



## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Kingsbridge Scoop Gold in Top Awards**

The Kingsbridge in Bloom Team have been celebrating after winning Gold in the National Champion of Champions Category of Britain in Bloom.

Five members of the Kingsbridge in Bloom team attended the National finals of the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom at Linley Hall in London on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. They were delighted to win a Gold Award in the prestigious Champion of Champions Category 2019, their highest achievement to-date.

The team impressed judges in the national finals with their pollinator-friendly planting, including the town square's main bed bursting with plants beloved by bees and woven willow arch marking the 800th anniversary of the town being granted a Royal Charter.

Royal Horticultural Society Judges commented that: "Kingsbridge in Bloom are a tremendous ambassador for sustainable planting, community engagement and partnership working. They are a worthy contender in the Champion of Champions Category 2019, representing the region admirably.

Nowhere else will you see as good an example of sustainable planting, supplemented but not overstated by the use of seasonal bedding, to lift and enhance

the horticultural displays to another level. Kingsbridge have really excelled and represented the Westcountry in an astonishing way.”

Graham Price, Chairman of Kingsbridge in Bloom said: “To receive this Royal Horticultural Society gold award at the highest level in the Britain in Bloom is a great achievement for Kingsbridge and a just reward for our hard working team who have worked tirelessly to keep the town so attractive. This is what you’ve been aiming for 12 years and it doesn’t get better than this. We are now planting for the winter and spring and have some really exciting ideas for our 2020 summer displays”.

To find out more about Kingsbridge in Bloom and their plans for the year ahead please visit [www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk](http://www.kingsbridgeinbloom.co.uk)

#### **Photos captions:**

- The Kingsbridge in Bloom Team at the Britain in Bloom Finals at Linley Hall in London
- Graham Price, Chairman of Kingsbridge in Bloom and Kingsbridge Mayor Anne Balkwill receiving their Gold Award in the Champions of Champions Category from Baroness Floella Benjamin.
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#### **Notes to Editors:**

- This year’s Champion of Champion category entries, for former winners and recognised high-achieving communities, exemplify the huge breadth of the competition. These include Kingsbridge in Devon, the 2018 Small Town category winner, which this year is celebrating 800 years of its thriving market, who have marked the occasion with a large willow arch that honours local wildlife and the region’s honey bees. There is also Perth in Scotland, which won Large Town as well as the Parks and Green Spaces award for its stunning Riverside Park; St Helier from Jersey which won in the Large Coastal category in 2018; Castlecaulfield from Ulster which shone in the Village category and finally, Durham, which came top in the Small City last year.

- The overall winner of the Champion of Champions category for 2019 is Perth in Scotland
- Kingsbridge in South Devon is a traditional market town that sits on the edge of a sea estuary surrounded by lush, green rolling countryside. It has a bustling high street and a vast selection of cafes, restaurants and bakeries.
- In 2007 a small team of volunteers with a vision to transform the town got together and named themselves Kingsbridge in Bloom and ever since then the team has grown from strength to strength. The team's dedication working all year round has won the admiration of the town's community and visitors alike making Kingsbridge a beautiful place to live and visit.
- Kingsbridge in Bloom have won awards each year and in recent years have consistently won gold awards. In 2018 and 2019 the team excelled themselves and won BEST SMALL TOWN and were entered into the Champion of Champions category.
- The team have developed stunning heritage sites and artefacts within the town, including The Town Square and Devonshire Hay Cart, The Lime Kiln, The Old Primrose Line Railway Bridge and The Floral Schooner on the waterfront.
- Britain in Bloom, run by the Royal Horticultural Society is Britain's nationwide gardening competition and is a powerful tool for building communities and tackling local issues. For more information please visit [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk).

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