

The Britain in Bloom (BIB) Team are pleased to announce that Hungerford was awarded **SILVER GILT** in the small towns category for the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) Britain in Bloom competition 2026. Building on last year's SILVER award, the team gained an additional 14 points taking us to the next level.

The Town and Manor were NOMINATED for the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) award to mark its centenary, as part of this year's RHS BIB competition. This was in recognition of their habitat creation and biodiversity in local communities.

Highlights of the tour for the judges undertaken on a very hot day in July included these comments:

"Hungerford is a beautiful town, reflecting the passion, dedication, and hard work of its volunteers. Equally impressive is the strong sense of civic pride shared by the local community and the fantastic collaboration with local schools, a real highlight."

"The hanging baskets and planters placed around the town were all vibrant and well maintained and water features in the planters and displays were a fantastic addition, and something neither judge had seen before. It was great to see so many pollinator-friendly plants used, such as in the roundabout and church wall border."

"The welcome to Hungerford bug hotel at Barr's Yard is a high impact addition to the town entrance."

"The common was a real highlight, and the continued efforts to improve water quality and biodiversity in the rivers Kennet and Dun should be commended."

"It was evident throughout the tour that the volunteers are passionate about enhancing biodiversity across the town. Their work demonstrates a strong understanding of the importance of creating spaces that support wildlife and pollinators."

"The fantastic work in local schools should be commended and the visit to the John O'Gaunt school was a real highlight."

"One of Hungerford's biggest strengths is the many volunteer groups, community organisations and partners that contribute to maintaining and enhancing the town."

"Achieving a Silver Gilt Award is an excellent accomplishment and one that the team and the town should be extremely proud. Well done to all involved."

The full report can be viewed on the Hungerford Town Council (HTC) website shortly.

The BIB members are in the process of transitioning into a new team to enable them to encompass more diverse projects in the future and remove the need to be tied to a deadline with a full-on tour day as they have been with Britain in Bloom. The new volunteer group will be called **H.E.L.P.** and stands for Hungerford Environment and Local Projects. They will continue to maintain and develop the areas they have started this year but will add in more projects such as painting and maintenance to improve the town. They hope you will continue to support them as they very much appreciate all the hard work everyone has put in to make our town special.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the HTC office on admin@hungerford-tc.gov.uk.
Telephone 01488 686195.

A special thank you to our sponsors: Hungerford Town Council, Town and Manor, Marlborough Law, John Day Engineering Ltd, Greenham Trust & The Good Exchange, Dobbies, Hillier, Wessex Woodland, Heritage Tree Care, and the Men's Shed



A huge thank you to our wonderful Community Groups and volunteers who gave up so much of their time:

Britain in Bloom Committee (BIB)
Men's Sheds (The Shed)
Smarten Up Hungerford (SUH)
Hungerford Food Community (HFC)
Schools: Hungerford Nursery School, Hungerford Primary School and John O'Gaunt Secondary School (JOG)
Town and Manor of Hungerford (T&M)
Hungerford Town Council (HTC)
St Lawrence's Church Group
Hungerford Environmental Action Group (HEAT)
Hungerford Chamber of Commerce (HCoC)
Hungerford Youth and Community Centre (HYCC)
Hungerford Allotment Holders Association (HAHA)
Kennet Valley Wetland Reserve (KVWR)
Hungerford Day Centre
CHAIN
Penny Post
The Adviser

BIB Committee: Jerry & Deborah Keates, Ali and Mark Garnham, Nicola Wood, Helen Simpson, John & Pat Ryder, Alistair Fyfe, Helen Armstrong, Amanda Burrows, Kate Edwards, Jane Brunning & Nia Day.

Tour Leads & presentation information: Jerry Keates (Mayor HTC), Kate Edwards (T&M), Penny Locke and team (HFC), Chris Scorey (T&M), Amanda Burrows & Rebecca Quigley (JOG), Hungerford Primary School Choir and Head Lucy Smith (Welcome song written by Helen Simpson), Hungerford Nursery School and Tessa Brown, Men's Shed Nick Wedgwood, Geoff Would and Steve Thorpe, Rob Starr (T&M), Mark Garnham Chain Bus driver, John Downe (HEAT), Helen Simpson, Stewart Hofgartner (Below Stairs), Helen Armstrong (HTC), James Cole (HTC), Mike Saunders (St Lawrence Church), Andy Blake (HAHA), Fiona Saunders, Nicky Carwardine, Zoe Williams, (Hungerford Day Centre), Nicola Wood, Deborah Keates and the Smarten Up Hungerford Team, Tim Crouter and the Town Band, John Downe (HEAT), James Acworth (Little Hidden Farm), Martin Digweed (HEAT), Ali Garnham (BIB), Jane Brunning (HTC) and Nia Day (HTC).

BIB Volunteers: Jerry & Deborah Keates, Helen Simpson, Val Way, Claire Winsor, John and Pat Ryder, Gemma Blencoe, Noreen Purcell, Belinda Robinson, Charlie Swift, Charlotte and Paul Seibert, Forbes Stephenson, Jagoda Stankiewicz, Kate Edwards, Andy Blake, Mark and Ali Garnham, Nicola Wood and SUH Team, Helen Armstrong, Nick Wedgwood, Steve Thorpe, Geoff Would and the Men's Shed team, Wendy Crookall, Claire Barnes, Hayley Crane, Charlie Barr and the Hungerford Guides, Roger Ballard, Shelagh Madgwick, Jane & Steve Brunning, Nia & Chris Day.

The new **H.E.L.P.** team are excited to continue on their success going forward.