



Magnificent new gate for
Blackfriars Rose Garden

2022 PORTFOLIO

Patron's foreword

By Sylvia Richards, Patron of Hereford in Bloom

When my husband Clive died suddenly last year, it was a blow to many charities and organisations.

Not least Hereford in Bloom, with whom he had a long standing personal relationship, and to whom he had provided much support over many years. Clive had been very generous not only with money but business experience and advice.

When Hereford in Bloom asked me to follow in Clive's footsteps as Patron, I accepted the opportunity to be part of an inspirational team. HIB relies entirely on volunteers, who are dedicated to maintaining a high standard, even throughout the last two years of the pandemic. The floral displays not only enhance the City enormously, they improve the atmosphere and environs to everyone's advantage.

Hereford thoroughly deserved the Gold award last year, and we all look forward to this year's judging. I am sure the judges will enjoy touring the city centre and the individual projects spread around the city. We are always moving forward and aiming even higher.



Hereford in Bloom Committee

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Horticultural officer

Paul Hodges

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Introduction

from Kevin Knipe Chairperson of HIB

Nobody could have predicted the devastating effect the global pandemic has had on all walks of life. Gradually things are starting to return to what we are calling the “new norm”. During this time Hereford in Bloom has attempted to keep the flower beds and roundabouts in a tidy condition so that when restrictions were relaxed we could quickly return then to post pandemic levels. This has been successfully achieved with the help of a small loyal band of volunteers.

During 2021 and 2022 the emphasis of HIB’s activities have broadened. Cooperation between HIB and Hereford City Council and Herefordshire County Council has increased which has enabled us to get involved with community projects giving advice on new planting projects in the City, arranging litter picking days, assisting in the planting of trees and helping the Herefordshire County

Council to water and maintain 95 new planters which have been sited throughout the City.

Other ongoing projects such as the development of new flower beds outside Morrison’s Supermarket have been successfully maintained and as the plants developed, the area has been greatly improved. A new iron gate, manufactured and erected outside the entrance to Blackfriar’s Rose Garden has become a “go to” destination in Hereford.

Sadly, Peter Hill, one of our longest serving committee members passed away early this year. His advice and ready wit will be greatly missed.

Finally none of the above would be possible without our sponsors and the commitment of our committee and volunteers. Thanks to you all.

Kevin Knipe
HIB chairman



City Centre floral displays

What the judges will see...

Aylestone Park



For Queen Elizabeth's sixty years on the Throne Hereford Lions Club planted 60 trees along the Roman Road. To mark her 70th year now being celebrated Lions chose to donate two seats surrounded by three trees on Aylestone Park on the Northern edge of the city with the superb support of its volunteer park team who installed the seats and trees.

The plaque on each seat declares:

The seats and trees mark the Platinum Jubilee 70th Anniversary in 2022 of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The longest serving Monarch on the British Throne. Donated in her Honour By Hereford Lions Club.

The Park is highly popular and those sitting on the 'royal' seats get a stunning view of the Lugg valley. The park has a diversity of wildlife. It is also popular for Keep Fit and dog walking. The volunteers have planted lots of trees, including a 100 in an orchard of native Herefordshire varieties of fruit trees. Benches and picnic tables are plentiful. At the top of Aylestone Hill there is a telescope on the viewing point

from which it is possible to see as far as North to Clee Hill in Shropshire, as far East as Malvern and South to Ridge Hill Mast. A metal sculpture, known as an armillary is a fine addition to the park, commissioned from local blacksmiths at Hereford Make CIC. In tribute to Herefordshire's cider industry an apple sits at the centre of the sculpture. The city relies on public spirited individuals to give up their spare time to keep the park in its high standard.



Ledbury Road Rose Garden

Ledbury Road Rose Gardens and Herefordshire Wildlife Trust City Branch Yazor Brook (Widemarsh/Eign Brook) Restoration Project. The Rose Gardens was once the site of the city council nursery when councils grew their own flowers. It is now the site of a retirement complex. Fortunately not all of the land was built on and what remained of the original roadside rose garden was restored by Hereford in Bloom in 2017 with the planting of 100 new rose trees.

Hereford in Bloom volunteers regularly work in the gardens weeding, deadheading, pruning and mulching with bark to keep the weeds under control. Local residents always make positive comments about the work the volunteers are doing and express their gratitude for their efforts. Many people come and sit in the gardens and enjoy looking at the roses and the peace provided.

The Yazor Brook Restoration Project, overseen by Richard Fishbourne of Bugs and Beasties and the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust, also work within the Rose Gardens monitoring the Eign Brook that runs along the edge of the garden.

Volunteers collect litter, cut shrub back and carry out regular surveys of the invertebrates looking for indicator species, as well as sampling of phosphates and nitrates to monitor pollution levels in the stream. Any pollution incidents, including silting and fish death, are reported to the Environment Agency and Welsh Water.



What the judges will see...

Blackfriars Rose Gardens



New Piece of Public Art a Milestone in Revival of Blackfriars Rose Gardens. In summer 2019 the Friends of Blackfriars Rose Gardens joined forces with The Arts Society Hereford (TASH) and Hereford & Ludlow College to sponsor a design competition for new gates for Blackfriars amongst young artist/blacksmiths studying or working in Herefordshire. Student Joe Shevelan's design won the competition. Little could happen during the pandemic, but late in 2021, master blacksmith Peter Downey made the gates as his last commission.

Dame Kate Bingham, acclaimed for her leadership in the development of the covid vaccines, declared the new gates officially open on 20 May 2022 (see photo). A hundred volunteers and supporters joined her to celebrate the end of a major stage in the revival of Blackfriars Rose Gardens. The gate itself is a piece of public art within the Widemarsh neighbourhood – and has already attracted more visitors to the site.

From 1964 Blackfriars Rose Gardens had been well worth a visit – but by summer 2017, funding cuts led to weeds three feet high in the rose beds. That September work began clearing the weeds, in which volunteers were helped by community service workers who dug out dead rose roots. As few as three out of twelve roses survived in some beds. Replanting was needed.

Support for replanting came from rose growers, soil suppliers, and local businesses in the form of discounts and donations in kind as well as from Hereford City Council. When the first planting day arrived, volunteers of all ages turned out, including a seven-year-old delighted to take part with her grandmother. Planting by the hole method

using mycorrhizal fungi stretched funds as far as possible, allowing revival of the gardens at a faster pace than had we chosen the soil replacement method.

Until the end of 2019, attention focused on replanting the rose beds while keeping the perimeters tidy. There towering Leylandii dominated the corner facing the entrance gate, the line of old shrubs was overgrown, and the Long Border consisted of a line of roses in bare ground. A volunteer who trained with RHS tackled these problems with a combined horticultural and environmental approach, first planting a mix of perennials in the Long Border – chosen to attract bees and other insects. Bug hotels exposed to full sunlight and installed at the correct height provide resting places at the back of the border.

She then designed a new shrubbery for the shady corner – when the neighbouring primary school removed the Leylandii, which threatened pupils' safety. She redesigned the shrubbery to take account of increased sunlight, maintaining the objective of providing year-round colour and interest in the gardens and more food for bees, birds, and other wildlife. (In autumn 2018, the same volunteer had designed a colourful border of bulbs along the perimeter hedge with the Coningsby Hospital, and led a pack of Cub Scouts in planting it. Some of them return to see their work in bloom from January through the end of April.)

Work in a garden is never done, but volunteers and others in the neighbourhood take pleasure in the revived Blackfriars Rose Gardens all year round. New benches allow NMITE students, office and hospital workers, and elderly neighbourhood residents to retreat into the peaceful gardens, a time that leaves them refreshed.

Three Beds Opposite Railway Station



Morrison's Supermarket – 3 restored flower beds. When Herefordshire Council constructed the new link road from the bottom of Aylestone Hill through to Edgar Street they created flower beds next to the road outside the Morrison's Supermarket and planted them with shrubs.

Unfortunately many of the shrubs died so Hereford in Bloom stepped in to ensure their survival. Volunteers regularly weed and tidy up the beds and the shrubs are now well established providing a pleasant welcome to the city for visitors arriving at the train station opposite.



What the judges will see...

Aspires Charity Garden



Hereford has the benefit of a horticultural training garden set up several years ago and now run by the Aspire charity for people 18 to 60 with health issues that make it difficult to find paid work. Some do find a paid gardening job, but most

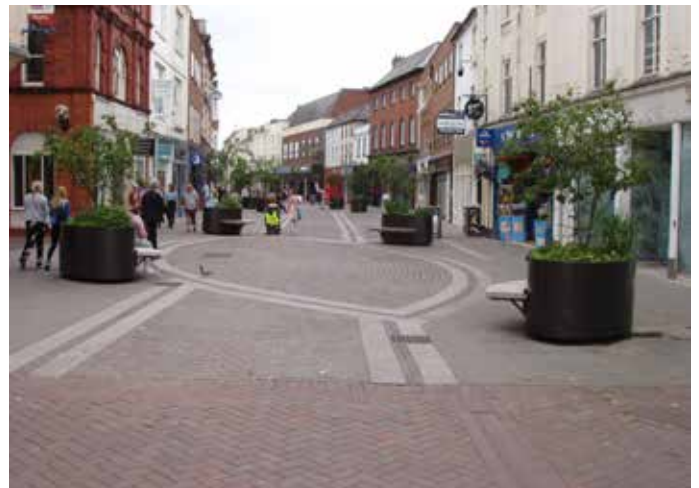
enjoy working alongside 'fellow gardeners.'

Aspire runs a café alongside the garden and making use of the vegetables and herbs. The public can buy what they want, the gardeners can buy what they have produced and take home for the family.

Aspire has modernised the site with new tunnels and several outdoor beds. The latest new comer is a barbecue with a pizza oven donated by B&Q. A small orchard has also been planted.



Hereford City Centre



Hereford city centre has taken on a new appearance: 94 trees in large metal planters costing the council £100,000, a project to create and enhance green space. The trees are well matured and the tree trunks mostly surrounded by flowers and shrubs. They could not be planted in the ground due to public service cables and pipes underground.

The planters provide visual amenity and brighten the cityscape for visitors, enhancing the local environment. Those planters in Eign Gate and High Town have circulated seats much welcomed by the shoppers. The Trees fit in with the HiB work of planting beds and hanging baskets. The exceptionally colourful baskets in the “iron trees” were set up around the city centre by HiB years ago.

BID, the Business Improvement District now deal with the hanging baskets for fronts of shops and offices and this year have provided more than 400 – a huge addition to the city centre environment. Wednesday is traditional market day so High Town will be busy



What the judges will see...

Belmont Haywood Country Park



Herefordshire Council asked the volunteer group caring for the park to create an activity which would encourage families to exercise, health, education and be fun. The result, created by the park leaders is the Storybook Trail and the volunteers are currently busy putting in place this unique project to be completed later in the year for families to enjoy this new style activity in the park.

The trail consists of 15 Storybook stations sited around the People's Park. The stations are aluminium boards mounted on recycled posts. The signs at each station have original artwork giving a clue to a specific book, nursery rhyme or fairy tale. Some sites have additional artefacts offering extra clues to the story. Each sign has a link to the local libraries to encourage families to read the books. The stations are in locations suitable to the story, for example The Ugly Duckling is next to the pool with swans and ducks. The idea behind the project is to encourage health giving exercise in the fresh air, reading and knowledge about fauna. A lectern illustrating the Storybook trail map is at the

entrance to the park. It is also a tribute to Queen Elizabeth 11 in celebration of her Platinum Jubilee.

The 'old macdonald had a farm' seen in this photo is an example of what will be on each of the boards, to help families get the right results. Newton Meadow, mostly trees is now extended into the park with good paths and with a Storybook example of 'three little piggies' already in place.

A 360 year old oak tree close to the children's play area fell in a huge storm earlier in the year, a sad moment for everyone, but the park's volunteers, instead of cutting it up transformed most of it into a natural safe play structure for the youngsters. Scrub was used to make hedges to identify wetland and open ditch areas. It also provided habitats for wildlife, especially toads and hedgehogs. To counter the loss of the magnificent oak tree a young oak sapling from the park's tree nursery by the pool was planted to mark the Queen's 70 years on the Throne - together with a network of trees, avenues, copses and woodlands creating a "Queen's Green Canopy." Phil and Bobbie Edwards are the leaders of the park's volunteers and are committed to its future.

Saxon Hall Community Garden



The Saxon Hall community centre was taken over for the two years of the pandemic which hit Britain into knockdown to use as the NHS vaccine centre. The owner, Putson Parish Council is back in charge of the hall, which it was the SAS chapel before the regiment moved outside the city to a former RAF base and a large housing estate is in its place.

The hall itself is surrounded by a community garden created by Aubrey Olliver, now in his 80's and living next door. He trained as a horticulturist but changed his mind and became an accountant. A sensory garden, filled with wonderful plants chosen by Aubrey is a superb welcome to the hall. The garden also includes a community garden for growing vegetables. A well designed children's play den is used by local nursery schools. Army veterans have created their own garden as a memorial to lost friends. Aubrey's latest project is creating so far two artistic items to give the garden a brighter environment

End of judging route.



Horticulture Notes

by Paul Hodges

Hereford in Bloom (HiB) are increasingly aware of using more sustainable planting during 2022, and reducing where workable the reliance on bedding plants.

This has resulted in a lot more areas, having been planted with Shrubs/Herbaceous perennials. When changing over displays from one season to another HiB are planning to advertise to the public, in advance, the availability of any surplus perennial plants for them to collect rather than the plants being disposed of. Certain planting such as hanging baskets have been planted with bedding, which still gives plenty of colour throughout the city.

New Areas of Planting & Existing Projects Station Approach Beds

This was completed in 2020, and has proven an amazing success. The trees, and shrubs, have now established, and with regular weeding and use of bark, have kept the weeds at bay.

Ledbury Road Rose Gardens

This area continues to thrive, and is looking particularly colourful. Weeding continues to be priority for our volunteers, on a regular basis, as well as continued use of bark, in order to try and reduce the weed issues.

Bulb Planting

Over 10,000 bulbs were planted during autumn/winter 2021, which flowered in spring 2022, in various locations, throughout the city.



Cantilupe Street Beds

This area has been adopted by HVOS Hereford Volunteer Organisations (HVOS). These are a group of volunteers, from various backgrounds who are brought together by supervisors, and help tidy, and keep the area clean and tidy.

Ledbury Road Welcome to Hereford bed & roundabout

These beds are looked after by Monica Downes, who has created numerous themes on the roundabout, including one for the Platinum Jubilee in June.

Hanging Baskets & Planters

Once again these have been made up by Chamberlains Nurseries at Newent, using Platinum colours in some areas. These are looked after by HiB volunteers, on a regular basis.

HiB Volunteers

The volunteers meet regularly on Thursday mornings every week, and normal turn out is between 6 & 10 people. Volunteers undertake a different area each week, and meet between 10:30am – 12:30pm. We are always on the look-out for extra help in order to achieve our maintenance programme.

Future Plans

We are always on the look-out for new projects, but have to make sure that we are able to cope with the extra work load, so when considering new requests, we make sure there is sufficient help available in order to cope with the work load needed to complete and maintain new areas.



Environment

A closer look at some of the projects improving the quality of life in Hereford while protecting the Environment for future generations. All of these organisations are run by volunteers many of whom are involved in several projects and all have a passion to mitigate the impact that Global Warming and Climate Change is having on the Environment and wildlife

Friends of Bartonsham Meadows

Friends of Bartonsham Meadows (FOBM) campaigns to transform Bartonsham Meadows from intensive agriculture to outstanding natural habitat. Their vision is to restore the meadows to biodiverse floodplain meadow to deliver benefits for all such as flood mitigation – carbon sequestration – biodiversity – improved river quality – quality of life.

The meadows are owned by the Church Commissioners and the Friends are consulting with them together with the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust who are liaising on the terms of a long lease.

The FOBM are surveying all aspects of the meadows to including birds, moths, reptiles and hedgerows. Community action groups have been involved in Himalayan Balsam bashing, litter picking and removing tree guards. Information can be found on the website www.friendsofbartonshammeadows.org.



Whitecross High School

Whitecross School has a Climate and Global Sustainability policy which aims to achieve globally sustainable behaviour and thinking within the school community, which can contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions and an increase in biodiversity and other damaging effects on the planet.

The school believes that it is therefore imperative for it to take a lead in seeking to reduce emissions and other damage to the planet, to educate young people about climate change and sustainability and to act as a role model in their community.

The policy covers the following areas of school life:

- Culture, operations, education, student voice, student action and community.

The Climate and Sustainability Working Group was formed to implement the policy in the school. This consists of students, parents, admin and site staff, catering provider, TAs, teachers and leader representatives and meets regularly. This working group reviews school policies and practices, and reports back to the relevant Governor Committee and School Council with recommendations as well as attending the Public Funded Initiative (PFI) meetings.

In order to involve students directly an “Our Planet – Our Future” Club was formed. The club meets weekly after school and so far the students have planted a hedgerow along two of the school boundaries, are maintaining and monitoring two wild flower patches, improving the recycling in school, campaigning to reduce plastic use in school, planning on developing a tree nursery, learning about soil, regenerative farming and growing food by reinstating the school vegetable garden and collaborating with other local schools to achieve more sustainable outcomes through assemblies and discussion with fellow eco-groups.

The students have received support, advice, donations and mentoring from various community groups:

- Hereford in Bloom
- Local Tree Wardens
- Wildlife Trust
- Action for Conservation

Currently the main project for the City Branch of Herefordshire Wildlife Trust is the Yazor Brook Restoration Project. The Yazor Brook runs from a rural catchment into the city of Hereford. As it winds its way through the city the same brook becomes the Widemarsh brook just above Plough Lane and the Eign Brook just below Commercial Road. This pretty stream provides an important refuge for wildlife in the heart of the City and creates valuable natural spaces for us all to enjoy.

Volunteers are also helping to educate local people about wildlife, nature conservation, biodiversity, sustainability, climate change etc. as when they are out volunteering people often stop and ask questions about what the volunteers are doing and hopefully the answers make them more aware!

The Yazor can be a safe wildlife corridor through the City. A place for us all to enjoy as we cycle, walk or explore along its banks. Local people would like it to be free of litter and pollution and experience nature first hand, learn about its history and have the opportunity to help look after it.

Herefordshire Council and the Environment Agency to address any problems associated with over abstraction and development .

This project is a partnership project with the Wye & Usk Foundation and Bugs & Beasties, supported by funding from the Environment Agency and a Hereford City Council Community Grant.

Hereford City brook clearance activities kept us very busy after the floods, clearing debris to enable better flows and reducing overgrowth to enable more daylight for invertebrates. We continue to monitor the populations of invertebrates and keep a watchful eye for pollution.

Some volunteers are involved in regular water quality testing with Friends of the Upper Wye.



Growing local is coming local

The Growing Local Gardens project is part of the Stronger Hereford bid together with Belmont football club, the city's new university and other communities, aiming to deliver a valuable community resource for fresh produce and for children getting to know where their food comes from. A site has been secured just outside the city. The plan is to transform 35 acres of green space into a vibrant community destination with sport pitches, market gardens, affordable café and farm shop, a cookery school and a special children's garden for school visits as well as gardening clubs as well as volunteer and apprentice programmes.

Once set up, a professional grower would ensure weekly supply of produce for the crop-share members. It will be a sustainable source for fresh produce, supporting the environment, biodiversity, climate and the community. It's a unique project for Hereford. More information can be found @www.growinglocal.org.uk, Facebook and Instagram.



Allotments next to ASDA

The allotment site next to ASDA supermarket is an example of 9 sites with 400 plots across the city providing the means for the public to grow their own food while reaping the social and mental health benefits of growing things. The Herefordshire Amateur Leisure Gardeners Society (HALGS) agreed to plot holders forming a group to suggest ways of managing their plots more sustainably that have been circulated to all members.



Garden saves the junction

The junction at Whitehorse Street with the main road was very untidy – until two ladies living in the street decided to put their garden experience to rescue it. Tess Minns and Diana Sessarego have devoted several years planting flowers on the corner, caring for the colourful garden and cutting the surrounded grass.

Hereford in Bloom have praised their work for the community and urge others in the city to help keep their area clean and tidy with lots of flowers. The neighbours in the street are very proud of what Tess and Diana have achieved. An example other Herefordians can follow to keep their city in top condition .

Verging on Wild

Verging on Wild (VOW) is a group of volunteers working to improve biodiversity on our roadside verges, that was started by three friends in 2018. They're working with Herefordshire Council, Balfour Beatty Living Places, Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and several other wildlife organisations such as Plantlife, Herefordshire Meadows and the Malvern Hills and Wye Valley AONBs.

They want to see a change in verge management across the County that includes reducing the number of times that the verges are cut to allow plants to flower and set seed providing food for insects and birds, hence increasing overall biodiversity. They also want to see the collection of grass cuttings to reduce verge fertility and the dominance of more vigorous species.

VOW want to protect the best verges by listing them as Roadside Verge Nature Reserves (RVNRs) and managing them for biodiversity. VOW are encouraging the public to nominate verges that they consider important and then recruiting volunteers to help with the signage, monitoring and management of these listed sites. There are currently 46 sites listed including one along the Roman Road on the boundary of Hereford City.

Communities in Action



Hereford City Tree Wardens

Greening the City 2022

After the incredibly busy 2021 tree planting frenzy around the city, tree wardens and colleagues have had a calmer and quieter approach this last planting season, but with several long desired and planned projects finally being achieved!

In Central Ward, residents of Ledbury Road finally got their bank trees – 8 young fruiting ornamentals to encourage bees and keep birds fed when the cold weather season approaches.

The Ward Cllr. Jeremy Millin, Central tree warden Mo Burns, colleagues and Marcelle Lloyd-Hayes who funded the trees, made short work of getting them into the ground to the delight of residents and passing neighbours. Each ‘adopting’ household on the bank chose a species from a short list and agreed to keep them watered in dry times – something they had to start early this year with the driest April on record.

Five bigger trees went in on Scouts Corner on Park St last winter to complement Park St’s community orchard and mini wildflower meadow opposite and planted up in the winter of 2020/21. They were purchased by Bartonsham history group to celebrate the fact the green space is discovered to have been a Saxon Moot – or meeting place. This tradition of meeting at this spot has been resurrected by the history group, who now organise occasional community events on the green, owned by Connexus.

Hereford Community Clean Up Group (HCCUG)

Hereford Community Clean Up Group have been non-stop yet again this year, we have completed a number of litter picking events around Hereford and many of our volunteers are still taking pride in where they live and picking around their local area.

This year we had a celebratory get together to promote the ‘Great British Spring Clean’ and to thank all our volunteers for their continued efforts and achievements in keeping Herefordshire tidy. Everyone who attended came along with a bag of litter that they had litter picked around their area or on their way to the event. We managed to organise someone who could take a photo with a drone which turned out to be fabulous with all the volunteers standing on the beautiful ‘Victoria Bridge’ by Bishops Meadow.

On a sunny May morning we worked with ‘St James and Bartonsham Association’ to litter pick the banks of the river Wye to remove as much of the evasive Himalayan Balsam as we could, before it flowers and starts sending seed pods down stream. We made a great start removing a good section from the banks.



We continue to support and work with Hereford in Bloom, Balfour Beatty and encourage businesses to do their bit. We have recently conducted a litter pick with staff at ‘Dunelm’ around their premises and attended an event supporting the

‘Two Farmers Crisps’ litterpick this week. Each month ‘Hereford Community Clean Up’ collect a bag tally from all the volunteers and during Jan -Dec 2021 we collected 3,993 bags of rubbish. We will continue to do all we can to help our environment and planet.

The tremendous efforts of Emma Jones the organiser of HCCUG were recognised recently by her being chosen as one of the baton bearers for the Commonwealth Games 2022 as the Baton travelled through Hereford.



Essex Arms Site

Alongside the new link road and opposite the new Medical Centre is an area of floodplain that is the former site of the Essex Arms public house that has been reconstructed as the offices and shop of the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust at Queenswood Country Park.

The site was going to be developed but turning it into a wetland reserve has been identified as a means of natural flood management for the city. The area has already been identified as having a relatively rich biodiversity already in situ with more than 40 species of plants and several species of fungi.

Discussions are taking place between Herefordshire Council and Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and ideas include re-landscaping to set a series of islands across the field to

allow greater absorption of floodwater which will protect properties downstream from rapid rises in floodwater.

A boardwalk through to the Old Market Development and cycleway across the site will create further links with the city's cycle path and enable visitors to enjoy the surrounding wildlife and natural colour.

By planting other species biodiversity can be increased and should help to strip phosphates from the water and reduce the amount leaching into the River Wye. Tree planting will help to sequester carbon dioxide and other fumes.

In addition to all of these benefits to the Environment patients from the Medical Centre will be able to immerse themselves in nature and reap the mental health benefits.

Hereford is a greener city thanks to new trees

Earlier this year, 500 trees were planted in Hereford by residents, businesses, schools and colleges thanks to government funding, and dozens of new tree planters with seating have been installed as part of the refurbishment of the City Centre.

Improving our local natural environment is a council priority, and new trees play a big part. Trees help to improve air quality and tackle climate change, and are beautiful additions to public spaces and properties.



Hereford is a greener city thanks to new trees - A Year 1 class at Our Lady's Primary School, Hereford, planting one of their five new trees.

Bee-friendly bus shelters

When you're next out and about, you may notice 'green' bus shelters with living plants on the roofs.

The roofs are planted with 16 different varieties of Sedum plants - known to have many benefits for the environment. As plants they help absorb CO2 and release oxygen, while their flowers are also great for bees providing a haven and a welcome food source for many different pollinators along the urban roadsides.

The sedum plants can also filter fine dust particles and so help to purify air, cutting pollution levels and they can help to capture rain water - all while bringing a little bit of nature and colour into the City.

Visit www.zerocarbon.herefordshire.gov.uk for more information



Eco haven in corner of churchyard



AN exciting new community garden is being established in the churchyard at St James Church, Hereford.

Funded by Herefordshire Council's climate and nature grant scheme, it is hoped the area will become a hub in which the local community can grow together as it responds to climate change.

Reverend Luke Aylen is part of the team spearheading the project. He said: "I'm so excited for the new eco-hub, which has come together remarkably quickly."

"Already we have had dozens of volunteers help us build bicycle storage racks and raised beds from reclaimed wooden sleepers and fill the beds with local-peat free compost."

"Now that plants and seeds are getting into the ground



Children, above left, are helping grow vegetables in these raised beds in the community garden at St James Church, Hereford

"Along with gathering to build community and teach people to grow their own fresh food, we will be working with the school to reduce their food waste through a composting scheme, and pupils will take responsibility for grow-

learning how to cook them into nutritious meals."

"We are hoping to run a monthly programme of workshops and events suitable for all ages and abilities."

"To the often overwhelming task

ways to respond meaningfully and learn how each one of us can make the changes needed to protect our planet are going to be key."

"I'm certainly looking forward to learning more about how I can play my part as we

The St James Eco-Hub will be launched on May 4 at 3.15pm when Jeremy Milln, the local ward councillor, and representatives from St James CE Primary School, the church, and community will do the official ribbon

Moss drafted in to clean air

THE first of three structures set up in Hereford this month will make the city a little cleaner.

A new, natural way of helping to tackle air pollution is being deployed - moss filters.

Moss has the natural ability to absorb and metabolise fine dust and particles, helping to naturally clean the air we breathe, Herefordshire Council says.

Also known as 'city trees', the filters each take about the same space as one tree, but owing to the enormous surface area of moss the filter is more efficient than a tree at filtering and cooling the air around it. Each is expected to capture as much carbon dioxide as 29 trees.

The filters will be placed in busy traffic areas where they will use specially selected mosses to help absorb pollution from the air. The first has been placed in Eign Gate.

They have been funded jointly by the council and the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership as

part of the ongoing £5 million Hereford city centre improvement project. The project aims to encourage people to spend more time in the city when they visit, which will help boost the local economy.

The filters are already used in London, Waltham Forest and in Cork in Ireland. They contain integrated smart sensors that provide performance and condition information, so the effect on local air quality will be available for all to see on the council's website.

Councillor John Harrington, cabinet member infrastructure and transport, says he is pleased how this innovative technology will bring us towards a cleaner area in the city.

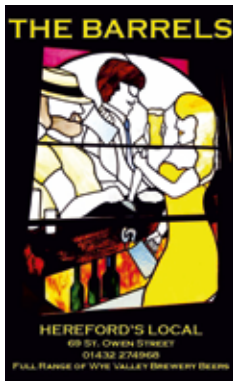
"We are working hard in a number of ways to reduce emissions from vehicles in our beautiful, historic city with the aim of cleaner, healthier air for visitors but that takes time."



The first of three moss filters has been installed in Hereford in an effort to help clean up city centre air



Hereford in Bloom is grateful for the continued sponsorship and support of local businesses without which it would not be able to maintain the outstanding floral displays which make the city a bright and cheerful place for residents and visitors alike.



Bolts
of Hereford Ltd



Vic Mantle



Counter Cateren