

KENDAL IN

BLOOM

Portfolio



2023



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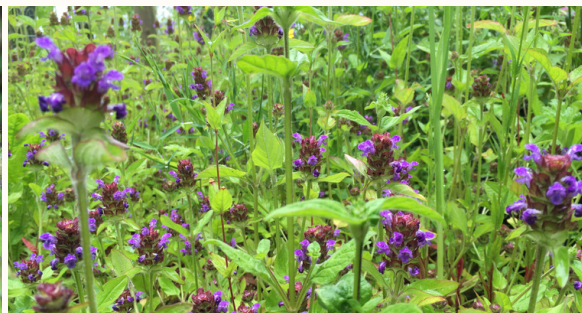
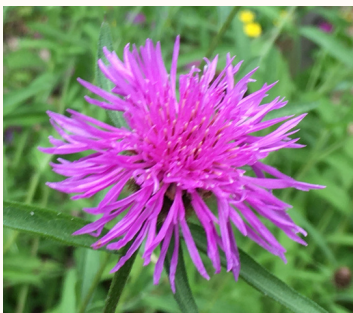
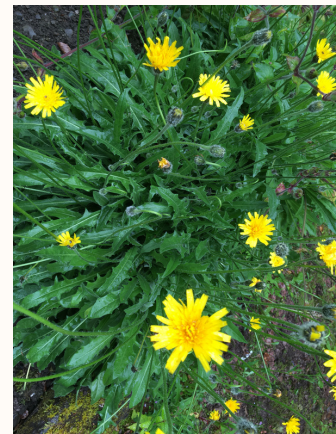
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Kendal in Bloom 2023



Kendal is delighted to welcome Cumbria and Britain in Bloom judges to our historic market town.

We are extremely proud of Kendal's horticultural, environmental and community achievements over the last year (22/23). The Kendal in Bloom committee meets four times a year to work towards these.

In addition to the ongoing bloom effort, we are proud to now be actively incorporating the recommendations of Kendal's Citizens' Jury into the fabric of our town, with benefits for our communities and for nature recovery and biodiversity enhancement.

Projects you will visit on judging day that aren't highlighted here include the Community Orchard at Town View Field, the Brewery Arts garden, and the Unitarian Chapel garden.

We look forward to meeting Cumbria in Bloom Judges on 13th July and Britain in Bloom Judges on 14th August.

Cllr Julia Dunlop

Mayor of Kendal



Cllr Dunlop (R) pictured with Cllr Long at the opening of the Coronation Garden on 5th May 2023



WELCOME TO KENDAL



Welcome to our vibrant and traditional market town. Built on the wool trade, Kendal has developed into a diverse cultural hub. We have an intriguing history, including our famous yards.

Today the vibrancy of Kendal's yards continues as beautiful gardens, interesting businesses and festival venues. Once gardens to grand town houses, the yards became hubs of the wool industry hosting tanners, blacksmiths and butchers alongside family homes.



Kendal is truly green at heart, surrounded by the world famous Lake District and with the River Kent at its core. You're always close to outstanding scenery and wildlife which takes your breath away.

In 2020 Kendal held a Citizens' Jury which resulted in 27 recommendations to answer the question "What should Kendal do about climate change?".

These recommendations have been embedded into the work of the Town Council and the Kendal In Bloom committee, with sustainability driving many of the projects that you will see when you visit Kendal and in the following pages.



ABOUT KENDAL IN BLOOM

KIB is dedicated to making Kendal a beautiful place to live, work and visit, by encouraging pride and recognising everyone that makes a difference.

The KIB committee oversees all civic planting, some is carried by Horticare, a local day service for people with learning difficulties. KIB run the Kendal in Bloom competition which encourages and supports community projects and co ordinates entries into Bloom competitions.

The committee is run by Kendal Town Council (KTC) and supported by a dedicated part-time officer and Townscape Officer. In addition to including councillors, the committee also includes co-opted members from relevant organisations. An intergenerational working group has worked together to plan for this year's In Bloom Judging route.





KENDAL IN BLOOM YEAR IN REVIEW 2022-23

September: The 'Woolly Saddle' electric cargo bike is trialled by the Townscape Manager for routine maintenance jobs, as well as being used by Waste into Wellbeing to redistribute allotment surplus to Kendal People's Café and community food larder (1)



October: Kendal wins Gold in Cumbria in Bloom (2)

November: Rotary Club crocus planting, Friends of Fletcher Park and Friends of Noble's Rest plant bulbs and trees and carry out winter maintenance (3)



January: Kendal in Bloom group starts planning for the year ahead

February: Three riverside trees relocated to Fletcher Park, ahead of flood defence construction work (4)



March: Kendal Town Council hosts volunteer work parties at Kendal Green to plant wildflowers (5)





KENDAL IN BLOOM YEAR IN REVIEW 2022-23 (CONT.)

April: Hallgarth Residents' Association plants 420 saplings with support from Cumbria Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust and Westmorland & Furness Council (1). Monthly community litter picks begin (2) and KiB planning meetings continue with an intergenerational working group (3).

May: Summer planting begins, Coronation garden opens (4).



June: Wildflower areas are at their best (5), Simply Repair holds a community plant share, the Unitarian Chapel holds a film showing to celebrate its Garden of Remembrance, opened last June.





KENDAL IN BLOOM COMPETITION

Each year, the In Bloom committee holds a competition for schools and the community. This year's theme, inspired by the Royal Event, is Coronation Thrones. Schools, businesses, individuals and community groups have shown great creativity in responding to the theme, with entries picking up on common threads between King Charles' interests and Kendal's history and present.



Kendal Town Council



Kendal Conservation Volunteers



Stramongate School

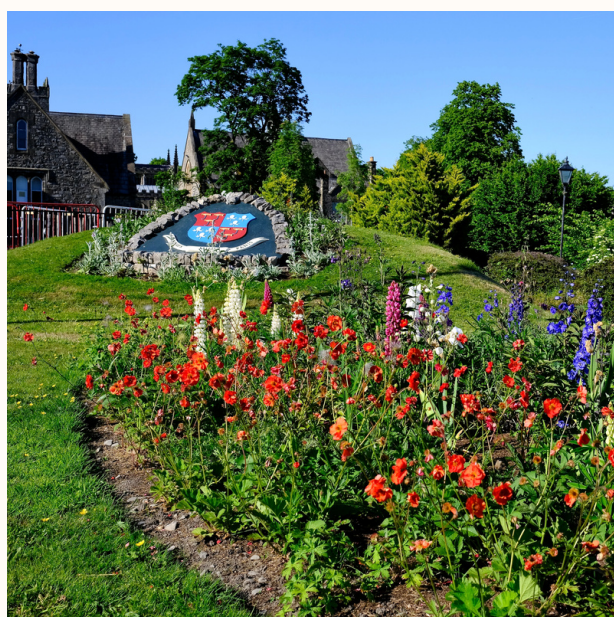


HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

The following section highlights some examples of Horticultural Achievement in Kendal, from the newly opened Coronation Garden, to Noble's Rest and Ford Park, where planting has been specifically selected to suit the natural conditions.

King Charles Coronation Garden

An example of strong partnership working, the Coronation Garden saw Kendal Town Council working with the Environment Agency, the Parish Church, and corporate sponsor Lakeland Gardens to redesign an outdated and unloved area of civic planting. Working to a tight schedule, and with the added complication of the EA's flood defence works, the garden was formally opened on 5th May 2023. The planting was inspired by the new King's favourite flowers, including Delphinium 'Mighty Atom', and the colours of the Union Jack. A nod to King Charles' passion for environmental sustainability is included with a prominent bug hotel, created by a local craftsman.

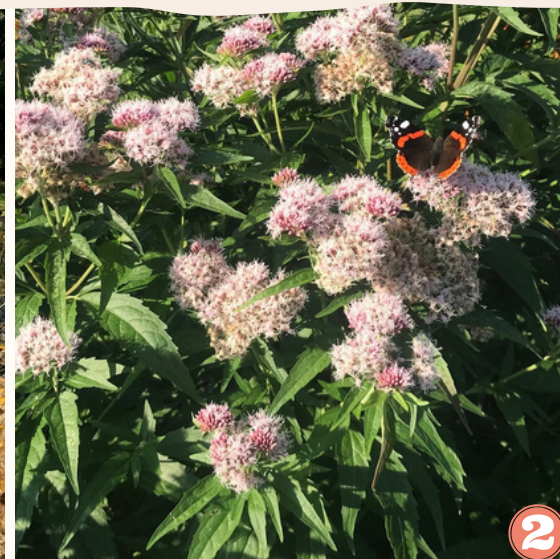




HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Noble's Rest Park

Noble's Rest is a tranquil town centre park, with woodland and a wildflower meadow. The central beds are planted with striking drought-tolerant perennials (1), which attract a host of pollinators through the summer months (2). The wooded area, known as Swine Parrock, was badly affected by Storm Arwen in 2021, however the dead wood has been left to provide homes for wildlife and 100 new trees have been planted by Friends of Noble's Rest and Kendal Conservation Volunteers. At the adjacent Town View Fields, a natural flood management project has opened up a culverted watercourse (3), with trees planted and species-rich grassland, offering bountiful biodiversity, amenity and aesthetic benefits (4).





HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Ford Park

Ford Park was recently redeveloped as part of the Environment Agency's flood defence works. Alongside a new flood defence wall over 1900 ornamental shrubs and plants and 7 new trees have been planted. The mixture of species was selected to bring a diverse habitat for insects and provide extensive foraging for birds and other wildlife. Seating and riverside views add to the park's appeal for locals and visitors alike.





HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Civic Planting

Kendal's civic planting retains traditional features of beds and hanging baskets, while introducing some more innovative features to improve our town's environment and biodiversity, as well as recognising the wider impacts of our resource use. Peat-free compost is used across our civic planting, and our troughs and planters are self-watering, with built-in reservoirs (1). Additionally, at the end of the season bedding plants are composted along with other green waste in discreet compost bays in our parks and allotments, reducing the environmental impact of buying in compost and of transporting waste to be processed further afield (2). Civic planting is managed by Kendal in Bloom, with help from Horticare, a local day service for people with learning difficulties (3).



1



3



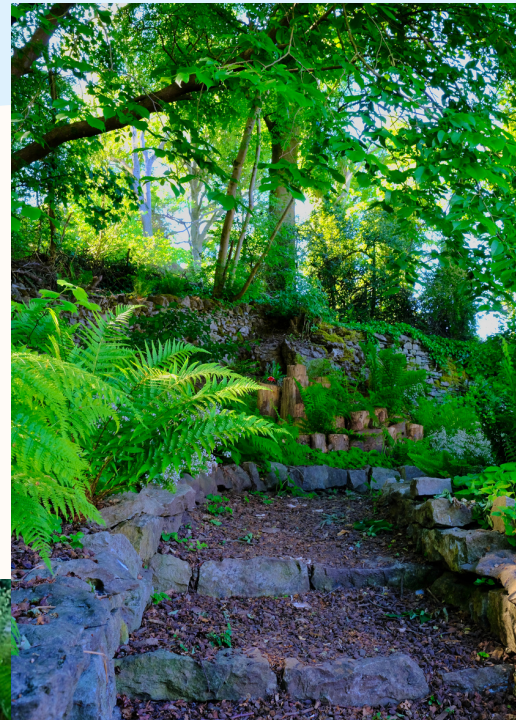
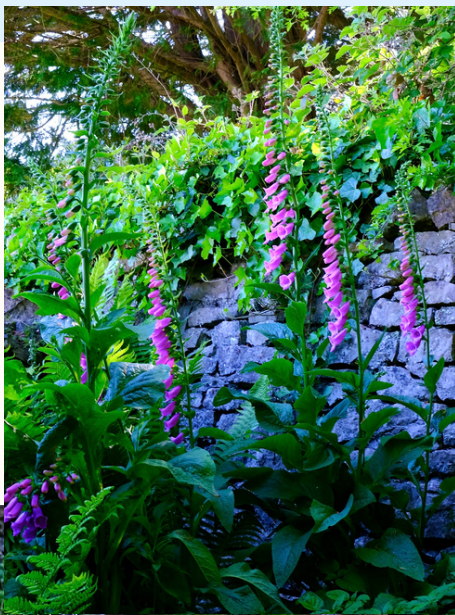
2



HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Fern Garden

At the entrance of Serpentine Woods is a recreation of a Victorian Fern Garden, created and maintained by Kendal Conservation Volunteers. The garden celebrates George Whitwell, the former caretaker of the woods, and renowned fern collector.





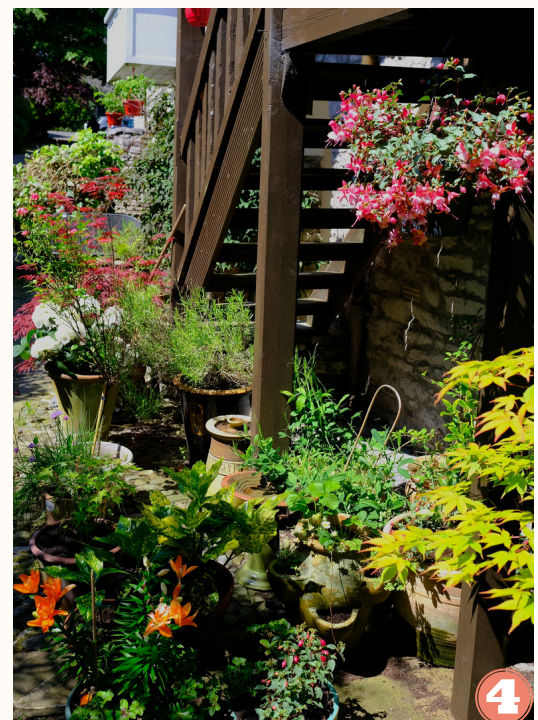
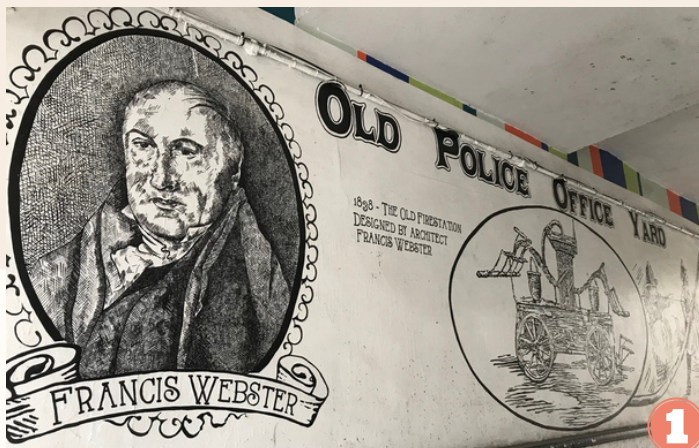
ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

As an evolving market town steeped in history, Kendal In Bloom celebrates Kendal's heritage, while also promoting initiatives to preserve our environment for future generations. This can be seen in our historic yards, our "Legendary Landscapes" trail, and in our green spaces and parks, which are increasingly managed with biodiversity in mind.

Kendal's Historic Yards

The yards of Kendal delight both locals and visitors alike, with hidden gems to be discovered. Old Police Office Yard is an example of the old meeting the new, with a mural celebrating local heritage (1) and a pop-up green space created by a local shop owner (2).

Other yards are noted for their architectural features and can be found overflowing with flowers and greenery maintained by residents (3, 4).





Legendary Landscape Trail

The Legendary Landscape Trail was created by Kendal Conservation Volunteers to connect visitors and residents with the history, heritage and natural environment of the town. The Trail provides an insight into what the land around us looked like before people lived here and how and why it changed during the thousands of years after they arrived. KCV uses plants that are symbolic of those times to transform planters, odd corners and other small areas of Kendal into chapters in the long story of our changing landscape. For example, a lot of ferns are used to symbolise our woodland habitats (1).

In 2021 the trail extended beyond the town centre, working with Sandylands Residents' Association to create a Natural Health Service planter outside the hydrotherapy pool (4), and the story of Kendal Green - the cloth that brought fame and fortune to Kendal - which can be seen on Shap Road (2).

A portable display which has made appearances at Torchlight Festival and the Coronation party at Fellside tells the sad story of the Helsfell wolf (3).





Wildflower Planting

Wildflower areas were established by KTC at Somervell Gardens and Aynam Rd (1 & 2) in 2022 to provide forage for pollinators and for their carbon storage benefits, relative to mown grass. This year we have introduced wildflowers at Kendal Green, with the help of an enthusiastic group of local residents (3 & 4). These initiatives have been well received by residents - watch this space for more!





Wetland Wildlife Area at Canal Head Allotments

In response to the Citizens' Jury's recommendation that more opportunities for food growing be provided, Kendal Town Council developed new allotments at Canal Head. However, it quickly became apparent that part of the site was prone to flooding! An innovative solution was found, working with Kendal Conservation Volunteers to create a wetland area for wildlife, diverting the surplus water and providing habitats for creatures such as frogs and toads which benefit allotment holders as natural pest control. KCV are growing suitable plants from seed at their nursery - we look forward to seeing the site mature!





Heritage & Nature

Kendal Castle is one of Kendal's most visited sites (1). Every summer the meadow surrounding it becomes a profusion of wildflowers and grasses. Below the meadow is woodland, providing homes for a variety of wildlife.

Wildflowers are also enjoyed at other historic sites around Kendal, including at Castle Howe (2), Fellside (4) and Garth Heads (3 & 5).





Kendal Swifts

Owing in part to Kendal's architectural heritage, Kendal is fortunate to have a population of swifts each summer. An active Swifts Group monitors their activity and advocates on their behalf, working with planning officers and building owners to install nest boxes and protect nesting sites. The tower of Kendal Parish Church hosts several nest boxes, supporting a colony of swifts in the town centre.

Further nesting provision for Kendal's swifts is currently in development, exemplifying the notion that Kendal is a town where both humans and nature can thrive.





Dark Skies

Kendal residents, inspired by growing awareness of the impacts of light pollution, have replaced their outdoor lighting with dark skies friendly lighting. Warmer light, pointing downward (as shown in the before and after photos) is beneficial for wildlife. Kendal Town Council is working with Dark Skies Cumbria to audit its own footpath lighting and develop plans to make it dark skies compliant. This can be done harmoniously within a conservation area, as shown by the photo of Cliff Terrace, below. This work has been celebrated with a Kendal Civic Society design award which recognises the project's contribution to Kendal's heritage, aesthetics, sustainability and biodiversity.



Above: Cliff Terrace dark sky friendly heritage lighting



R: Dark sky friendly residential lighting, before and after.





COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Kendal's active community groups play an important role in looking after our green spaces. From our thriving allotment communities, to the 'Friends of...' groups and community litter picks, there's something for everyone to get involved with, and it all helps our people and wildlife to thrive.

Allotments and Waste into Wellbeing

Kendal boasts an impressive 472 allotment plots over 17 sites throughout Kendal, with Kendal Town Council opening a new site earlier this year. Surplus produce from allotments is donated to local food project Waste into Wellbeing, a volunteer-run group which redistributes food that would otherwise be wasted to those in need.



waste into
wellbeing
KENDAL PEOPLE'S CAFE



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Kendal Conservation Volunteers, Dog Kennel Wood & Serpentine Woods

KCV make a fantastic contribution to Kendal's green spaces. The previous two sections highlighted their horticultural and environmental achievements (p. 11, 13, 15). Here, we celebrate the work they carry out from their organisational HQ - Dog Kennel Wood (1). DKW is a hive of activity, with wildflowers being grown from seed for projects in Kendal and beyond (2). It's also next door to Serpentine Woods, where the volunteers are actively involved in the development of natural play areas and the redevelopment of the Alphabet Trail and Nature Trail (3, 4). The pictures below show volunteers pricking out wildflower seedlings, newly installed sculptures for the Alphabet trail, and wildflowers in bloom at DKW.



2



3



1



4

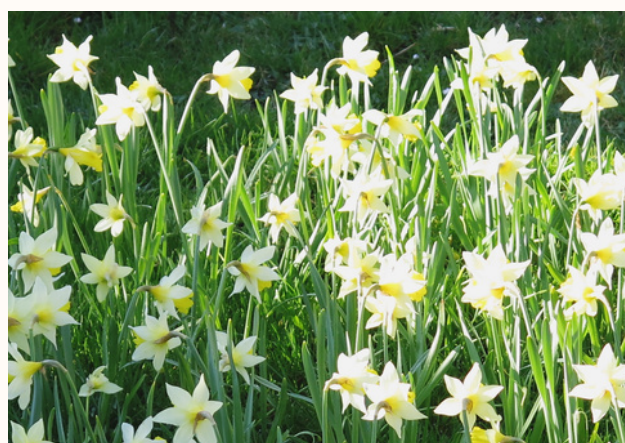




Friends' Groups

Kendal is lucky to have active Friends' Groups which are involved in the maintenance of our parks. Friends of Noble's Rest (1) and of Fletcher Park (2) are well-established groups, meeting several times each year to plant trees and bulbs, maintain hedges, carry out seasonal maintenance, and to create spaces for nature in our parks.

The council has produced a Biodiversity Community Toolkit to help empower community groups to get involved in the management of green spaces and contribute to protecting biodiversity.





Kirkbie Green Rewilding Project

A passionate group of residents have come together to "rewild" the park at Kirkbie Green. By encouraging pedestrians and cyclists to keep to the main path, the grassy area, previously used as an unofficial cut-through, is regenerating naturally and providing habitats. Kendal Town Council has provided a biodiversity grant to help the group purchase wildflowers.



Triangle Community Garden

A group of volunteers tends to this hidden gem on Fellside, keeping it well stocked with both ornamental and edible plants. To help more people access this beautiful space, a hand rail was recently installed with the help of Fellside Forum and Kendal Town Council.





Community Litter Picks

Kendal Town Council holds monthly litter picks, led by staff and councillors, to which all are welcome attend. Kendal Town Council also lends its litter picking equipment out to community groups who arrange their own litter picks in their neighbourhoods, along the river, and at other litter hotspots.



Simply Repair Plant Share

Kendal's monthly repair cafes, run by Simply Repair South Lakes, are a popular volunteer-run event. With a focus on reducing waste, saving money, and bringing the community together, Simply Repair included a plant share at June's event, with plants, tools and supplies all finding new homes.





Manna House Allotment & Memory Garden

Manna House is a charity providing advice, advocacy and a drop-in support centre for those who are homeless, vulnerably housed, lonely or needing help. Their allotment (1 & 2) and memory garden (3 - 6) are two projects that bring people together through gardening to improve wellbeing.



1



2



3



4



5



6

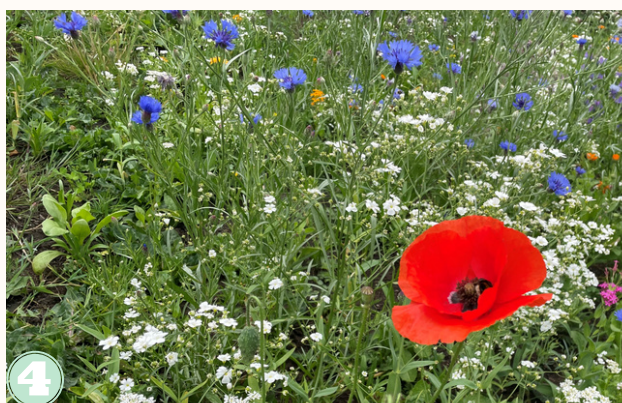


KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

As you have read on the previous pages, and as you will have seen along the tour route, Kendal has much to be proud of. We think our greatest achievements this year have been those that cut across the categories of horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation.

The creation of **new allotments at Canal Head** (1), with an accompanying **wetland wildlife area** has made food-growing and horticulture accessible to a new community of plot-holders, while the new wetland wildlife area created among the allotments provides exemplifies the town council's proactive attitude towards environmental responsibility.

The newly opened **Coronation garden** (2) and planting of **wildflowers at Kendal Green** (3,4) are other key achievements cutting across all three categories. Their prominent locations mean they can be enjoyed by all, and feedback received so far indicates that this is the case!





Kendal In Bloom's future plans include research and development for **sustainable civic planting**. The use of more drought tolerant species will help reduce our water use, saving money and helping us to conserve precious natural resources.

We will also be working on **educational campaigns** targeted at allotment holders regarding **best practice to protect crops** as pesticides are phased out, encouraging **rain-water harvesting** at allotments and at home, and **increasing soil health** through composting and green manures for sustainable organic harvests.

In the short term, we'll be completing a **Kendal In Bloom bed** at the new **Beezon Fields nature area**, where we'll be using **wildflowers and native plants** to complement meadow, wetland scrape and woodland habitats.



Sustainable planting at Noble's Rest



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

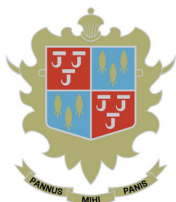
Kendal in Bloom and Kendal Town Council would like to thank all who contributed to this portfolio and the ongoing In Bloom effort:

- The Bee Team
- The Environment Agency
- Fellside Forum
- Friends of Fletcher Park
- Friends of the Lake District
- Friends of Noble's Rest Park
- Hallgarth Residents' Association
- Horticare
- Kendal Civic Society
- Kendal Conservation Volunteers
- Kendal Swifts
- Kirkbie Green Group
- Manna House
- The Rotary Club
- Simply Repair South Lakes
- South Lakes Action on Climate Change (SLACC)
- Stramongate School
- Triangle Community Gardeners
- Unitarian Chapel
- United Reformed Church
- Westmorland & Furness Council
- and last but not least, all of the residents and volunteers whose efforts make all the difference.

Special thanks to Richard Mathews for additional photography



The bee hotel at the Coronation Garden Kendal in Bloom 2023



Kendal
Town Council