

*Pride in Paignton
South West in Bloom
2008*



ROOTS

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Front cover picture ~ "The Big Tree"



Introduction

The English Riviera

Torbay is located on the south coast of Devon with the towns of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham located along the coast. The front is the focus of life in the Bay and the coast is lined with sandy beaches that attract thousands of tourists every year. The tradition for visiting Torbay as a tourist destination dates back to the Victorian Era when the resort was popular with aristocracy. Due to this popularity it has the aptly named title of the English Riviera due to the presence of large numbers of Torbay palms.



Torbay has a particularly good climate, being mild in the winter and never getting too hot in the summer. It also has a good level of rainfall, allowing gardeners to grow a large variety of tender plants including many types of true palm including the Brazilian jelly palm.

GeoPark Status

The English Riviera Geopark has a landscape of dramatic changes, of exploration and discovery. A landscape untouched by glaciation, revealing stories unseen elsewhere in the world. Stories of tropical seas and scorching deserts, raised beaches and drowned forests, hippopotami and mammoth, straight-tusked elephant and sabre-toothed tiger, cave bear and earliest man. The international importance of Torbay's geology is undeniable, 32 geosites covering a story of 3 geological time periods, all found within a compact area.



Geologist Dr Iain Stewart is patron of the English Riviera geopark. He hopes that as patron he will be able to encourage more to share his enthusiasm....."The English Riviera Geopark is great because it is within an urban area, but you can still tell a lot of the story of Britain, and the dramatic changes which have taken place, for example in climate from looking at the different ages and types of rocks found in the area. For example you can find rocks laid down at a time when Torbay was in a Caribbean -type ocean, then you are among rocks formed in desert, Sahara-type wadis. A geopark is also about telling the human stories, such as when the Ice Age came and what the humans were doing then. I think rocks themselves can be boring. You can pick up a totally nondescript pebble, but when you realise that pebble is there because it was washed down in a desert flood 300million years ago, that's an exciting story."

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Pride in Paignton

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History

The Pride in Paignton action group was set up in January 2004. The aim of the group in its early-years was to draw together the existing network of community groups and promote the Britain in Bloom goals. The title of the group was selected to reflect how people feel about their town and to demonstrate the wider aims of Britain in Bloom.

PAIGNTON in SPRINGTIME



THE BIG TREE

History of Torbay

Torbay has a rich and diverse heritage, spanning a period of many thousands of years. The earliest traces of man can be identified in Kent's Cavern in Torquay and Windmill Hill Cavern in Brixham. Paignton is made up of several villages, many of which retain their own identity.

Membership

Membership is open to all residents and organisations of Paignton.

Members of the committee include:

- The Chairman of Torbay in Bloom Plus
- Representatives of trading associations
- Representatives from Community groups
- Councillors
- Council Officers

PAIGNTON in SPRINGTIME



Devon Primroses

Aims

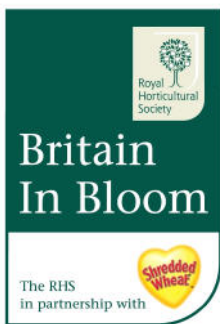
By promoting the wider aims of RHS South West in Bloom, the group is attracting greater community involvement. By showing that 'it's not just about flowers' and that it applies to the whole town environment - from litter to Agenda 21 and street furniture to horticulture, it tackles many local issues. Promotion of the group has been through informal talks to local societies and articles in local press all of which have stressed the broader aims of the group.

The group aims to tackle areas around the town with the help of volunteers. Many people, while not wishing to be involved in the management of the group, would like to 'get their hands dirty' and, by identifying areas for improvement, the appeal of the group will be widened still further.

Bay Blooms Initiative

The Bay Blooms Competition is a Torbay Council led initiative, which encourages partnerships within the community. This year Torquay, and St Marychurch/Babbacombe are hoping for gold and silver results like last year. Returning after a time of absence are Brixham and Paignton as 'Brixham in Bloom' and 'Pride in Paignton'. Through this involvement Torbay's environmental quality can be enhanced.

The partnership brings together people of different backgrounds for a number of projects ranging from floral displays, developments in parks and open spaces, and environmental cleanliness as well as other related arts, cultural and recreational projects. All these projects and people have one objective in mind, which is to improve the environmental quality in Torbay making the area more attractive to residents and tourists alike.



An annual competition for private individuals and businesses is entered by hundreds of local people, with categories from best hanging basket to best environmentally friendly garden. There are also 4 town action groups within the bay who coordinate the entries into RHS Southwest in Bloom.



Mayor's Vision for Paignton

Paignton - Garden City

In this new City alliance Paignton takes on a very different role - "Garden City". It is hoped that this will quite simply become a beautiful green place to live, work, play and relax. It will be filled with personality and diversity in a green setting that is within easy reach of the sea. In analysing the urban structure of the town centre it is surprising to view that it has an existing urban grid pattern and indeed Paignton was an original Victorian planned town. Over time this grid and the associated character have been eroded, pedestrian links and vistas have become blocked, routes confused, relationship between the land and sea weak and the built environment run down. The Vision looks to repair and strengthen the lines of force and urban grid by introducing a framework of City gardens and squares that each responds to a place. A new kind of garden that combines use and adds value where views of the sea are not always possible. Gardens of play, gardens of learning, gardens of working, zoological gardens, gardens of living, social gardens, cultural gardens and environmental gardens. With the threat of rising sea levels and also flooding potential in Paignton the Vision proposes that there is the potential to provide high quality development that will be designed to accommodate this challenge and raise land value to pay for protection. In addition, in creating these beautiful squares there is less reliance on the beach and also opportunities to bring beaches further inland. With a need for identifying appropriate sites for new types of business and residential accommodation near the sea coupled with intensifying the urban areas means that Paignton offers a lot of opportunity for development and the potential to become a great place to live and work as well as holiday.

Mayor's Vision The Garden City



Pride in Paignton

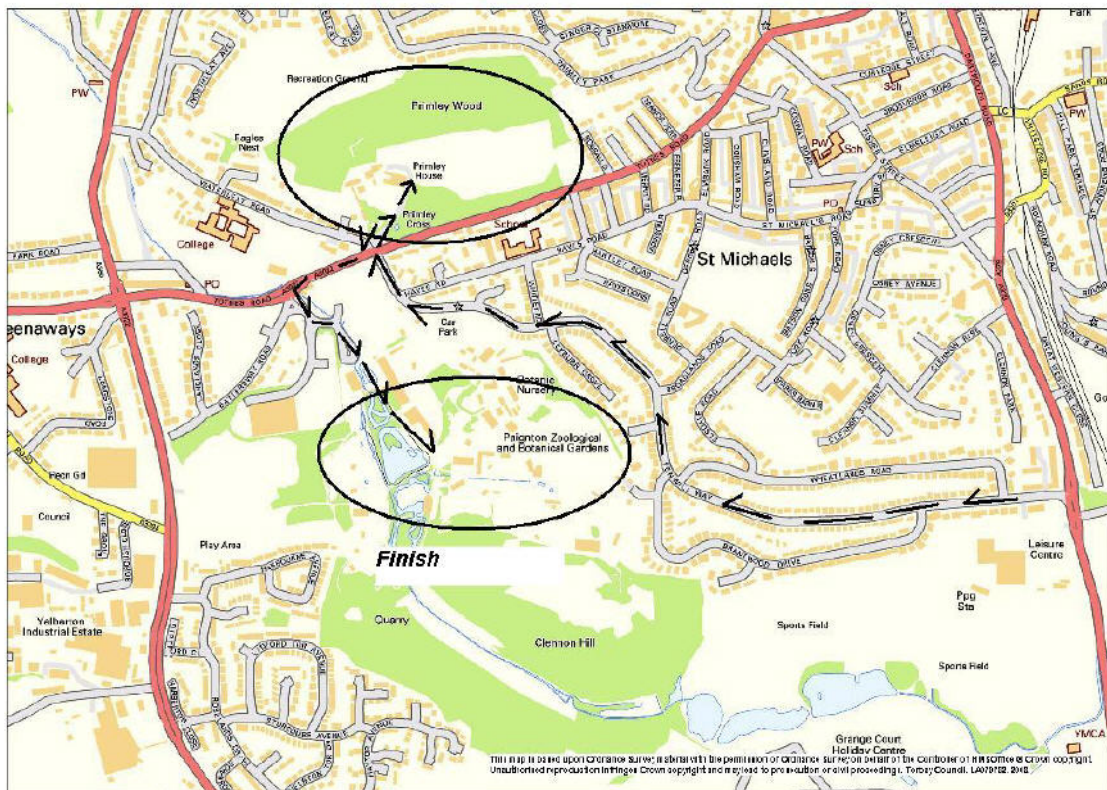
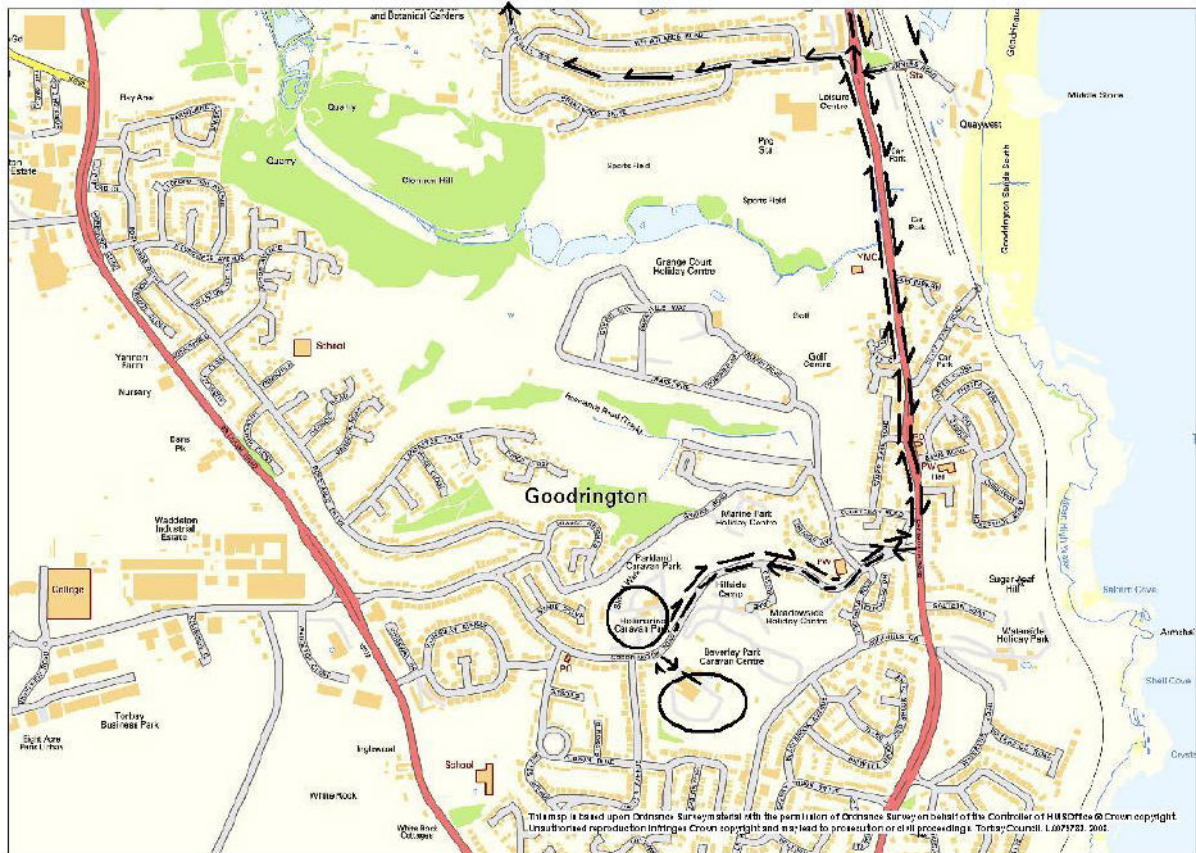
Clennon Valley of Living and Learning

The Valley of Living and Learning will form a new regional park connecting the countryside with the education centres to Goodrington sands and the sea which is only about a 20 minute walk or 5 minute cycle down the valley. In order to strengthen the education base a number of new research and development, environment/marine and hi-tech businesses which are priority sectors within the Economic Strategy could be clustered at either end. In addition, existing and proposed leisure uses at Goodrington and Clennon Valley will be supported by these strengthened links. These proposals will need to be sensitive to and strengthen the existing character of the natural green valley coombe which connects the countryside with the sea.

Map of Paignton including judging route



Route map ~ part 2



PRIDE IN PAIGNTON

South West in Bloom - Judging Route 2008

Judging tour starts at Oldway Mansion with refreshments.

Tim Ely to greet them on behalf of Torbay in Bloom + and Pride in Paignton and Ian Handford to give a presentation on Torbay Civic Society.

View the maze accompanied by a gardener and walk down the herbaceous border. Turn half way through the yews and walk back past the maze on tennis court side. Then walk down main drive and view flower beds. Cross road and view bowling green.

Leave Oldway past the gardeners storage area and turn right and carry on the tour to Seaway corner and travel to Marine Drive and meet Bob Brewis.

View floral display at Redcliffe Hotel and then travel to the seafront and from the Apollo view hanging baskets on hotels along sea front.

Look at crazy golf and Sustainable planting, Torbay Park and the crestbed (Fairtrade logo).

Walk through to Paignton harbour and view plantings and then travel up Roundham Road/Alta Vista Road to the top of hill to the viewpoint overlooking Young's Park. Carry on along the road and turn down Braeside Road and then get dropped off at the gate into Young's Park. -and meet the Young's Park People.

Visit the floral displays and conservation area and then meet the ranger from seashore centre with regards to Torbay's aquatic life.

Then continue judging onto Tanners Road and turn left at the Big Tree and through to Fisher Street.

To Winner street to view the mermaid public art and the hanging baskets.

On to Palace Avenue gardens and meet the Palace Avenue Guardians.

Visit the war memorial at the bottom of the gardens.

Walk through the pedestrian area of Victoria Street view hanging baskets.

Walk to the station to view the planters.

From the Station to Dartmouth road and travel to Ashvale Holiday Centre and view the mixed bedding and sustainable plantings. View the pond and interpretation board.

On to Beverley Park Holiday Centre (David Bellamy Gold Award) park in car park. Meet Matt who will show the judges round the property.

From here carry on the tour back down to Dartmouth Road and up Penwill way and view the private gardens on the way.

Arrive at Paignton Zoo to view the Botanical Gardens where we will be met by the Head Gardener Kevin Frediani who give a guided tour of the zoo followed by refreshments.

JUDGING TOUR ENDS

Oldway Mansion

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The elegant, palatial, former ancestral home, that is Oldway Mansion, was purchased by Isaac Singer in 1871. It was later modelled to be a mini Versailles by his son Paris. This grade II listed building was brought by Paignton Council in 1946 for £45,000 Featuring grandiose marble pillars and sweeping stairways ~ to its beautifully manicured 'Italian style gardens' ~ we are truly blessed with this architectural gem right in the heart of Paignton.



Torbay Park

Torbay Park was established in 1953 to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The central flowerbed has been sponsored by the International Waste Management conference which has held Europe's largest waste management and recycling convention on Paignton's main seafront for over 20 years.



Paignton Sea Front



Sustainable Planting



Paignton Harbour



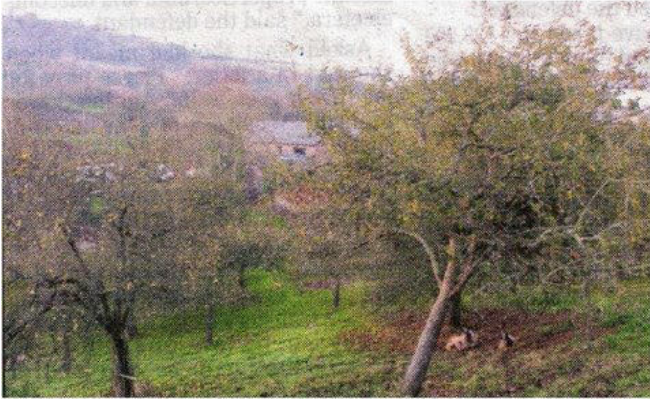
View from Roundham Headland

PAIGNTON in SPRINGTIME



CREST BED

Ancient Orchards at Yalberton



Pride in Paignton

Ancient Orchards at Yalberton



Pride in Paignton

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Clennon Ponds



Wildlife Area

Badger Watch Paignton Zoo



Pride in Paignton

Young's Park

Young's Park in Goodrington is rich in so many ways.

It has heritage ~ from the middle ages, as a farm, with fishing and the inevitable smuggling route that was prevalent in the 'good old days'. There are still remains of walls which formed part of the Goodrington Cottage garden, which was the home of the Misses Brown & was purchased by the council in 1922 with 12½ acres of garden ~ the cottage was demolished in 1935. The same year Goodrington Park development started work and "Historic Young's Park" was finally completed in May 1936. To the south of this wall are four Granite Pillars. These mark the Napoleonic burial grounds next to the Inn on the Quay, which was a military/naval hospital in the early 1800's.

Young's Park is quite special as it is located between the shoreline of Goodrington North Sands to the east and to the west side along the conservation area is the Steam Railway.

Today the flowerbeds are cared for and maintained by **Young's Park People**

Heritage



Working Parties

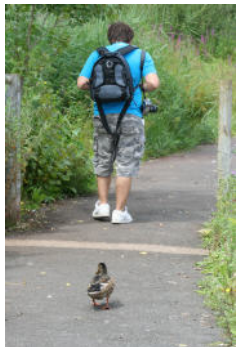


Consultations



Picnic in the Park

Conservation Areas



Young's Park Wildfowl Conservation Area



Putting up nest boxes



South Devon College helps out

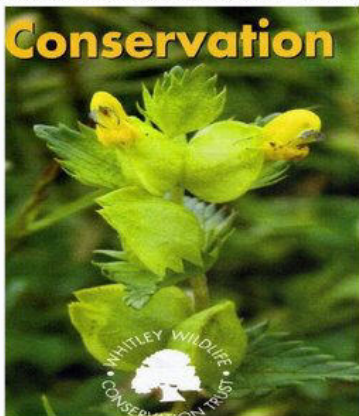
Conservation Trust Projects



Pride in Paignton

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Conservation Trust Projects



Pride in Paignton

Conservation in base of Gas Holder



Pride in Paignton

Winner Street

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Winner Street was the original main street of Olde Paignton, when the sea tide line came up as far as Church Street. The local traders in this area are passionate about retaining and promoting its wonderful heritage. The care and attention give to the street furniture, planters and hanging baskets are a credit to the traders and residents of this historic area.



ROOTS



Community Friends Groups



War Memorial



Keeping members & the public informed

ROOTS



Palace Avenue Gardens

Palace Avenue Guardians are a community group with funding from "Living Spaces" and support from Torbay Council. Together they have begun a programme of restoration and regeneration of the Palace Avenue Gardens. PAG's achievements over their 4 years as a well supported gardening group are many. Improvements in lighting, better paths, new custom designed seating and easier disabled access



Bespoke Seating



Children's "Sailing Yacht" Bed

Community Friends Groups



The Young's Park People group was formed in May 2007, because they not only wanted to improve the flower beds and general appearance of the park, but also wanted the park users to feel part of a caring community. They have tried to do this by listening to their members' ideas and of course their valuable support when it comes to digging and planting out the flowerbeds. What has been great are the donations from YPP members (and non members!) and the offer of cuttings and plants from people who care. This park Has become all embracing and above all, inclusive to all.

To further these aims they have held Coffee mornings, raffles and two "Picnic in the Park" events. Although the turnout to both of these picnics was not high – this was I'm sure, due to the appalling weather, rather than the lack of enthusiasm.

Despite this our latest attempt at a "park community" event was a completely different affair. On Friday the 24th August last year over one hundred park users were entertained by the All Staff Merchant Navy Band. It was a beautiful, barmy summers evening – which was indeed a blessing considering the summer we have had. Many YPP members brought chairs and even picnics, while the holiday makers sat on the sea wall, to enjoy this wonderfully relaxed affair.

The response was so good they plan to have regular fixtures, in Young's Park, arranged throughout the 2008 summer season.

YPP members also held a social dinner at Christmas and again in the Spring - future plans include a lunch club

The park was looking good this summer, the first time in years! They should all be proud of what they have managed to do, as a group, in such a short time, by having determination and the 'will' to get things done. Sometimes obstacles have been put in their way – but on the whole, with the help of Cultural Services and of course the garden department, they have succeeded in their aims.



Victoria (Pedestrian) Street and Station Square



Paignton Railway Station



The planters on the station
are planted out and maintained
by members of
Young's Park People



Recycling

Torbay Council mission statement:-

"Here in Torbay we value our environment and aim to sustain and improve the environment and reduce the amount of waste that is disposed of to landfill.

- Less waste and reduced effect on world-wide climate change
- The built, natural and marine environment is protected and improved
- Communities are able to contribute to sustainable development
- Landscape Character Assessment should identify key indicators for landscape areas

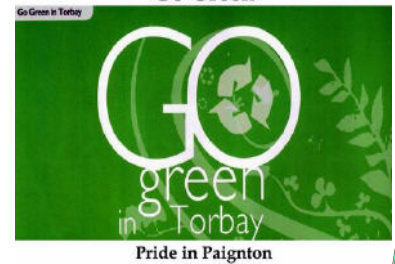
Paignton operates a twin bin recycling/refuse collection system, servicing over two thirds of properties.

In the majority of cases, 2 x 240 litre wheeled bins are supplied to every property. The green bin is for recycling and the grey bin for all other non-recyclable waste.

Torbay Council are currently surveying the remaining properties not currently served by the twin bin system.

Refuse collection rounds may then be re-jigged to enable as many people as possible to take part in this initiative."

Properties/roads deemed unsuitable for this system will be offered an alternative, enabling them to recycle from their own home.



Grey water for the flowerbeds in Young's Park

Composting

This is the start of the Young's Park People Compost System in the Wildfowl area..

An area was cleared by members to allow vegetation And weeds to be collected. The Council will provide Stakes and wire netting to build three compartments, One for new waste, another to allow turning after a year and the last section for the final brake down on and excellent usable compost!

Composting



Pride in Paignton



Early stage of YPP compost system

Sponsors

Many of the roundabouts and important focal beds by Paignton's highways, are sponsored by local companies. This obviously helps fund the upkeep of these flowerbeds, but also gives local businesses an opportunity to become involved with the Paignton community ~ as well as excellent advertising for "local caring companies"



Torbay Civic Society along with Torbay Council promote important occasions with beautiful artwork, to improve local residents quality of life.



Grants

Many park groups have been very successful with various grant applications over the last couple of years.

"It's your Community Awards" from O2 and The National Big Lottery Fund ~ Breathing Places, (for conservation and open land) have awarded £11,000 this year alone to Young's Park People!





Local business with green fingers!

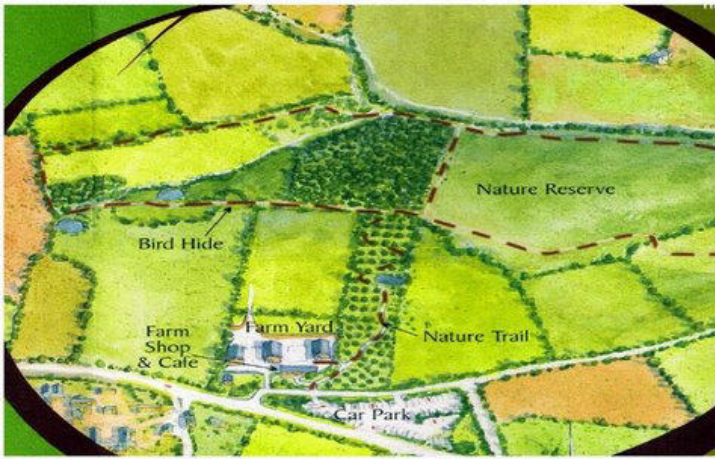
Good Graffiti~
in the right place



Torbay Art Project 2008

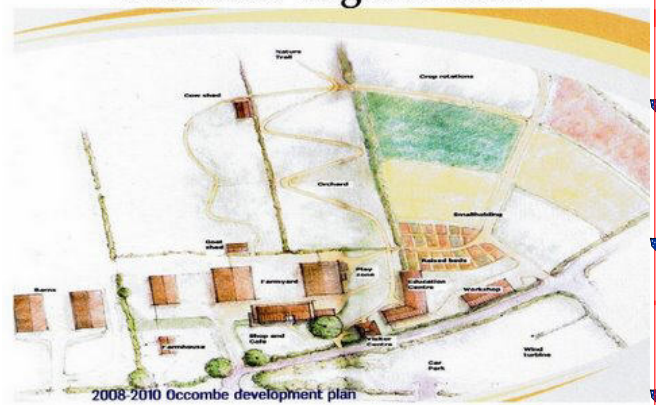


Occombe Farm



Pride in Paignton

Occombe Organic Farm



2008-2010 Occombe development plan

Best Farm Retail Newcomer Award

Occombe Organic Farm



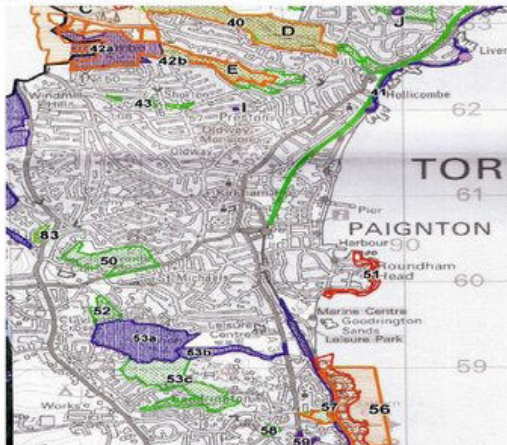
Pride in Paignton

Straw Bale Building Occombe



Pride in Paignton

Paignton Nature Conservation Sites



Pride in Paignton

Paignton Nature Conservation Sites

Torbay Nature Conservation Sites Key

- SAC = Special Area of Conservation
- NNR = National Nature Reserve
- SSSI = Site of Special Scientific Interest
- LNR = Local Nature Reserve
- CWS = County Wildlife Site
- pCWS = Potential County Wildlife Site
- CGS (RIGS) = County Geological Site
- pCGS = Proposed County Geological Site
- LWS = Local Wildlife Site

Pride in Paignton

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Paignton People

Retiring 91 years between them



Pride in Paignton

Pupils are Guiding Lights



Pride in Paignton

Roselands Community Nursery



Pride in Paignton

Lost Gardens of Hollicombe



Pride in Paignton

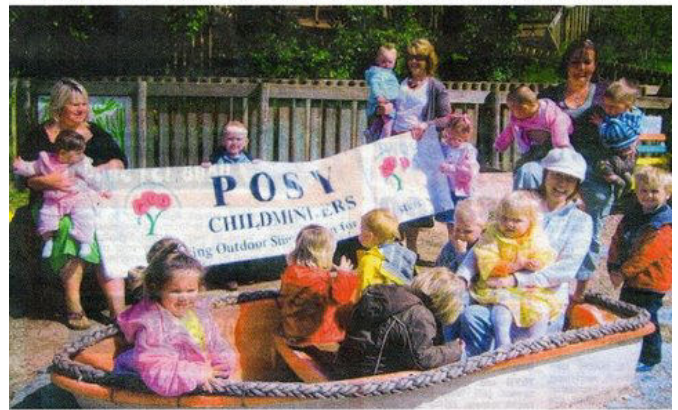
Paignton Community Lengthsmen



Some of the council's new lengthsmen

Pride in Paignton

Childminder's Outdoor Activities



Pride in Paignton

Amenity Horticulture Apprentice



Pride in Paignton

New Steps for Oyster Cove



Pride in Paignton

The Four Seasons

PAIGNTON in SPRINGTIME



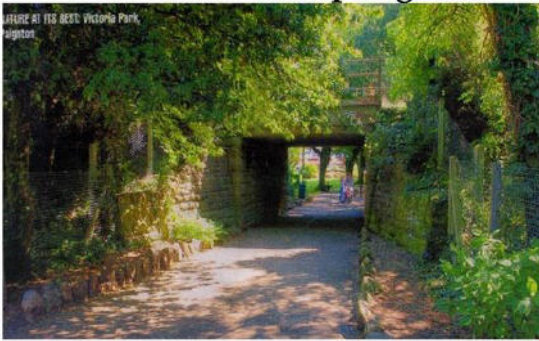
PAIGNTON HARBOUR

PAIGNTON in SPRINGTIME



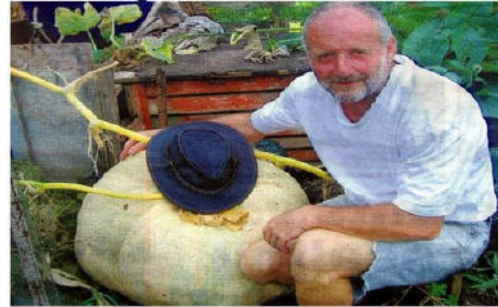
PRESTON

Victoria Park in Springtime



Pride in Paignton

Giant Vegetable & Scarecrow Show



Pride in Paignton



Summer Delights

Straw Bale Building Ocombe



Pride in Paignton

Christmas Tree Prizes



Pride in Paignton

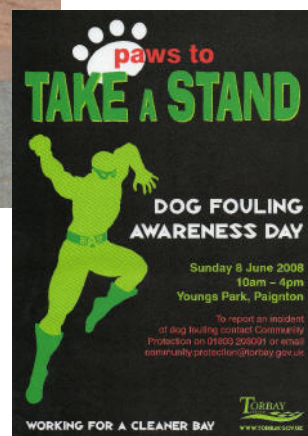
Litter & Graffiti

According to our Elected Mayor - Nick Bye - more money was put into the 2007/08 budget to step up street cleaning and initiate a 'lengthsmen' scheme to undertake minor repairs at the direction of Community Partnerships and councillors. The recent ENCAMS survey put Torbay ahead of many other places, especially for clearing up litter. Torbay Council have introduced new litter bins, more dog bins, a graffiti telephone hotline and a rapid response team tackling fly tipping and fly posting. The recently launched 'Take a Stand' campaign has been well received and aims to bring together all the council's work to achieve a clean and tidy Torbay, with emphasis on education and then, enforcement. Those who choose to flout the rules may find themselves having to pay, in the form of a Fixed Penalty Notice. These are issued as an alternative to prosecution and will be enforced by a team of environmental compliance officers.

Solar Powered Litter Bin



Pride in Paignton



Acknowledgements

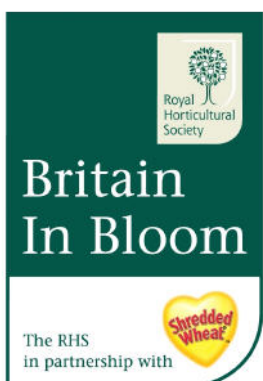
Lindsay Evans ~ Torbay Council Parks Dept.

Tim Eley ~ Torbay in Bloom Plus Chairman

English Riviera Geopark Website

www.torbay.gov.uk

Herald Express



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