



ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS IN BLOOM

[royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk](http://royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk)

# South and South East in Bloom Portfolio 2012



# Foreword and Welcome to Judges

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Last year we celebrated the successes of Dunorlan Park achieving a Gold Award and joint winner of the best park and the town achieving a Silver Gilt.

Our campaign continues to be based upon the pillars of the RHS national guidelines and now has been extended to stimulate economic activity. We continue to build upon the work completed by our ever increasing army of volunteers.

The Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom campaign is organised by a committee of volunteers with professional support from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the Kent High Weald Partnership. We benefit from high levels of sponsorship and support from other voluntary organisations and the business community. Notwithstanding this prolonged period of austerity our campaign has gained increased support both in terms of financial and voluntary support, proving that our community values the work we do to improve our environment in a sustainable and inclusive way.

We welcomed our Judges from last year, Ken and Linda, and their practical and solutions based comments and have used these to focus and improve our efforts. We have continued previous year's actions and enlarged our campaign with some of our key successes and improvements:

- *We have landscaped our first major roundabout with sustainable planting and have 2 further that we will complete this autumn.*
- *We have increased our sponsorship both financial and "in kind" contributions*
- *We have delivered more and a wider range of community projects*
- *We have adapted our plantings and taken other innovative measures to reduce our water consumption*
- *We have increased our representation in the community with new partners including Town and Country Housing and Pepenbury*
- *We have encouraged and supported Oakley School to enter S&SE in Bloom schools*
- *We have introduced new categories into our gardens competition and joined forces with the local housing gardens campaign.*
- *Our Schools competition has involved more schools and its focus is the building of a bug hotel both educational and beneficial to the environment.*
- *We have installed 7 Bloom promotional shop window fronts in empty premises*

**Ronen Basu**

*Chair: Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom*

# Section A: Horticultural Achievement

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In the past 12 months we have worked with local community groups to increase our range of floral delights paying particular attention to drought tolerance and sustainable planting whilst not losing impact and variety. We have reduced the number of baskets and increased the troughs and 3 tier units and planters to also reflect these environmental needs.



Daffodils and structural planting at AXA



more sustainable barrier troughs



Orchids at Barnetts Wood

Judges will note on their tour the extensive use of permanent edges and dots within many displays. This increases the horticultural interest with different forms and textures and provides a better framework for displays when they are not in flower in the winter months. Finally it has reduced our water use.

We appreciate that Judges cannot see the town all through the seasons, so here are some pictures of our beautiful town out of the judging season:



Calverley Grounds formal gardens in the spring



New planting combining permanent edges and structure



Snowdrops donated by residents and planted by the Friends Group at Dunorlan



New permanent planting at the cemetery gates completed and maintained by a Bloom Volunteer



3 tier planters baskets and troughs



Spring colour in our parks and open spaces



new sustainable landscaping



Spring colour and textures at one of our residential gardens

We look at all year round interest in our competition

In the past year we have improved many areas of permanent planting rejuvenating the beds and mulching them, also planting understoreys of bulbs and herbaceous plants to add to the season and range of interest. Examples include:

- Planting 10,000 snowdrops (Community Project)
- Several large shrub beds at Calverley Grounds and Dunorlan Park (Sponsored)
- The Sainsbury Roundabout (Sponsored)
- The SANDS Garden (Sponsored and community)
- Shopping areas (Community and Sponsored)
- Transition Library beds (Community and Sponsored)

We have supported local businesses to have corporate volunteer days to tidy and improve their premises including pruning and rejuvenating shrubberies.



New cherry trees at the common, lovely in the Autumn too



Town centre spring planting

We organised a town wide Tunbridge Wells in Bloom Competition to celebrate our residents gardens and floral features, here are some of our lovely gardens:



Gardens off route or in the Spring



The competition involved a business category, here are some examples





Good screening at North Farm Industrial Estate



Pubs joined in too

# Section B: The Environment

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## SUSTAINABILITY

As a community we have achieved an overall recycling rate of 46.68%, we recycle: 21,498.91 tonnes of material. Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom supports the campaign to recycle and has promotional material on its web site. We also consider recycling within the judging of our gardens campaign. Within the new category of allotments this will be a significant element of the scores.

### Kerbside:

Compostable	11,651.02
Paper and Cardboard	5830.45
Plastic bottles and cans	930.67
WEEE	16.94

### Third Party charity collections:

Furniture	27.84
Clothes	4.56

### Bring sites:

Glass	2286.51
Cans	40.69
Paper	355.1
Cardboard	248.01
Textiles (including shoes)	95.7
Books	6.84

Tonnes of residual waste sent to waste to energy plant/landfill	24,554.82
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**The vast majority of residual waste is utilised to create energy in a state of the art waste to energy plant.**

**Only items that cannot be burned are sent to landfill**



1 of 37 Appropriately screened community recycling facilities

## Community Campaigns

Working with the Tunbridge Wells in Bloom and within the Council's Love Where We Live campaign we:

Offer local community groups such as church groups, guide and scout groups, the use of equipment, High visibility jackets, sharps containers, first aid equipment, litter pickers and black sacks to hold clear ups in their area. TWBC deliver the equipment prior to the clearance and collect the rubbish after the clear up.

Sherwood lakes (A brand new accessible open space) has had a number of community spring clean campaigns undertaken this year.

## Local fetes and events

The Council provides litter bins for local fetes and events such as The Mela, to facilitate the disposal of waste at these events. The bins are dropped off prior to the day and then collected along with the rubbish afterwards.

## Education

A volunteer "Bloom" Campaigner has carried out recycling evenings at local brownie units, this gave the children a chance to find out what can be recycled, discussions on how to use the recycling sites sensibly and how to reduce what is thrown away in the first place. Other campaigns have involved members of the Bloom Committee going into schools to talk to children about keeping the environment clean

## Abandoned Vehicles

Members of the public can report to the Council vehicles which they believe to be abandoned, checks are made and notices posted on the vehicles, if no contact is received regarding the vehicle within 7 days the vehicles are removed.

## Operation Cubit

Periodically, a multi-agency operation targeting untaxed vehicles which are removed from the roadside. Owners have a period to claim the vehicle and repay all costs involved or the vehicles are crushed. This campaign reduces the number of abandoned cars.

## Graffiti

Graffiti is removed from public areas by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's contractor, Cory Environmental, where graffiti is obscene or offensive it is removed urgently. Businesses are encouraged to remove graffiti from their properties and graffiti kits can be lent out to assist with the removal.

## Fly Tipping

Fly tipping is removed as soon as it is reported or, pro-actively, if seen by either a Bloom Campaigner or staff at the Council. Where there is evidence amongst the rubbish and the culprits identified, the offenders are taken to court and fined.

## Littering

Fixed penalty notices are issued by the Council's Street Scene Enforcement Officers if members of the public are seen dropping litter or cigarette butts, a campaign was carried out in the main shopping area offering gum and cigarette pouches to the public to help prevent the dropping of litter earlier this year.

## Dog Fouling

The Council's Streetscene Enforcement Officers carry out patrols both on street and in the parks to encourage dog owners to clear up after their animals. Fixed penalties can be issued if dog faeces is not cleared by the owner.

## Our Recycling Campaign

Designed to increase participation and recycling rates a campaign has commenced with new promotional literature a launch event on 23rd June. School presentations and a competition to design refuse vehicle promotional signs is being supported by Bloom Volunteers and sponsorship of £500 for the prize from Cory Environmental for the winning school has been raised. Consideration for the Bloom logo to be included on the signs is being considered.

## Carbon management and minimising consumables

### Water usage

Judges are requested to refer to the details contained within our application for the S&SE in Bloom Drought Award.

### Other

The town has many fine examples of sustainable buildings and carbon management schemes. A modern purpose built hospital on the edge of the town includes:

- *A green Roof*
- *A Sustainable urban drainage scheme*
- *Solar panels and*
- *The use of grey water*

The building is designed expressly to minimise energy usage with state of the art insulation, under floor heating and energy efficient equipment.

- *The biomass boiler utilises locally sourced woodchip and provides 10% of the entire energy for the hospital, a massive 3,000,000 KW. It is 15% cheaper than gas and saves 14% of the carbon emissions*

The Council is setting the example by making significant steps to reduce its energy use to save money and cut its emissions of carbon dioxide and is on target to reduce its carbon emissions by 25% over the next 5 years.

### Initiatives have included:

- *The installation of voltage optimisers in the Town Hall and Assembly Hall*
- *Fitting more efficient lighting and controls during replacement in the planned maintenance programme*
- *Reduction in gas consumption at the Crematorium through changes in work practice*
- *Working with Cory Environmental to rationalise the street cleansing routes to improve performance and reduce our carbon footprint by 10%*

The Bloom Campaign raises awareness of the need to reduce carbon emissions and the use of consumables by working closely with its partners and acting as a further pressure group to engage the communities and business to think globally and act locally.

Local examples of good practice in the community encouraged by our campaign include recycling and composting and our local competition awards marks for sustainable gardening practices.

## Our parks and open spaces

TWBC have continued the programme of environmental audits in the last few months to compliment our actions to manage our sites in a sustainable way. These actions include:

- *Green waste composting*
- *The use of 2 electric buggies*
- *Equipment and vehicles running on bio fuel*
- *Mulching programmes with locally produced materials*
- *Floral displays with water reservoirs and the use of water retentive granules*
- *Mixing permanent plants in our bedding schemes*
- *Reducing the use of consumables and CO2 emissions*
- *Use of peat free compost*

## Heritage and Landscape

We have made significant improvements to a range of hard landscaping features in the town, including:

- *Morrisons shop front area*
- *Sainsburys roundabout*

- *Creation of a Memorial Garden*
- *Improvements to the Sands Memorial Garden*
- *Significant gapping up and rejuvenation of beds in parks and open spaces*

Acknowledging the unique heritage of the town, we have:

- *Instigated a street furniture review*
- *Instigated a street furniture painting program*
- *Created themed displays reflecting the Olympic and Jubilee year*
- *Submitted a heritage lottery bid for Grosvenor and Hilbert Park (Historic Marnock Park)*

## ■ Conservation

We are blessed with several high value conservation areas within the town most of these sites are managed by charitable organisations and our key partners.

All of these sites are managed in accordance with best practice to conserve the environment but allow appropriate levels of access and educational and other activity.

Many of our community projects are at our conservation sites and engage the community to raise awareness and educate them on environmental issues. Several skill sets are transferred at these events, such as hedge laying, recording and monitoring, habitat creation etc.

## Kent High Weald Partnership sites

One of our key partners, they manage a number of sites in the town. Below is a selection of these. The not for profit organisation's main aim is to facilitate and enable countryside management in Tunbridge Wells Borough, working in the High Weald AONB and adjacent Low Weald. Their mission statement is:

"To link the local community and the countryside by raising awareness and encouraging action" To facilitate the fundamental reconnection of the community with the dynamics and life of the local countryside and rural economy, thereby ensuring the future of our precious natural resources and rural heritage, encapsulated within the High Weald AONB and surrounds.

This will be achieved by improving understanding, raising awareness and empowering ordinary people to make changes and take action.

Through nature conservation advice, site management planning and practical works, in conjunction with volunteer groups, schools and partners, KHWP works with local communities and landowners to care for and improve the local environment.

## Barnetts Wood LNR

Barnett's Wood LNR – first site to be designated an LNR by TWBC in 1998:

- *Ancient woodland, meadows, species-rich hedgerows, and ponds*
- *Managed by the KHWP and the Friends of Barnett's Wood*
- *Important site for threatened birds (skylark, song thrush), and amphibians*
- *New education pond is a focal point of activity, new 'pond pack' for schools*

## Hilbert Woods LNR

Hilbert Woods LNR – urban reserve within Grosvenor and Hilbert Park

- *Coppiced woodland, open grassland dotted with wildflowers*
- *Contains a circular walk along streamside woodland, bluebell coppiced areas, and medieval wood banks*
- *Recent projects: sowing wildflower meadow and planting a new woodland*



Coppicing at Hilbert Woods LNR with volunteers

# Section C Community Involvement

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## The 2012 Launch

We launched this year's campaign again in March 2012 at Calverley Grounds. This was led by our Chairman Councillor Ronen Basu supported by our Mayor. The following organisations were involved in our launch

- *Cory environmental*
- *Sodexo Land Technology*
- *The Friends of Calverley Grounds*
- *Several schools, particularly Oakley School*

We planted 10,000 snowdrops in the green and had promotional stands

## Schools' involvement

Our campaign has engaged with every one of the schools in the town and we had a schools competition with 17 entries (Total numbers to be confirmed at closing date). The object and theme this year was to construct a bug hotel and use it to raise awareness and educate children about their environment.. Many of our projects have been at schools or involved school children.



Children planting snowdrops at our launch



Nettle pulling at Oakley School involving them and another school



Showfields School Allotment garden the children helped construct, plant and maintain it

We will be judging the schools in late summer and will be inviting all those who participated to our Awards Evening.. Combining the awards ceremony has meant that the children are more widely recognised.



The Schools will be awarded bulbs to plant in their grounds

# Tunbridge Wells Common Conservators

This site is managed by a charitable trust set up to manage the common to conserve its natural heritage.

Right next to the town centre and extending in to the countryside, the 256 acres of Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons provide an important and most unusual refuge for wildlife within the urban area. Unlike most public open spaces, they have never been landscaped or cultivated.

The Commons today consist of a mosaic of habitats, in which surviving areas of heath and grassland, along with the open sandy areas around the major rock formations, coexist with tracts of secondary woodland. Further diversity is provided by a series of semi-natural ponds. Current management aims to preserve this diversity, and a reasonable balance of the different elements, by containing the spread of woodland and expanding the open areas.

Several winter volunteer work parties are organised by volunteers, the Friends of the Commons and have taken place almost every first Saturday morning of the month.

In 2012 we have established new meadow areas in several of our parks and open spaces. Initially these are set aside areas. Next year we will assess the biodiversity and consider plug planting to further improve the wild flora. This approach has also been taken for many of the verges around the common and is publicised to the public. The campaign to introduce these areas was led by RTW in Bloom.

The Schools competition organised by RTW in Bloom is to create a bug hotel and utilise this to raise awareness and educate children about their environment.

Many of our community campaigns are environmentally rather than horticulturally focussed.

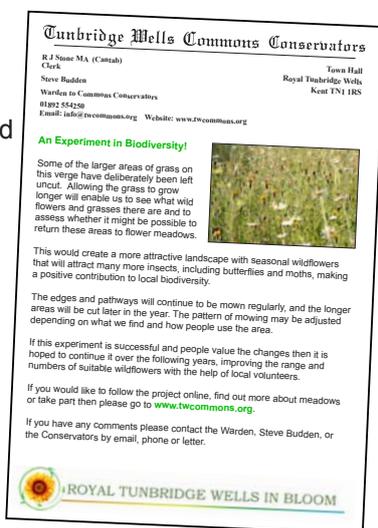
## Heritage and Pride of Place

The purchase and development of Sherwood Lakes as a new Community park has commenced through community spring cleans and financial commitments in place. This historic site will be preserved and enhanced for current and future generations.

Funding of over £360,000 has been secured to refurbish Grosvenor and Hilbert Park (An historic Marnock landscape). A Heritage Lottery Fund bid has been prepared to match fund this and enable complete restoration and increase community participation and engagement. This if



The mosaic of habitats provides a haven for wildlife



successful would provide more than £1.2million of funding. A new Friends group has been set up and organises community projects and events. RTW in Bloom supports their efforts as a partner and has made available funding raised from sponsorship. The work will include:

- Dredging and repairs to the lake and dripping wells
- General infrastructure repairs including paths, edging, steps etc.
- Interpretation boards and signage
- Bio diversity and habitat improvements
- Restoration of archaeological features
- Landscaping
- Entrance refurbishment and access improvements
- New park furniture
- Lighting improvements
- Play area improvements
- Wetland viewing area and boardwalk
- New bridge over stream
- Covered space by the side of the cafe and minor works to the pavilion
- The employment of a Parks Ranger over a 5 year period
- An events and volunteer activities programme

The town's environment has been recently improved with new hard landscaping schemes including a community paved area, softened by trees opposite the station, a new memorial garden at the cemetery and extensions to the cycle path.

A review of our street furniture has commenced. This includes a painting programme (delayed due to the weather) and rationalisation of street "clutter" and design.

We have also instigated a programme of promotional shop fronts installed in vacant shops. These will promote the Bloom Campaign and improve the environment. Some have been funded by sponsorship.

## Our Town Competition and Awards Ceremonies

We are now into our third season of organising the local "Bloom" competition, so judging and results are all pending. We continue to be sponsored by Salamons whom host the Awards ceremony in September.

We have combined our forces with the local Housing Association Town and Country in organising our gardens competition. This will increase our entries and the promotion of the Bloom Campaign.

We have created a new category for allotments this year. The judging team will once again be volunteers. We utilised a simplified version of the RHS Britain in Bloom criteria. Judges will see on route some of these gardens and Oakley Special school, special by name and by the efforts everyone there makes.



2 entrants in the community gardens section, planted and maintained exclusively by volunteers

## Community gardening

We work with community groups who have in some cases like at the Library bed and the planters in the precinct and the Pantiles taken over areas to design, plant and maintain them as part of our campaign



We are currently working with a ladies hostel to develop a garden area that will be publically accessible and with a community group in Showfields to develop a community allotment. The BBC have expressed an interest in the latter project for their planned community gardening series in the Autumn.

## Achieving our aims through our partners

Later in the portfolio a list of our partners and sponsors is given, below is an example of how we work with community groups. This year we have raised funds to enable us to further support our joint projects. We offer funding of up to £500 for the materials required for a "Bloom" Project" This has very significantly increased the community gardening efforts of our campaign resulting in more than doubling our community projects and those involved, with the corresponding awareness and engagement in our aims and objectives.

## Pepenbury Food for Thought

Our newest formal partner is Pepenbury who run a Food for Thought campaign. Members of the "Bloom" Committee are engaged in developing the links between us given our shared objectives and we grow plants for them to sell to support their campaign.



Volunteers working at Pepenbury

The food for thought campaign involves school children, people with learning difficulties and volunteers to grow local fruit, herbs and vegetables.

The charitable group has raised funds to provide a large allotment style garden, poly tunnels, raised beds and a cafe. The produce grown on site is used in the cafe and sold. Other products include hanging baskets made by the volunteers and children.

The project is supported by RTW in Bloom and involves Sherwood Park School, Oakley Special School and Little Forest Children's centre, together with Kent High Weald Partnership.

## Specific Community Projects

We feel that our greatest achievement this year has been to vastly increase community gardening projects. From a base of less than 20 last year we have more than doubled this. This has been achieved by taking an innovative approach of raising funds particularly via sponsorship and using these to engage and support our partners to organise Bloom Community Projects on our behalf. Often we fund the materials or support in other ways to achieve common aims and to promote our campaign. We have recently purchased promotional jackets to increase awareness of both ourselves and how we work with our partners. Kent High Weald Partnership has delivered in partnership with RTW in Bloom and TWBC in 46 community gardening projects across 11 sites in the town. Delivering a total of 5743 hours of service on environmental projects ranging from hedge laying to habitat creation.

We have continued to support and work in partnership with the Friends of Parks network (now 6 in total an increase of 2 in the last year) and have welcomed our new partners Town and Country Housing and Pepenbury where we are also delivering community projects.

Here are a sample of some of our projects:

## Caley Road Community Garden

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Creation of a garden in an urban setting (High Brooms area) for a tenant of Town and Country Housing

### Groups Involved

- *KHWP volunteers*
- *Millbank (asylum seeking minors)*

### Outcomes

Overgrown front gardens re-landscaped to demonstrate what can be achieved in a small area and the difference it makes to the local environment

No of Volunteers	33 (over 2 days)
Hours completed	165 hrs (September 2011)



# Barnett's Wood Local Nature Reserve

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## Groups involved

- *Friends of Barnett's Wood*
- *KHWP volunteers*
- *Millbank (asylum seeking minors)*
- *General public (events)*

## Description

- *Hedgerow management*
- *Coppicing*
- *Pond dipping and other nature based events for the public.*
- *Survival skills and crafts*

## Outcomes

Annual seasonal management operations completed to enhance the habitat and biodiversity of this Local Nature Reserve.

Summer activities for children hosted by KHWP in school holidays.

No of Volunteers	41 (Survival skills) 44 (Hedgerow management) 12 (Coppicing)
Hours completed	485 hrs



## Comments

From: ALISON HICKS <towser23@hotmail.com>

Date: 25 October 2011 14:14:44 GMT+01:00

To: <mattpitts74@gmail.com>

Subject: Thank you!

I just wanted to say thank you, we've spent a lovely morning in the woods this morning with Saul and Vikki making camps, making fires and eating sausages. The children (12, 11 and 9) all thoroughly enjoyed themselves, as well as learning valuable skills. We can't wait for the next one!

# Hilbert Woods Local Nature Reserve

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## Groups involved

- *KHWP volunteers*
- *Millbank*
- *General public*

## Description

- *Removing alien invasive species*
- *Coppicing*
- *Scrub clearance*
- *Thinning*
- *National Play day*
- *Board walk construction*

## Outcomes

Maintaining this Local Nature Reserve according to a management plan, thereby increasing biodiversity.

Activities hosted by KHWP in school holidays (National Play Day).

Adding a new section of boardwalk over damp pathways to aid public access

No of Volunteers	38 (Coppicing) 16(Scrub clearance) 500 (National Play day) 16 (Boardwalk and alien species)
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Hours completed	2,850 hrs
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# Sherwood Park Community Primary School

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## Groups and Partners

- *KHWP volunteers*
- *Pepenbury volunteers*
- *School staff*

## Description

Food 4 Thought project.

Constructing raised beds for an allotment, gardening and erecting a polytunnel

## Outcomes

Production of locally grown food for the benefit of school children, Little Forest Children's Centre and the wider community.

Educational resource for food production and practical gardening techniques.

No of Volunteers	24
Hours completed	120



Showfields School Allotment garden the children helped construct, plant and maintain it

# Pepenbury Charity

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## Groups and Partners

- *KHWP volunteers*
- *Blantyre House*
- *Pepenbury staff and residents*

## Description

Food 4 Thought Project.  
Community based fresh fruit and vegetable growing scheme, promoting healthy food and lifestyles

## Outcomes

Production of locally grown food for the benefit of school children, Little Forest Children's Centre and the wider community.

Educational resource for food production and practical gardening techniques.

No of Volunteers	13
Hours completed	65



# Oakley Secondary School

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## Groups and Partners

- *KHWP volunteers*
- *Oakley School volunteers.*
- *Skidders School pupils*

## Description

Food 4 Thought Project:

Installing a walk in protection tunnel for hardening off young plants prior to planting and erecting a fruit cage to give protection from birds.

## Outcomes

A netted tunnel and fruit cage has now been installed at Oakley to increase production of fruit and vegetables grown on site in the school grounds. Part of a hub of sites to promote healthy eating and gardening skills for children and people with learning difficulties.

No of Volunteers	31
Hours completed	155



# Dunorlan Park

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## Groups and Partners

- *KHWP volunteers*
- *Dunorlan Park volunteers*
- *Friends of Dunorlan Park*
- *Millbank*
- *AXA PPP Volunteers*
- *General public*
- *Hadlow College students*

## Description

- *Hedgelaying*
- *Pond Island restoration work*
- *Planting of pond marginal and aquatic plants*
- *Public events*

## Outcomes

Bat walks lead by Kent Bat Group and KHWP combined with moth study evenings.

Toad survey attended by 13 people to continue monitoring of this county important site for breeding toads.

Hedgelaying to restore mature hedges in the park.  
Coppicing the island in the top conservation pond to improve the habitat for birds and restoring the island banks to prevent further erosion.

Planting pond plants to improve the biodiversity in the pond and hence pond dipping activities.

No of Volunteers	229
Hours completed	905



## Comments

A few days later after Chris and his son had left the site, Ian of KHWP and the Dunorlan volunteers planted some deep aquatic and marginal plants to help improve oxygen levels and also enhance the margins. This will greatly benefit all pond life and we hope entice more dragon and Damselflies to use this for feeding and breeding in. It will also become a safe area for our wildfowl to breed and rear young and will be excellent for visiting school parties who wish to go pond dipping and watch the wildfowl and their young. There is still some coppice and clearing work to be completed on the island and the shoring up of the island banks to stop erosion, this work will involve KHWP and Hadlow college students.

We must again give a big thank you to Ian and KHWP, Hadlow college students and the volunteers for their continual support in helping us to develop areas of this fantastic park.

# Reynolds Lane Local Wildlife Site

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## Groups and Partners

- *General public*

## Description

Minibeast hunt.

## Outcomes

Involving the public in surveying the grassland for insects/  
invertebrates

No of Volunteers 15

Hours completed 30



# Sherwood Lake

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## Groups and Partners

- *Local residents*
- *KHWP volunteers*
- *Horizon project*
- *Town and Country Housing Group*
- *Cory Environmental*
- *TWBC*

## Description

- *Litter picking*
- *Path widening and Rhododendron clearance.*
- *Small mammal survey*
- *Wildlife walk event*
- *Forest Skills events*

## Outcomes

Clearing years worth of litter from around the lake of this former Victorian estate. The first stages of restoring this important site to improve the habitat for biodiversity

No of Volunteers	120
Hours completed	400



## Comments

From: Sarah Barnes [mailto:sbarnes@sherwood-park.kent.sch.uk]

Sent: 30 May 2012 07:59

To: Fajerman, Saul - CC CS

Subject: RE: Forest schools at Sherwood lake

Hi Saul, My class have already created letters and pictures these should be ready to send off before end of the week. Can I have an address to send them to? They loved every second of it.

I will talk to my year 5/6 colleagues this morning and see if they are interested in any sessions. I imagine they will bite my hand off!

Thanks

Sarah

# Showfields

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## Groups and Partners

- *Local residents*
- *KHWP volunteers*
- *Town and Country Housing Group*
- *KCC employees*
- *Millbank*

## Description

- *Urban Greenspace Wildlife Makeover*

## Outcomes

Creating 6 gardens for residents on the TCHG Showfields estate to improve the appearance of some areas and help residents who have had difficulty in tending to their gardens.

No of Volunteers	88
Hours completed	440



# Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons

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## Groups and Partners

- *Friends of Tunbridge Wells*
- *Rusthall Commons Group*
- *Commons Conservators*
- *Kent Wildlife Trust*

## Description

Working parties undertaking a variety of tasks from weed control to habitat creation and clearance



## Outcomes

Averaging 15/16 volunteers on each occasion, work parties have undertaken a variety of conservation tasks on almost every Saturday right through the Autumn and Winter

No of Volunteers	15/16 on each occasion
Hours completed	4/500 hours

# Woodbury Park Cemetery

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## Groups and Partners

- *Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery*
- *Soroptomists*
- *Civic Society*
- *Family History Society*
- *U3A*
- *Guides*
- *Schools*

## Description

Working parties undertaking a variety of tasks from weed control to habitat creation and clearance. Growing plants and having plant sales and other activities to support their efforts

Educational walks and activities with environmental emphasis.

## Outcomes

New habitat creation particularly wild flower meadows, clearance work, plant sales and a variety of other tasks mainly via Saturday work parties

No of Volunteers	Average 12 per week right through the year
Hours completed	Approx. 2500 per annum



# Friends of Dunorlan and the Volunteer Clubs

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## Groups and Partners

- *Grounds Maintenance contractor (Sponsored)*
- *Oakley School*
- *Community Payback Team*

## Description

Working parties undertaking a variety of tasks from planting, hedge laying to habitat creation and clearance. Educational walks and activities with environmental emphasis.

## Outcomes

New habitat creation particularly clearance work, litter picks, painting horticultural maintenance. Fencing, pruning, coppicing etc.

Volunteers gain a wide variety of skills sets

No of Volunteers            Variable across the season and projects but overall in excess of 30 volunteers

Hours completed            Overall Approx. 1000 per annum





# ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS IN BLOOM

## TUNBRIDGE WELLS IN BLOOM INCOME SUMMARY

To June 2012 (past 12 months)

### CASH INCOME:

TWBC Grant	£10,000
Olympic grant	£7,000
Sponsorship	£4,500
<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDING</b>	<b>£21,500</b>

### BENEFITS IN KIND

Sponsorship of Awards Ceremony, and organisational assistance	£2,800
Sponsorship of community projects	£2,300
Work undertaken free of charge	£4,900
<b>TOTAL BENEFITS IN KIND</b>	<b>£10,000</b>

### VALUE OF VOLUNTEER WORK

Direct	£2,750
Via partner organisations (where we have supported them)	£23,000
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF VOLUNTEER WORK</b>	<b>£25,750</b>

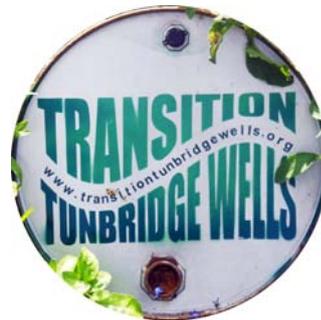
**TOTAL INCOME/VALUE OF CAMPAIGN** **£57,250**

\*Benefits in kind and value of volunteers estimated in accordance with nationally recognised rates for volunteers or value of the work undertaken free of charge by our sponsors. Represents a 3 to 1 ratio of cash to value of what we do.



# ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS IN BLOOM

Our key partners



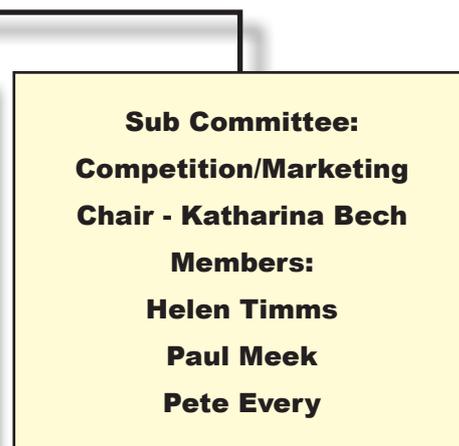
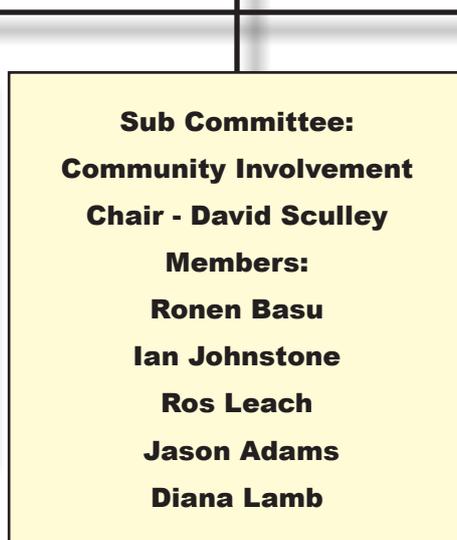
Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery



We welcome Town & Country Housing and Peperbury as our newest partners

# TUNBRIDGE WELLS IN BLOOM – ORGANISATION CHART

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# Appendix A

## Bloom Timeline and samples of publicity.

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Below is a summary of our on-going and some specific activities. Please note this is not a comprehensive list but illustrates that the Bloom Campaign is active throughout the year.

Further information is available on our web site [royaltunbridgewellinbloom.org.uk](http://royaltunbridgewellinbloom.org.uk)

### JULY 2011

- 2 x Committee Meetings
- South and South East in Bloom Judging
- Range of community projects being delivered
- Press releases for the Judging day

### AUGUST 2011

- Annual Review Committee Meeting
- Judging of the Town and School's competition by volunteers
- Range of Community Gardening Projects being delivered

### SEPTEMBER 2011

- Committee Meeting
- Town and Schools Competition Awards at Salamons
- Press release announcing winners and Awards Ceremony
- Range of Community Projects being delivered

### OCTOBER 2011

- Hedge laying and pruning activities
- Regular weekend clubs at the Common and Woodbury Park Cemetery

### NOVEMBER 2011

- Regular weekend clubs at the Common and Woodbury Park Cemetery

### DECEMBER 2011

- Regular weekend clubs at the Common and Woodbury Park Cemetery

### JANUARY 2012

- Regular weekend clubs at the Common and Woodbury Park Cemetery
- New partner Town and Country Housing joins us

### FEBRUARY 2012

- Regular weekend clubs at the Common and Woodbury Park Cemetery
- Committee Meeting

### MARCH 2012

- Spring cleaning activities and a range of other community gardening projects
- Bloom Launch at Calverley Grounds 10,000 snowdrops planted "in the green"

- Press release from Bloom Launch
- Launch of the town and Schools competition Press release
- Committee Meeting

### APRIL 2012

- Spring cleaning activities and a range of other community gardening projects
- Committee Meeting
- ITV coverage and web player

### MAY 2012

- Wider range of community gardening projects for the summer commences
- New partner Pepenbury officially joins us
- Committee Meeting

### JUNE 2012

- Wide range of Community Gardening Projects continues
- Floral displays erected
- 2 x Committee meetings
- Roundabout planting
- Judging of Oakley School in South and South East in Bloom
- Recycling campaign launch in the town centre

We already have a further 8 Community Gardening Projects planned with volunteer commitments made and a programme taking us into Autumn and winter with activities such as Hedge Laying, clearance work and pruning and litter picking and habitat box making

## Sample press releases

Many of our individual Community Gardening Projects attract a press release that has not been listed above. Below are some examples of press releases. We also communicate our message via:

- Vacant Shop Window displays
- Competition entry forms at supermarkets, DIY shops and all public buildings
- Posters
- Messages in the Council publications and gardening advice
- Our Launch and Awards Ceremony
- Our web site and twitter
- Gardening advice in the Kent Messenger
- ITV Meridian, small slot on TV and more on their web player

# Appendix A Samples of publicity.

## Blooming Tunbridge Wells goes for gold

The Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom Campaign for 2012 has started in earnest and the team in this prestigious Olympic year are GOING FOR GOLD.

The Campaign aims to:

- Improve the town environment and raise awareness about green issues
- Bring the community together to undertake a range of projects and enter the gardening competition
- Improve the profile and reputation of the town



Whilst the campaign is named 'In Bloom' it is much more than flowers – recycling and green issues together with standards of cleanliness are vitally important

Last year the town entered the Regional 'In Bloom' competition and were awarded coveted RHS medals, Gold for Dunorlan and a Silver Gilt for the town. Campaigners aim to build on this result for 2012.

Groups, businesses and individuals can be involved through:

Entering the gardens competition that has seven categories where the judging follows the RHS medals criteria. Why not join us and go for your own gold?

There are many sponsorship opportunities for all businesses that want to support the environment and local community. All levels of contributions will be very welcome and will attract marketing benefits.

To date, large contributions have been secured from TWBC, Cory Environmental and Sodexo Land Technology, but we need more.

A wide range of projects for all abilities and interests will be organised via the 'In Bloom' campaign and our partners. These include Kent High Weald Partnership and the network of Friends Groups. From planting, hedge laying, the making bird boxes and baskets, to spring cleans and learn new skills.

Schools have their own competition and we encourage everyone to enter with a special award for the best newcomer and many links to the teaching curriculum.

For more information visit our website [www.royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk](http://www.royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk) or contact Paul Meek on 01892 554031.



Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom judging day (KMB/20111)

## Judgment day for Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom

Jenna Pudelek, Chief reporter Tuesday, July 19, 2011 5:20 PM

Competition rewards floral successes as well as environmental credentials. Judges from the regional Britain in Bloom awards have visited west Kent to assess Tunbridge Wells' efforts.

Members of the local bloom committee hoped they were able to wow with the bright floral displays, which have revitalised the town centre.

The judges, Linda Jones and Ken Fairview, from South East in Bloom were given a tour of the town and told how the committee has engaged the community and businesses in the competition.

Katharina Mahler-Bech, a member of the Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom committee, said: "During Friday's judging day in full sunshine and under a blue sky the town was looking its best; all those involved hope that we convinced the judges that residents and businesses together with the council have created a glorious floral display in the streets and parks of Royal Tunbridge Wells."

The bloom campaign was brought back to Tunbridge Wells in 2010 after an eight year hiatus. The aim was to revitalise the town centre and involve communities and schools around the town.

As part of the competition, the judges look for horticultural achievement, community engagement and environmental sustainability.

The Tunbridge Wells committee has secured funding from the borough and county council as well as sponsorship from local businesses to fund their activities.

So far, they have more than doubled the floral displays in the town centre using more sustainable containers and volunteers to plant and sponsor the high-profile planters.

At this year's launch in June, which was supported by the town's MP Greg Clark, eight community groups unveiled plants in the town centre sponsoring them for £50. These included the Picking Cancer Drop-in Centre, the Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society, Tunbridge Wells Headway and the Rotary Club of the Pantiles, which sponsored two tubs.

Last year, a gardening competition was held with 58 entrants as well as 17 schools. The judges visited the town last Friday (July 15).



Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom

## Dunorlan scoops gold at regional Bloom awards

Jenna Pudelek, chief reporter Thursday, September 15, 2011 2:16 PM

Judges praise Tunbridge Wells volunteers after town makes a successful return to the competition after eight-year break.

Bloom volunteers are celebrating after Dunorlan scooped a gold medal for best large park in the regional awards.

Royal Tunbridge Wells entered the 'large town' category in the South and South East in Bloom competition and achieved an overall High Silver Gilt and second place.

Judges, Linda Jones and Ken Fairview, visited in July and were clearly impressed by the community's commitment to improving the town visually and environmentally.

Katharina Mahler-Bech, a member of the Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom committee, said: "All in all we have had a fantastic result. All the long hours of many volunteers' hard paid dividends. I feel it is great to be a small part of something that makes a real difference in the town."

The judges said they were impressed by the Dunorlan Park Friends Group, the way the council had listened and responded to residents' needs and the heritage restoration at the town centre park, she said.

Mrs Mahler-Bech added: "At the awards ceremony (last Wednesday, September 7) the chair of first judges acknowledged the gap in our entry of some eight years and that to gain this level of accolade for the town centre floral time back in was no mean feat. "The judges comments include accolades for the town centre floral displays, the chair of judges stated that these were amongst the best he had seen in the country this year, let alone the region. Further high praise was given to Oakley Special School for being inspiring, Dunorlan Park, exceptional, and High Weald Partnership and the Common got a special mention too as did the Crematorium."

As part of the competition, the judges looked for horticultural achievement, community engagement and environmental sustainability.

The Tunbridge Wells committee secured funding from the borough and county council as well as sponsorship from local businesses to fund their activities.



Spring/Summer Newsletter 2012  
[www.friendsofthegrove.com](http://www.friendsofthegrove.com)



## Spring has sprung in The Grove

The bees are a buzzing, the grass is rising, I wonder them birdies is? [Probably sheltering from the rain]. An old maxim of unknown origin.

Yes, it has been wet, and play and picnicking in The Grove have been restricted somewhat by the endless rain we had. But there is a good side. After one of the driest winters on record worried tree wardens around the country are breathing a sigh of relief as this deluge is just what our trees need now. And, now that the sun has decided to grace us with its presence the full benefit of all this lovely wet and fresh water can now be enjoyed and more to the point – put into good use by the fresh foliage bursting forth. It's going to be a very leafy summer!

The weather has also been kind to the new trees just gone into the ground at The Grove. After a slight mix-up with where some trees were going to go TWBC and their parks contractor have done an excellent job putting in new cherries, a sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and some Persian ironwood (*Ehretia persica*) trees as well as some beeches and oaks. There's nothing like a good soaking to get new planted trees established. Add to that the planning that the FOG – more accurately: 'Children of the Grove' – put in last autumn [more dwarf bulbs], and the grubbing and turfing-over of those old shrubs around the play pen (*Symphoricarpos* now deemed to have poisonous berries – but has anyone ever been poisoned by one?). The Grove is looking pretty smart. The new turfing around the play pen – another FOG initiative! looks particularly splendid.

Work has also been carried out on some of the older trees in The Grove – most notably that huge old beech near the main path that has been heavily pollarded [the technical name for hacked-back]. It might look like butchery but this dear old tree is on its last legs [with some minor rot in the trunk and just old-age] and this rain we had. But there is a good side. After one of the driest winters on record worried tree wardens around the country are breathing a sigh of relief as this deluge is just what our trees need now. And, now that the sun has decided to grace us with its presence the full benefit of all this lovely wet and fresh water can now be enjoyed and more to the point – put into good use by the fresh foliage bursting forth. It's going to be a very leafy summer!

Following the clearing of those beds around the play area we have been left with one bare bed [the other larger being the one turfed-over] with which we can do more-overs what we like. And, as part of 'Tunbridge Wells in Bloom 2012' [royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk](http://royaltunbridgewellsinbloom.org.uk) the Friends of The Grove are inviting anyone who lives near or uses The Grove to come up with some ideas – favourite plants, favourite colours etc, and produce a planting plan [with our help] for this space bed. Also, if we can produce something practical and attractive, and put it down onto a simple planting plan, TWBC may give us a grant which would go into the cost of buying the plants. So, if you do have some favourites please do contact the Friends of The Grove either via our website [friendsofthegrove.com](http://friendsofthegrove.com) or by contacting me directly at [office@spencerhallgardens.co.uk](mailto:office@spencerhallgardens.co.uk)

Don't worry about drawing up planting schemes or choosing poisonous plants – we just need your ideas [and I can advise against the poisonous ones!].

Other works promised by the council for the future include re-working of some of the old perimeter shrubberies, the felling of those tall dark old conifers at the 'bottom' of The Grove [over the railway tunnel entrance] and replacement tree planting there too. *Dominic J. Hall*

## Message from the Chair

Dear Members and Supporters of The Grove, Spring sees The Grove burst into life and after the recent deluge of rain, very much needed of course, the trees are now bursting with life. The FOG bulb planting of last Autumn and the recent tree planting by TWBC has ensured The Grove continues to flourish. A very good thing as we look to retain our much coveted Green Flag award. The Green Flag Award Scheme recognises and rewards the best green spaces in the country and we are one of only 1200 sites across the UK. Judging for this takes place on the Grove, Friday June 1st between 10am and 1pm so keep an eye out if you are passing through. With The Jubilee fast approaching, as well as a host of street parties in the surrounding roads, FOG have been invited to a special lunch event on May 31st with The Earl and Countess of Wessex on the Pantiles. Wendy Allaway will be representing us – hope you've been practising your curtsy Wendy! *Sineen Vincent*

**WEBSITE** Our website, which can be found at [friendsofthegrove.com](http://friendsofthegrove.com) currently advertises upcoming events and ways to contact the committee. We are in the process of adding to the site with even more history of The Grove and wildlife tips for your garden. You'll soon be able to join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. If you have any suggestions for further content on the website, please do get in touch. *Chris Jefferys*

[www.friendsofthegrove.com](http://www.friendsofthegrove.com)

Download your FREE Kent News iPhone and iPad App

## Join community project to put splash of colour and civic pride back into town

By Chris Britcher

[chris.britcher@kentnews.co.uk](mailto:chris.britcher@kentnews.co.uk)

THE town is set to become more vibrant with bright blooms again as the annual tradition of planting and maintaining a flower bed in the town centre is revived.

Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom 2012 will see the revival of the tradition of planting and maintaining a flower bed in the town centre. The project is a joint venture between the Friends of The Grove and the Friends of The Grove.

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The 2012 organisers have travelled to see the Dunorlan Park Friends Group, the way the council had listened and responded to residents' needs and the heritage restoration at the town centre park, she said.

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