



Press Release

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For Immediate Publication

New Planting Celebrates the Platinum Jubilee

New legacy planting across the town

From the seafront to Mill Hill, Deal Town Council has refreshed its planters to be more sustainable, friendly for wildlife, especially birds, insects and bees, require less watering, provide all year round interest, and even capture air pollution.

At the beginning of the year, this was the challenge extended to professional horticulturists across the area.

This was not an annual planting project, but planting for a lifetime and Archers Low Nursery in Sandwich came back with the best scheme.

Residents will already be familiar with their eye-catching planting displays at The King's Head and The Port Arms. Archers Low has also been involved with The Captain's Garden and Sandown Castle Community Garden.

The Archers Low team are also Deal residents, so they are familiar with the challenges of gardening by the sea and the different microclimates across Deal.

The planting started back in March and has been completed in time for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This deadline was important because at the heart of the planting scheme are seven multi-stem silver birches along the High Street, one for each decade of the Queen's reign. The birches are deciduous but their striking silver bark will look great in winter and the multi-stems moving in the wind will create a wonderful soundtrack in the High Street. Underplanting with white Agapantha and Salvia provide pops of colour through the summer and are great for pollinators. This planting has also been used in the two planters in Mill Hill.

At the southern end of the High Street, a dramatic entrance has been created with Photinia Fraseri – Red Robin – a shrub that's been grown as a tree with a 5 foot trunk and an evergreen canopy loved by birds.

The planters in South Street are smaller and quite shaded from the sun and the rain so present a tricky environment. Archers Low has planted each with evergreen Pittosporum – mock orange – pruned into four foot tall lollipop trees and underplanted with silverbush and Heuchera – Melting Fire – providing all year round colour. These plants are also great at capturing particles from the buses and traffic in South Street.

The ten planters along the North Prom are not only completely exposed to the sea, but also almost hidden by all the parked cars, so the challenge was to find hardy coastal plants with height. The solution, five foot tall established Olive Trees underplanted with evergreen rosemary & thyme and Agapanthus for summer colour.

Finally, in Alfred Square there is one lonely planter presenting the opportunity for real drama. Archers Low have planted a seven foot yew clipped into a conical shape.

Councillor Chris Turner, the Mayor of Deal, said: "The aim of this investment is that it creates real pride in our town for years to come. This ground breaking approach to council planting demonstrates that sustainability can be beautiful."

Sarah Jane Doyle of Archers Low Nursery said: "We feel the planting for Deal Town Council creates a real legacy of green impact, creating longstanding improvement and enhancement across the town, visually, socially and for the wider natural environment."

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