

St Just In Bloom



2015

Introduction to St Just in Bloom

St Just in Bloom was formed in 2003 and first entered South West in Bloom in 2004. Last year in 2014 St Just in Bloom won their first Gold award putting England's most westerly town very firmly on the floral map.

St Just has a strong community who are very proud of their beautiful town situated above the only Cape in England. People living here support their local businesses and St Just has a very good selection including a butchers, bakers, green grocers, hardware store, pharmacy, newsagents, post office as well as cafes, antique shops, hairdressers and of course pubs and hotels. For a small town it really has it all.

St Just in Bloom work together throughout the year, planting, weeding and maintaining the flower beds, tubs, bins and lamppost and keeping the pavements clean and free from weeds in order to make St Just a beautiful place to live and visit. St Just in Bloom's aim is to achieve as much as possible with limited funds and a small number of volunteers improving and developing areas used by the community with a variety of plants such as wild flowers, sustainable plants and bedding plants.

We provide education with our close association with the schools and create areas for the public to sit and enjoy such as our Community Garden and our managed Old Churchyard which has areas of long grass, wildflowers, insect houses and bird boxes. We also have a colourful display of tubs and amberols in the town square which is the heart of St Just town.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month and the AGM is held in February.

The 2015 committee members are:

- Chris Goninan (Chairman)
- Marlene Smith (Secretary)
- Nick Skerratt (Treasurer)
- Pat Charlton
- Anita Rose
- Gina Salmon
- Margaret Sedgeman
- Paul Woolcock
- Michael May
- Richard Lawry
- Robert Matthews
- Giles Trembath
- Stuart Coleman
- Pam Callaway

A History of St Just Parish

St Just Parish has a population of 4,645 with 2,105 households. 21.1% are over 65 and 17.45% are under 16. However, we have 18.3% living in income deprivation, with 25.9% of children under 16 living in these households and 34.8% of households estimated to be 'fuel poverty'.

St Just is the most westerly town in England and is renowned for its hard rock mining. In the middle to late eighteenth century mining was flourishing here and St Just had a population of 10,000. Charles and John Wesley made several visits to this peninsula building Wesleyan Chapels which can still be found in most Cornish towns and villages today. Indeed at this time St Just was a bigger place than Birmingham.

Mining continued in this area until 1992 when the last mine at Geevor stopped working. Geevor has now been converted into a visitor attraction and houses a wonderful museum and provides underground visits to the mine.

In 2006, together with other mining areas in Cornwall and West Devon, Geevor was given World Heritage status by UNESCO and became a Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site.



A Year in the Life of St Just in Bloom

August 2014

This is when St Just in Bloom take their summer break although watering, deadheading and feeding still have to be done. This year has been a glorious summer and the lack of wind and rain has meant our usual battle with the elements has been largely avoided. However, it has meant the watering has been quite onerous.

September 2014

After a 4a.m. departure four representatives from St Just in Bloom attended the South West in Bloom awards in Trowbridge and collected our first Gold Award. We were all delighted with our achievement. Also one of our founder members, Robert Matthews, received a South West in Bloom Volunteer of the Year Award and was presented with a silver salver and a shield.



October 2014

On the 3rd October a presentation evening was held at the Royal British Legion. The theme this year was 'poppies'. Winners of the painting, photography and gardening competitions were awarded their certificates.

On 30th October Cornwall in Bloom held their presentation evening in Truro. Letters of congratulation were received from the Town Council and several local societies on achieving our first ever Gold Award.

The poly tunnel door at the school was repaired by one of our volunteers and following a sponsored walk by St Just cricket club we received a generous cheque for £244.

November 2014

After attending a service at the Parish Church a wreath was laid by St Just in Bloom at the town War Memorial where another short service took place.

St Just in Bloom was represented at the Feast parade which is an annual event commemorating the dedication of the Parish Church (1336) and again St Just in Bloom members attended the Church Service. Following this there was a parade to the Royal British Legion where light refreshments were served and annual civic awards were given.. This year Citizen of the Year Award was given to the St Just in Bloom group and we were all delighted and honoured to have been recognised for the work we have done.

On the 2nd November several members manned a stall at the Junior School Open Day with leaflets and information about St Just in Bloom.
St Just Rally- a social evening was attended and St Just in Bloom were presented with a cheque for £400.



December 2014

Carol singing on a warm damp night didn't really put us in a festive mood but with the help of the local drama group and Mary and Roger King who played their accordions, we soon got into full swing, or should I say song! We began by attending the local Nursing Home to entertain the residents and then proceeded around the town. One of our volunteers and landlord of a local hotel invited us back for coffee and mince pies. The money was then counted in the collecting tins and we were delighted when we learnt our share of the collection totalled £150.43.

One of our members, Robert Matthews, was invited to switch on the Towns Christmas lights this year and he was very honoured and happy to carry out this task. St Just in Bloom was once again represented at the Christmas tree festival and the theme this year was 'carols'. We chose 'The holy and the Ivy' and the Methodist hall looked magical with all the trees lit and decorated.



January 2015

Many containers need repairing. This task is taken on voluntarily with St Just in Bloom paying for expenses. To be able to repair rather than replace is cost effective and helps towards our commitment to recycle. Several beds were also dug over ready for replanting.

February 2015

Re-election of committee members took place and the Chairman Chris Goninan, the Secretary Marlene Smith and the Treasurer Nick Skerrat were re-elected.



March 2015

The poly tunnel at the school was repaired by one of our volunteers. It was in a bad and dangerous state and he did a fantastic job making it fully functional and safe for the children to use. A working group tried to repair the tubs, putting on new steel bands. It was decided that the wood wont last beyond this year and several of the tubs will need replacing. One of our volunteers offered to make new ones at cost price. Areas that are to have wild flowers were sown ready for a glorious summer display. Some of our members attended St Just Primary School on 26th March to help celebrate the retirement of Mrs Diane O'Brian, the Headmistress, who has been a keen supporter of St Just in Bloom.

April 2015

Work has begun in earnest, weeding, tidying and pruning the various beds. New steel bands have been fitted to the wooded tubs and the tubs are being painted green and the bands black – St Just Football team colours! The poly tunnel has been weeded and two raised beds at the Comprehensive school have been planted up, one with vegetables and the other with wild flowers.



May 2015

The last of the wooden tubs have been painted ready for planting up. Rails and lampposts have been painted and the bench in the Old Churchyard has been re-positioned.

A local resident has made a lovely wooden sign which will be fixed to the wall of the church directing locals and visitors to the 'Old Churchyard' where we have created a 'wildlife area'. It is a rather hidden area so a sign will help everyone find it. St Just in Bloom have had to obtain permission from the Rural Dean and the Parochial Church Council before we can erect the sign.

One of our volunteers who works with 'Kites' a group of children with learning difficulties has been making bug hotels, and all our volunteers have been busy clearing tubs ready for replanting, sorting out over-wintered plants, weeding and tidying beds. This is a very busy time of year.



June 2015

St Just in Bloom volunteers have been busy planting tubs and beds. The three tier amberols have been put in place. Local businesses have planted up their own tubs and hanging baskets and our town is becoming alive with colourful blooms. We are hoping the weather will be kind to us again this summer. South westerly winds and horizontal rain is not conducive with a perfect floral display.

We are preparing our painting, photography and garden competition application forms which will be sent to Cornwall Council for printing.



Completed Projects from 2014

1. A new mixed flower bed outside the Library has been created
2. New raised beds at the Comprehensive school have been completed



Fund Raising

St Just in Bloom try to raise awareness in the community through fund raising events and talks. In 2015 we did this by the following activities:-

- A talk at the Land End and District University of the 3rd Age
- A talk at the Old Cornwall Society
- St Just and Pendeen annual sponsored walk
- Christmas carol singing
- Collecting tins in local businesses
- A stall at the local Junior School Open Day



St Just in Bloom Awards 2014

- South West in Bloom Gold Award
- Robert Matthews South West in Bloom Volunteer of the Year Award
- Cornwall in Bloom 2014
 - 5 Awards - Allotments
 - Brambles Nursery
 - The Royal British Legion
 - South Place Gardens – All Budding
 - St Just Town (Full Bloom)
- It's Your Neighbourhood (see page 14)
- St Just and Pendeen Town Council- Citizen of the Year Award



It's Your Neighbourhood Entries 2015

- Comprehensive School
- Bosorne Bed
- Closed Churchyard
- Recreation Plot
- Rear of Carralck Terrace
- Library Bed
- Wee Plot
- Allotments
- Nancherrow
- Garage Plots at Carn Bosavern
- Royal British Legion
- Bosacern Community Farm
- Mrs Jeffries-Bottom of Nancherrow Hill
- Brambles Nursery
- Cemetery
- Trelew Flats
- Sturgeons Wall
- Age UK
- Mural
- Cricket Club
- South Place Gardens



St Just in Bloom Competitions

Each year St Just in Bloom have a painting, photography and gardening competition. It is open to anyone who wants to enter. Children from the Nursery and playgroup, the Primary and Secondary schools, the U3A and local residents are all encouraged to put forward an entry.

The gardening competition is advertised through press releases in the local paper. Competition amongst competitors is fierce and judging takes place at the end of July. The painting competition attracts the schools and adult art classes and is judged by a local artist. We are lucky enough to have several artists living in our town who are willing to offer their judging services.

The photography entries are always of a high standard and this year the theme is 'Fun in the Park'. The awards are presented later in the year and the event is supported by local businesses and is very well attended. Certificates are presented to the winners to celebrate and congratulate them on their achievements. It is an enjoyable social occasion which unites the whole community.



Encouraging Wild Life

Our main 'wildlife area' is at the Old Churchyard although we do try to use wildlife friendly plants in other areas around the town.

In the Old Churchyard we have let the grass grow in some areas and some grass is cut to allow thrushes such as blackbirds, song thrushes and robins to forage for worms. We have introduced a range of native wild flowers which self seed. The wild flowers are a great source of nectar all year round for all insects and food plants for caterpillars. The area has mature trees and shrubs which encourage birds and by introducing bird boxes we have encouraged a variety of birds to nest. We have introduced log piles for small mammals and toads to hibernate and insect houses for bees.

One of our volunteers works for Cornwall Wildlife Trust and manages the area. We are currently arranging the erection of a new sign on the Church wall in Market Square directing the public to the area as it is rather hidden, and visitors and some locals don't know it's there. It is a lovely area to sit and enjoy with its wonderful position overlooking the iconic West Penwith landscape.



Businesses in the Town

Businesses are encouraged to decorate the outside of their premises with a floral display. Most of the businesses throughout the town make a big effort each year which helps brighten the town and adds to the displays which St Just in Bloom provides.

Local businesses can also enter into the garden competition which is run each year by St Just in Bloom. There is an award for the 'best business' which can be for the best garden or floral display.

Some of the businesses support us either financially or by providing services and venues free of charge.



St Just Schools in Bloom

Pupils at St Just Primary School have been growing their own vegetables and salad crops in the School grounds and these vegetables are then used by the school. The pupils are encouraged to look after the plants themselves. We hope that this may 'sow the seed' for a lifelong interest in gardening and growing vegetables for some of the children and it is also important that they realise the effort and care involved in producing vegetables. The primary school children always enter the painting competition and they have developed a garden area in their playing field with the help of one of our volunteers.

Children at the Nursery Schools have also contributed towards St Just in Bloom by brightening up the areas outside their nursery.

One of our volunteers who works for Cornwall Wildlife Trust has been working closely with a group of children with a wide range of learning difficulties. He works with them in the poly tunnel situated at Cape Cornwall School, preparing plants for over-wintering and also in the wildlife garden at the Old Churchyard teaching them about wildflowers, birds, insects and how it is important to encourage wildlife.



Recycling, Rubbish and Waste

Since 2012 Cory Environment have been contracted by Cornwall Council to manage its' waste collection, beach cleaning and cleansing services.

People are encouraged to recycle as much as possible and recycling bins for cardboard, paper, tins, bottles, clothes and shoes are provided near the main car park and these are very well used. Also there is a house to house collection every two weeks for recycling items and green waste collection.

We have a street cleansing team who ensure that our Town is kept free of litter and they are always willing to put in extra effort after community events such as Lafrowda Day and Feast Monday. Two local shops provide bins for used batteries and we have two charity outlets in the town, Age UK and Free Church Chapel where pre-owned items can be taken.

During previous years we have asked the Council for dog litter bins to be placed around the town and these are now sited in various areas although we would like to see a few more of them.

We try to keep on top of maintenance, repairing and treating tubs, the poly tunnel and seats around the town to enhance their life expectancy, only replacing when absolutely necessary. We also paint the bike stands outside the Co-op, the waste bins in Market Square and Bank Square and the lamp posts.



Sustainability

We use bedding plants in our tubs and floral displays, but we try to over winter as much as we can. We are very lucky living in the Far West of Cornwall as winters are generally mild and some plants can survive in beds and tubs which would not survive in other parts of the country. However being on 'the edge' and surrounded by the Atlantic we do have a great deal of wind which can damage susceptible plants. We have to use our horticultural knowledge to make sure we do not waste money on plants which cannot tolerate wind conditions. This means that we do not have the same choice of plants to choose from as they do in other parts of the country.

We use the poly tunnel at the school for over wintering tender plants, saving bulbs and growing from seeds. We have our own composter and recycle waste as much as we can and we have water butts which we make very good use of.

Some of the areas we look after have perennials, shrubs and self seeding plants and the Old Churchyard has wild flowers and grasses.



Sponsorship

We would like to say a special thank you to our Town Council who have once again given their financial support to us. Without their generosity we would not be able to do what we do and St Just inhabitants, businesses and visitors would not have the floral displays we can provide with their help.

There are also a large number of sponsors who help the St Just group each year, some help financially and some give up their time or let us use their facilities free of charge. We would like to thank the following for their support this year.

St Just Town Council
Cornwall Council
P.A. Wilkins & Co Estate Agents
The Commercial Hotel
Star Inn, St Just
Cape Cornwall Comprehensive School
McFaddons Butchers
Christine Olds
Mrs Pat Hosken
Clemo's Pets & DIY
St Just RBL Club
Webfooted Designs
Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Shelly's
Peter Davis

