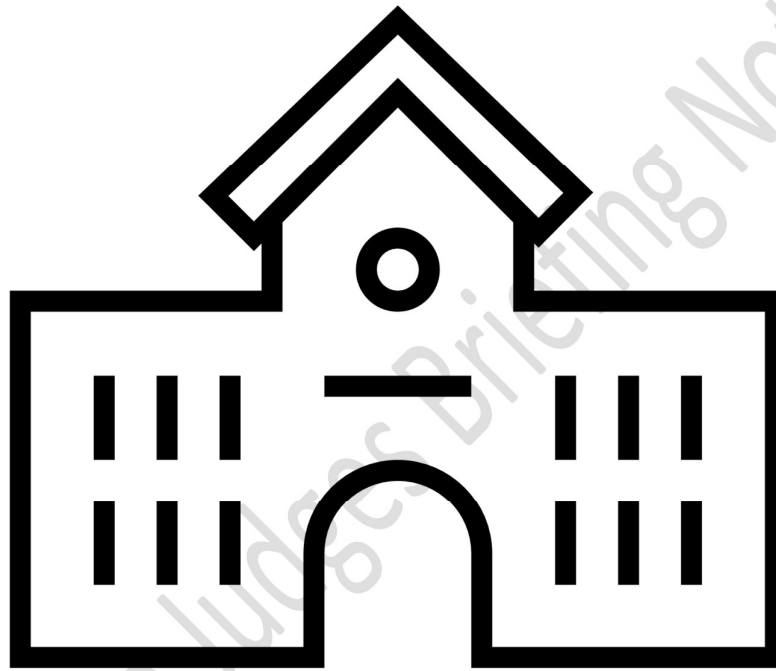


Example
Judges' Briefing Notes for Pagus in Bloom
2025



Note: this report is all fictional and any resemblance to real life events is not intentional.

The Pagus in Bloom Team 2024/25

Committee	Key tasks and/or links to other community organisations
Chair	Allotments, Town Council liaison.
Meeting Secretary	Friends of the Museum
Volunteer Co-ordinator	RHS funded project, school's liaison
Treasurer	
Vice Chair	Fundraising
A. N Other	Civic Society
A. N Other	Weeding
A. N Other	Plant design and planting. Anglia in Bloom
A. N Other	Town Council, Friends of the Museum,
A. N Other	Town Action
A. N Other	Garden Club, Allotments competition
A. N Other	Rotary Club

Photo Credits – St Ives in Bloom

Pagus is on the banks of the river Great Ouse. It is an historic trading town and has many historic buildings. Today, visitors to our picturesque town come from around the world to marvel at the architecture and the many formal gardens now maintained by volunteers. The town has experienced much growth in the last 20 years with the population doubling, many of whom commute out of town for employment.

Pagus in Bloom (PiB) started in 2000 with five gardeners wanting to support their local schools with gardening activities. From there it has snowballed into an eighty strong team who maintain the closed and open cemeteries, provide support to local schools and bring colour to the town environment. The group have a work party every Tuesday. However with the need to encourage younger volunteers, the group also meet on the last Saturday of the month. These are well attended by all ages.

Horticulture

PiB maintains the widespread seasonal bedding provided by the town council, regularly deadheading and weeding throughout the year. Other areas in the town have seen a shift in planting to more perennial plants with the widespread use of grasses and drought tolerant plants. Most of the areas do not have a water source, plants are watered in when they are planted, additional water is only applied in very dry conditions as it is not feasible to water frequently. At Meadow Bottom the opposite is true as this area frequently floods. Plants have been chosen to survive waterlogging and to provide a naturalised look to the area with native plants being chosen where possible.

All of the plants are grown in peat free compost and the team have access to a shed where plastic pots are kept for reuse.



Where appropriate seasonal bedding is potted and moved to other areas in the town or sold to raise funds. March 2025

There is now a thriving subgroup who focus on growing plants from seed, division and cuttings. May 2025.



Over 10,000 daffodils planted since the group started, brightening up the town. February 2025



Drought tolerant planting in the carpark, July 2024

The Environment

The Meadow Bottom volunteers look after the diverse habitat in the Meadow area where areas of the hazel woodland are coppiced on a rotational basis. The 'In Bloomers' assist with these tasks which are carried out in the winter.



Woven willow fence to reduce vehicles driving over border in the town centre, January 2025



New compost bins behind the High Street. Used for all the organic waste. The resulting compost is used on the flower beds. April 2025



Primroses in the Parish church yard. An ongoing project to remove brambles and Ivy has enabled the flowers to thrive and create a delight oasis in the town. February 2025

Community

PiB is at the heart of the community and is often the 'glue' bringing other groups together. In 2024 they organised a celebratory party for all those who had been involved with the successful In Bloom Campaign.

Schools

The local Schools in Pagus are very keen to encourage their students to be involved in outdoor activities and all five schools have their own gardening or Eco clubs. The In Bloomers organise a yearly potato growing competition in each of the four primary schools. The prizes for the most potatoes, the most odd-shaped potato and the largest potato are awarded at the annual Floral and Produce show.

The Wider Community

The Pagus Gardening Club meets regularly through the year – for evening talks and "Question Time" during the colder months, and for garden visits and trips on summer Saturdays

Green Week

A group of volunteers with the help of the Town Council rallied the organisations and schools to put on events for Green Week. This resulted in a jam-packed week of events and talks themed around Nature, Recycling and the Environment. PiB were present at the launch and organised work parties to adopt a new area in the town. Penelope who instigated Green Week for the town was interviewed on local news as part of their coverage of the week.



Local shops supporting Green Week with their window display, June 2025

Support and Funding

The PiB team are very keen to promote their activities. Posters detailing the next month's tasks are placed on local noticeboards and on our website. Specific posters are put up in the Walled Garden detailing tasks at this location. Our Facebook posts gather much interest reporting on both our past and future events. PiB activities are reported in the local paper (articles will be available on Judging Day).

The group is supported by a small grant from the Town Council and donations from businesses within the town and surrounding areas. We are fortunate to receive donations both as monetary gifts, plant and materials.

Conclusions

PiB are passionate about their town and want to create a town where the open spaces compliment the towns built up environment. They have extensive support from local businesses with 10 new planters last year sponsored by local companies.

In 2026 PiB want to maintain the dynamic mix of plants within the town whilst bringing a disused rundown area back into the community and creating a relaxing space.