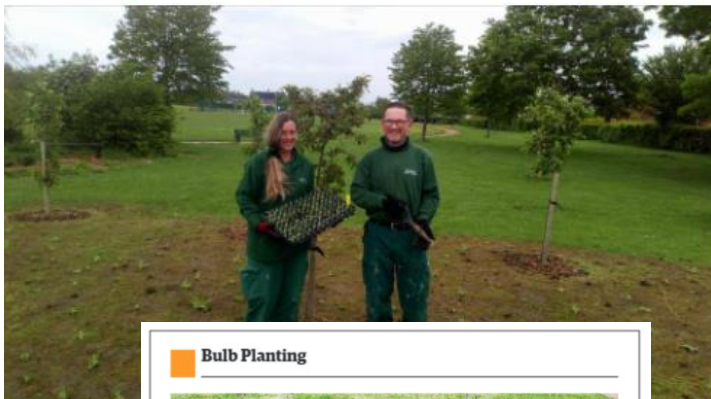
by Rachael Forsyth



The Coneygear Centre & Coneygear Park

Published by Hayley Burns · Yesterday at 11:29 · 

The amazing Estates Team have had a busy morning at Coneygear Park today. They have already planted the area around the orchard with ten different wild flower varieties - over 1000 in total! They are also planning to plant bulbs in the autumn in the same area. Watch this space 😊



Bulb Planting



Mayor of Huntingdon Cllr Karl Webb helps a Hunters Down resident plant a bulb for National Reflection Day
Picture: HUNTERS DOWN

Mayor of Huntingdon, Cllr Karl Webb, has been helping residents of a care home prepare for National Reflection Day next spring by planting bulbs.

The day of reflection, organised by the Marie Curie charity which assists people who are terminally ill, supported those who were bereaved during the pandemic and wanted to do something to on the lives of the people who were lost.

Cllr Webb helped plant bulbs at the Hunters Down home where the grounds will come up in a

sea of yellow in time for the event on March 23, 2022.

Hunters Down appealed for bulbs to be donated which its residents and supporters could plant to mark the day.

Cllr Webb told the residents that his wife was the gardener and he would need help from them to do the job properly.

One resident offered advice saying she used to plant bulbs at home every year and others reminisced about their gardening experiences, saying they looked forward to seeing the bulbs come up.

Town's first Eco Fair showcasing ways to cut plastic a 'huge success'

Huntingdon has held its first eco fair to showcase a number of ways people can reduce plastic waste.

ALEXANDRA COLLETT
alexandra.collett@archant.co.uk

Nationally, this month represents Plastic Free July, which made the introduction of the Eco Fair topical.

The fair was organised by Huntingdon Town Council and took place on Saturday (July 17) on the town's Market Square.

Visitors to the event were able to learn about the impact and importance of waste minimisation and correct disposal, food share schemes, household item recycling, and enjoy locally sustainably made giftware.

The town council stand provided details on its current green initiatives, including the Refill Scheme, electric vehicles and equipment programme, Huntingdon's state of the art electric crematorium, the Eco

Audit and other projects managed by the environment sub committee.

Huntingdon mayor, Cllr Karl Webb, attended the event, and he said: "Huntingdon Town Council's first Eco Fair on Saturday was a real success."

"With the uncertainty of Covid restrictions, we did not get as many stallholders on the Market Square as we would have liked, but there was real interest from residents and visitors in learning about the changes we can all make to reduce the impact on the environment."

"Thank you to all our stall holders for bringing their products or sharing their experiences and advice on a variety of environmental issues."

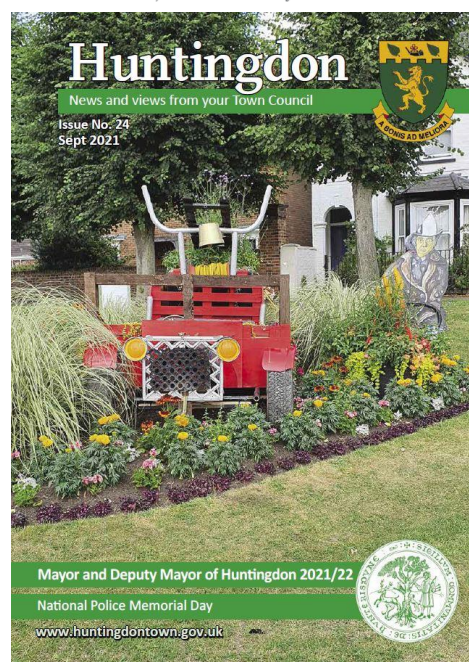
"My thanks go to our town councillors and staff for supporting the day, by either setting up the stalls or discussing how our habits can damage our future if we do not act now."

"A special thank you to Hayley Burns who has organised this event with the support of Natasha Pierson and the town council's environment committee. I know there are plans and ideas already being discussed for the next event, well done everyone."

Plastic Free July is described as a global movement that empowers people to be part of the solution to plastic pollution.

People are challenged to reduce their reliance on single-use plastics by eliminating one or more single-use items from their daily lives.

Martin Cooper the owner of the The Refill Shop of Ikigai is also encouraging people to take part in this year's Plastic Free July.



Funding and Sponsors

Huntingdon In Bloom would like to thank the following sponsors:

- Cranbrook Plants and River Lane Nursery
- 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
- BID Huntingdon – Floral Display Sponsorship
- Huntingdonshire District Council – Street Furniture Funding
- The RHS – Community Garden Sponsorship

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

Huntingdon in Bloom would like to thank the following volunteers:

- Peter, Andrew, Chris, Donna, Tom, Jamie S, Jamie Y and Musa from Huntingdon Town Council's Estates Team for making the town look stunning all year round
- Karl Webb from Huntingdon Town Council for his support to the In Bloom Committee and for taking lots of wonderful photographs throughout the year, many of which are in this portfolio!
- Sarah Gifford from Huntingdon Town Council for her support to the In Bloom Committee and many hours of voluntary litter picking with the 'Rubbish Rebels'
- David King for his support to the In Bloom Committee and many wonderful photographs, many of which are in this portfolio
- Chris Jordan for his support to the In Bloom Committee, Eco Huntingdon, Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Gardens and the many other community groups you are involved with
- 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, Rosemary, Joy, Dave, Liz and the brilliant team of volunteers from the Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Gardens
- David Jones 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 and David Cole, May of Huntingdon for judging the Best Kept Front Garden competition
- Matthew, Head Ranger at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park and the team of fantastic volunteers

- The Huntingdonshire Beekeepers' Association
- James at Huntingdon Community Centre and the incredible gardening team who work so hard to make the centre's outside space a real sanctuary
- Shilpa and Sally from the Coneygear Centre and the fantastic volunteers, without whom, most of the weekly clubs wouldn't be able to run
- Mark and Scott the allotment representatives at Primrose Lane Allotments
- And everyone else who helped to be a part of Huntingdon In Bloom 2022 – you have all been instrumental in the success of your projects!

