

# Time to make a blooming difference

**This time of year summer seems a long way away. It is the time when we walk around in the warm sunshine and the environment all around the town is greatly improved by floral displays.**

As we start to plan for summer 2007 once again, we want to encourage as many people as possible in our community to take part in making our town an attractive place to live, work and visit, but it can't be done unless we all play our part

In 2006, Devizes won a Silver Guilt Award from the South West Region "Britain in Bloom" Competition, for which our community can be justifiably proud. In awarding a prize, judges not only take into account the quality of displays in the town centre, they also visit many other areas within the town, including residential estates, industrial estates, parklands and even traffic islands to gain an overall picture of the effort put into the competition by the town's residents.

If we are to repeat this achievement and even improve on it, then it will require the support of all the retailers and residents of the town. Each of us can help by putting up hanging baskets, clipping our hedges, tidying our frontages and clearing up litter by our property.

Each year the Town Council in

partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and the Devizes and District Gardening Club, run the Devizes in Bloom Competition. Last year the geographical area for the Devizes in Bloom competition was extended to include entries from Roundway Parish. We would like to thank Roundway Parish Council for their involvement with the preliminary judging and trust that they will continue to give their support. The competition has 13 categories including a Best Display in a Front Garden, Best Display in a Single Hanging Basket and Best Display in a Single Container, so even if you haven't got half an acre of garden you can still have a go. Other categories in the competition include Best Display at Licensed Premises and Best Display at a Community Dwelling.

We hope that all firms and businesses will take part, (not just the ones in the centre of town, but also on the outskirts), to ensure visitors are given the best impression of Devizes, as an abundance of floral displays demonstrate prosperity and economic health, as well as a good sense of community.



Over the past years many of the public displays throughout the town were only made possible by the generous support of local businesses. We very much hope for a positive response from the commercial and industrial sector again this year and if you work for a firm that is not actively involved in the Devizes in Bloom scheme, then please contact the Town Clerk - Sarah Todhunter or Kevin Murray at Devizes Town Council on 01380 722160.

The South West regional judging for Britain in Bloom will take place sometime from the 9th to the 20th July 2007 and the good weather has been booked to make an appearance during the judges visit.

## Election time is coming – Don't forget to use your vote

Town Council elections will take place on Thursday 3 May 2007. This is an opportunity for you to influence who represents you in your town. You might want to consider standing as a Councillor yourself. If you live, work, or own property within the boundary of Devizes, or live within 3 miles of the boundary, are over 21 and an EU citizen, you are eligible to stand.

For more information on how to apply, please

contact Kennet District Council on 01380 724911 or check their website [www.kennet.gov.uk](http://www.kennet.gov.uk).

Even if you are not interested in becoming a councillor, don't forget to use your vote. Make sure that you are on the electoral roll, and you can even vote by post. Once again, contact Kennet District Council who will be able to give you all the information you need.

## BRITAIN IN BLOOM 2007 SCHOOL PAINTING COMPETITION

During last year's Devizes in Bloom competition local schools were invited to enter into our local painting competition based upon the theme set by the Britain in Bloom organisers for 2006. Everyone taking part had great fun and as we had such a great response we are going to run the competition again, however this year we are going to select the best paintings to go forward to the South West regional competition for Britain in Bloom 2007.

This will mean that we will close the competition a little earlier than last year so that we can forward

on the best pictures for judging by the Britain in Bloom judges. Full details of the competition will shortly be sent to all of the schools that are local to Devizes. The theme for this year's competition is 'My Favourite Flower' and the age categories are:

- Up to 6 years old
- 7 – 11 years old
- 12 – 16 years old

We very much look forward to seeing this year's entries, these must be delivered to the Town Hall no later than 5.30pm on Tuesday



26 June 2007.

Further information can be obtained from Kevin Murray on 01380 722160 or email: [kevinmurray@devizes-tc.gov.uk](mailto:kevinmurray@devizes-tc.gov.uk)

## MESSENGER – LOCAL DELIVERY AGENTS WANTED

**The Town Council is searching for local community groups who are actively raising funds and may be interested in delivering the Messenger news sheet to residents and businesses of Devizes town.**

Depending on the number of copies delivered your organisation can earn up to £250. If more than one organisation is willing to participate each will be given an opportunity to raise funds.

The Messenger news sheet is produced quarterly with delivery of 6,800 copies taking place over one week, this can be extended to two weeks if forthcoming events allow this. Delivery agents are still required for:

Edition	Week Commencing
Summer 2007	4 June 2007
Winter 2007	19 November 2007
Spring 2008	18 February 2008
Summer 2008	26 May 2008

If you think that your group might be interested please contact:

**Vernon Anderson on 01380 722160 or email [vernonanderson@devizes-tc.gov.uk](mailto:vernonanderson@devizes-tc.gov.uk)**

## DASH - Continuing to fight for Health Services

Doubtless you've already heard that the Wiltshire PCT has decided to close both Devizes Hospital and the Health Centre in New Park Street. Although the decision was not exactly a surprise, it was still hard to take. Losing these facilities is a bitter blow not only to the many people who have campaigned long and hard to save them but also, and more importantly, to the whole community.

To be fair to the PCT, the news wasn't all bad. They have promised a significant amount of re-investment in local services. In Devizes, this will take the form of Neighbourhood Teams and a new Primary Care Centre.

DASH2 (Devizes Action to Save our Hospital - 2nd time) has been at the forefront of the fight to protect our services: so where does this decision leave us? Our main role will now be to ensure that the PCT does deliver on its promises to provide new services before it removes the old ones. In the more immediate term, DASH2 and Devizes Town Council have invited the Chairman of the PCC, Tony Barron, and the Chief Executive, Jeff James, to a public meeting. This will enable you to hear the reasoning behind the decision and to ask questions about it. We shall keep you informed about this through the local press.