

St Just In Bloom



2016



Introduction to St Just in Bloom

St Just in Bloom was formed in 2003 and first entered South West in Bloom in 2004. In 2014 St Just in Bloom won their first Gold award and last year in 2015 this was surpassed by not only another Gold award but also winning the Ayre cup for the best in their category. This was a fantastic achievement for our town.

St Just has a strong local community who are very proud of their town situated in the far West of Cornwall above the only Cape in England. However being on the edge and exposed to strong salty winds and horizontal rain poses many horticultural challenges.

People living here support their local businesses and St Just has a diverse selection including butchers, a bakery, a green grocer, hardware and garden supplies, a pharmacy, newsagents, a post office as well as cafes, antique shops, galleries, grocery shops, hairdressers and of course our pubs and hotels. We are lucky to have both, primary and secondary schools, a doctor's surgery, library and a fire station! For a small town St Just really has it all.

St Just in Bloom work together throughout the year, planting, weeding and maintaining the flower beds and painting the tubs, bins, railings and lampposts. We keep the pavements clean and weed free in order to help 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 only about 10 active volunteers. We have been trying to improve and develop areas used by the community with a variety of plants, such as wild flowers, sustainable plants and colourful displays of bedding plants in the spring and summer. We provide education with our close association with the schools and create areas for the public to sit and enjoy such as the Community Garden and our managed Old Churchyard. We try to involve the whole community with our competitions and we have been proactive this year inviting businesses to sponsor new tubs. This not only unites the town but brings in much needed funds and additional floral displays- hopefully a winning combination for 2016!



Committee Members

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)
- Margaret Sedgeman
- Robert Matthews
- Pat Charlton
- Anita Rose
- Giles Trembath
- Richard Lawry
- Stuart Coleman
- Michael May
- Pam Callaway
- Paul Woolcock
- Andrew Wilkey
- Gina Salmon
- Hayley Stringer
- Roger Webb



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 29.9% 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 people. 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.

Mining continued in this area until 1992 when the last mine, 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 World Heritage Site. This year marks the tenth or 'tenth' anniversary and there are various events being held throughout the region.

Some of the disused mines in the area have been used as filming locations for the new series of Poldark and has attracted more visitors to the town. Last year we had up to 1,000 people at a time watching filming. We also have quite a few German visitors to the area as Rosamund Pilcher books have been adapted for a popular series in Germany. Last year St Just was used as a location for several scenes.



A Year in the Life of St Just in Bloom

August 2015

Unlike the dry hot August last year, this year has been very wet, windy and cold. The amberols and tubs have taken a battering from the weather. Our pump broke so watering was difficult whilst waiting for it to be repaired. The grass has been growing quickly and has been difficult to mow because of the wet ground.

Many of our tubs have now reached the end of their life and despite our efforts to repair them we have concluded that they need to be replaced. One of our volunteers has offered to make new ones at cost price and we have been approaching local businesses to ask if they would be willing to sponsor new tubs. We have had quite a positive response and so we are now in a position to begin replacing once the current displays are over.

We were represented at our Mayors inauguration service followed by a hog roast lunch. It was a lovely occasion which helped unite our community.



September 2015

Our flower borders and beds are still looking good despite a damp foggy August. We have taken down the amberols as we can get strong autumn gales here and we are worried about public safety.

On 24th September 6 volunteers represented St Just in Bloom at the South West in Bloom awards at Dartmouth Royal Naval College. We left at 6am to be sure to arrive in good time. Although we hoped to match our last year's achievement and get another Gold award, we realised that we had a difficult task ahead. We were delighted when we learnt that not only had we won a Gold we also won the Ayre Cup for best in our category. Also the 21 'It's your Neighbourhood' entries were awarded mainly Outstanding and Thriving. The judge who came to St Just to judge the town came up to us to say how much she enjoyed her visit and she thought our town had so much going for it, which was a very nice gesture.



Cornwall in Bloom had their annual celebration of volunteers at the Eden Project in the evening of the same day. Two of our representatives attended still warmed by the afterglow of our achievements at the South West in Bloom Awards. We received letters of congratulations from local societies and from the Town Council

One of the businesses in the town which has given us support over the years opened a second shop in the town and invited us to hold a raffle during the day of the opening. There was wine and food and the Pendeen Silver Band played and we were delighted with the £130 we raised.

We have had an excellent response from local businesses to sponsor replacement tubs which will enable us to replace many of them. We have decided to make the new tubs bigger which we think will have more impact and we also need to replace the gigs at each end of the town which another of our volunteers will make again.

October 2015

On 9th October we had our presentation evening which was held as usual at the Royal British Legion Club. Cups and certificates were handed to the winners of the painting, photography and garden competitions and we were delighted with the large number of families who attended. We feel the more the community gets involved and knows what we are trying to achieve the more people will care and value their town for years to come.



November 2015

St Just in Bloom was represented at the annual feast day on 1st November. It is quite a big event in the town. Many people line the streets to see the parade and celebrate with their families by having a feast at home.

On the 8th November there was a remembrance parade and St Just in Bloom laid a wreath at the war memorial. Our volunteer Giles updated us on the progress he is making building the new tubs. He hopes to finish all twenty two of them by the end of January ready for the sponsorship plaques to be put on.

The theme for the Christmas tree display in the Methodist Church this year is 'musicals'. Many groups and societies decorate a Christmas tree, which are then displayed in the hall. We have chosen the musical 'Kismet' using the song 'Baubles, Bangles and Beads' as our inspiration.

The money from our collection tins we have around the town was collected and counted and came to £30 and the local school is going to have a carol concert next month and has promised to give us half of the money they raise.



December 2015

St Just looked very attractive during the festive season with the town lights lit up, the big Christmas tree dominating the centre of the town and the businesses around the square adorning their own Christmas displays in their windows and on the buildings.

The Christmas trees in the Methodist hall looked fabulous this year with many groups showing their decorating ingenuity with their tree displays. The theme was 'musicals' and we had everything from Mary Poppins to Moulin Rouge. St Just in Bloom's contribution was Kismet.

On the 14th December Cape Cornwall School had a carol concert with the magnificent Pendeen Silver Band. Our new vicar was introduced and the children sang and recited and we all joined in when asked. A collection was made at the end which was shared between Pendeen Silver Band and St Just in Bloom. Our share totalled £76.

Because of the school concert our annual carol singing around the town was put back to the following week on the 21st December. We didn't have such a big turn out as usual and a few of the pubs had private parties. Even so, with the help of our local perfectly pitched Drama group our share of the proceeds totalled £79.

We agreed at our monthly meeting to put some haystack planters on the wall in the community garden and to put a new display in the tub. Our Chairman confirmed that we will be entered into the Champion of Champions 2016, so no pressure this year!



January 2016

Colin Warne who provides us with bedding plants is doing an advert on our local radio station 'Pirate FM'. He will mention that he provides the plants for us and that we have won a Gold award two years running. Giles is continuing to build our new tubs and we decided to paint them green with a black band as we did last year as this is St Just football colours. The miner's carts at each end of the town will be replaced and painted black and gold and the replacement gig will remain blue to replicate the real one at Cape Cornwall. We agreed the size of the sponsorship plaque and the wording to be used on each tub.

We have decided to have a black and gold colour scheme at either end of the town to replicate the traditional Cornish emblem colours and to have a red, white and blue colour palette in the tubs, amberols and around the War Memorial to commemorate the Queens 90th Birthday this year.

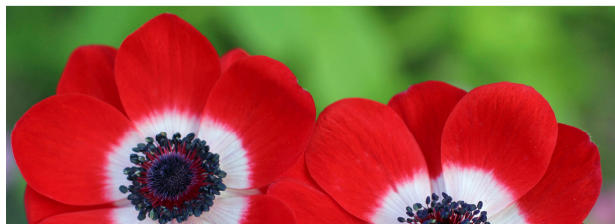
We need to attract more volunteers. We regularly advertise in the local paper but we feel we should do more to attract people to join us. We have decided to order new yellow work jackets with 'more volunteers needed' printed on the back. We also intend to put a jacket in the window of the local Post Office.

St Just in Bloom

**We are looking for new
Volunteers**

You give as much or as little time
as you want, there lots of ways to help.
If anyone has some free time
please get in contact by ringing 788722
You will be warmly received.

Volunteers wanted



February 2016

Our AGM is always held on the first Wednesday of February and the re-election of committee members took place. Our Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected and a new member Andrew Wilkey was welcomed to the group.

February is a relatively quiet month for St Just in Bloom volunteers, although this year there has been plenty of activity behind the scenes. One of our volunteers, Giles, has been very busy making new tubs and has now completed making all 25 of them. He will creosote them ready for painting and affixing sponsorship signs.

We have decided to have a tub with herbs in for local people to pick by the benches in the community garden as well as two new haystack planters on the wall and a new flower display in the tub. The mural in Fore Street will also get a bit of a 'make over'. We have decided to put a rockery underneath it as the soil is poor and shallow and it has always been a problem finding plants that will grow there. We will plant it up with natural, sustainable planting such as heather, thrift, sea campion etc. to replicate the coastal scenery around St Just.

We have had a very windy and wet few months. Some gusts have reached 80 m.p.h and the ground is sodden. Some of the more exposed areas have taken a battering and some shrubs have been burnt by the wind. Even though we use some of the toughest plants to withstand our salt laden South Westerly winds and the icy northerlies we've had this year they have still been damaged. Hopefully they will recover once spring arrives!



March 2016

We had a meeting of our portfolio sub-committee at the start of the month. We decided to keep the layout similar to last year but as we have a lot of photographs our committee members have taken throughout the year we have decided to include a montage of photo's showing what we get up to.

The tubs are to be painted in the colours agreed and a small team of volunteers will get together to help so that they will be ready to put in place. We will order some lining for the tubs from our local DIY store. We try to use local traders and services when we can as it is good for the community to help each other. The planters on the railings by the Primary School need to be replaced, so we will research replacements.

Robert will give some thought to making a flower display to commemorate the Queens 90th Birthday this year as we thought this would highlight why the colour scheme is red, white and blue.

One of our volunteers has offered to make a Face Book page detailing what we do and up date it month by month. We hope that this may reach a few more people, especially the younger population of St Just, and it will show that we are busy all year with projects, up keep and maintenance. Information will also be updated on the website. We are keen to get some more volunteers and the Face Book page will show that we do not need just planting and gardening skills but a whole variety of help is needed. Whilst weeding and clearing on 17th March the first Small Tortoiseshell butterfly of the year was seen!



April 2016

The weather is still cold, wet and windy at the start of this month. Flowers have been slow to come into bud and many of the shrubs have sustained considerable damage this year. Not only the continual battering from the weather during the winter months but the on going storms with gales reaching from 60mph-80mph have caused a lot of damage. The young leaf buds and flower buds on some of the shrubs in the Community garden have been burnt and stems broken. We will have to wait for the weather to improve (it will eventually have to) to assess the damage.

It was decided that we should wait until the plants arrive before putting the new tubs in place as leaving empty tubs around the town may not be a good idea.

We also welcomed a new member and our Chairman explained that our purpose was to make the town a brighter, cleaner and tidier place for people to enjoy. We can work on our own, in small groups or altogether when we plant up the tubs and work on the maintenance around the town.



May 2016

Although the start of the month has been cold there are definitely signs that spring has sprung. The sun is warm and the wind is lighter and finally a cuckoo is heard calling. There are on going maintenance jobs to be completed and painting of the War Memorial railings, the Old Churchyard gates and lampposts will have to be done this month. The tubs we are retaining need to be weeded and topped up with fresh compost ready for the summer display and more haystacks have been ordered for the railings by the Primary School. We also need to organise application forms and judges for the competitions. The theme this year is the Queens 90th Birthday.



from this to that...



June 2016

Some of us are busy weeding and planting up tubs and beds with bedding plants. The amberols have arrived and the new tubs have been put into place. The mural bed is being given a make-over but finding the plants we want is proving to be more of a problem than we anticipated. We may have to compromise a little and use some cultivars in order to provide a long lasting summer display.

The judges have been arranged to judge our competitions and some of the businesses have provided their own floral displays. The centre of the town really comes alive when the flowers are in place bringing colour and brightness to our grey granite town. Let us hope the weather this summer will be warm and sunny with a light breeze and a few showers to refresh the flowers and clean the pavements! However this IS the far west of Cornwall where the wind blows, the sun burns, and the rain is horizontal- but we can all dream. Now the bedding plants are in place, the watering begins. Very early starts several times a week for our heroic volunteers who do an outstanding job in keeping all the tubs and amberols watered and looking their best.





Businesses in the Town

This year we have had great support from some of the businesses in the town. We have had to replace many of our tubs which we can no longer repair. We asked businesses in and around the town to sponsor some new tubs which one of our volunteers offered to make at cost. He made 25 tubs which are being sponsored and this has enabled us to have bigger tubs with new compost which will hopefully make for a better display this year. Not only have we had financial support, we have also had support from businesses providing services and venues free of charge.

Last year the Commercial Hotel won the South West in Bloom best business floral display which was a fantastic achievement. Many of the businesses go to a great deal of effort and expense to provide their own displays to contribute to the displays St Just in Bloom provide.

We also encourage businesses to enter the gardening competition which is run every year by St Just in Bloom. We give our own award for 'best business floral display' which helps to encourage a bit of competition and rivalry!



St Just Schools and Children in Bloom

Children in the Nursery School, Primary School and Secondary School are all encouraged to get involved with St Just in Bloom, whether through growing vegetables and flowers in the poly tunnel and the raised beds, entering competitions or practical help around the town.

As a group we are very aware that it is important to encourage children to have an interest in growing things and the importance of encouraging children to get involved.

By working with Schools and young groups we hope this may 'sow the seed' for a life long interest for some of the children and to educate them in the work involved to produce fruit and vegetables for the table. Being out in the fresh air, amongst nature and away from having one eye on a mobile phone must be a good thing.

One of our volunteers has been working with a group of children with a wide range of learning difficulties. He has shown them how to plant seeds in our poly tunnel which is situated in the grounds of Cape Cornwall School and he has worked with them in the Old Churchyard teaching them about wildflowers, birds and insects.

Last year the local Beaver group helped us plant up the tubs around the town which was a great help and a pupil from Cape Cornwall School in the 12-15 yr age group won the South West in Bloom painting competition last year- fantastic!



Completed and Ongoing Projects for 2016

- A New bed under the mural
- Replacement tubs sponsored by businesses
- Replacement miners carts
- Replacement gigs
- New herb tubs and haystacks in the Community Garden
- New tubs by the sign at the top of the town
- More haystacks on the railings by the school
- Producing a leaflet/guide for a visit around the town



Fund Raising

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

- Christmas carol singing
- Raffle at Clemo's DIY
- School concert collection
- Collecting tins
- Talk at the Women's Institute
- Crochet flower brooches for sale
- Quiz night at the Royal British Legion Club



Encouraging Wild Life

Our main 'wildlife area' is at the Old Churchyard although we do try to use natural and wildlife plants in other areas of the town. Our new area is under the mural in Fore Street where we have tried to replicate the surrounding moorland and coastline with natural plants such as heather, thrift and foxgloves.

We grow some wildflowers from seed and some we sow in situ. In some areas they are displayed on their own and in other areas they are integrated with cultivars. In the Old Churchyard we have introduced a range of native wild flowers which we hope will self seed, as wild flowers provide a great source of nectar all year round for insects. The grass has been left to grow long in most areas of the Old Churchyard although it is important to cut the grass in some areas to allow for ground eating birds to forage for worms and insects. The area has mature trees and shrubs which encourage birds to nest in the boxes we have introduced, made by children from the school, and we have also provided 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. Last year we erected a new sign on the Church wall in Market Square directing the public to this area as it is rather hidden. It is a peaceful haven which we want visitors and locals to be aware of and be able to sit and enjoy the views of our iconic Penwith landscape.



Sustainability

Some years ago we erected a poly tunnel at the school to try to encourage an interest in gardening for the children and also to provide us with somewhere to over winter plants and to bring on seeds. Largely this has been successful, it saves us money and educates the children, especially the less academic.

We are fortunate in the far west of Cornwall to have few frost which enables us to grow plants which prefer a warmer climate but we do have 'weather'. Living on the edge and surrounded by the Atlantic we have a maritime climate which includes very strong winds and rain which can damage plants. We have to make sure we use suitable plants to withstand the harsh environment which means our choice is limited.

We use bedding plants in tubs and amberols in the summer to give a colourful display but in areas such as the Community garden, around the surgery, the car park, the rear of Carallack Terrace and school and of course the Old Churchyard wildlife area we use sustainable plants where possible.

We have our own composter and recycle waste as much as we can and have water butts where possible.



St Just in Bloom Competitions

Every year St Just in Bloom have a painting, photography and gardening competition. It is open to anyone who wishes to enter. Children from the Nursery and Playgroup, the Primary and Secondary schools, the U3A and local residents are all encouraged to take part.

We advertise the gardening competition through press releases in the local paper and we usually have a very good response. Competition amongst competitors is fierce and a brave judge is given the task of judging in July. The painting competition attracts the local schools and local art groups and U3A and is judged by a local artist. We are lucky to have several professional artists living here who are willing to offer their judging services.

This year the theme is the Queen's 90th Birthday which is quite a difficult subject for her Majesty's subjects! The awards are presented later in the year and the event is supported by local businesses and is well attended by families and people of all ages. Certificates are presented to the winners in each category and it is a chance for us all to celebrate and congratulate them on their achievements. It is an enjoyable social occasion which unites the whole community.



St Just in Bloom Awards 2015

- South West in Bloom Gold Award
- The Ayre cup for Best in Category
- It's Your Neighbourhood (21 awards as listed on following page)
- Cornwall In Bloom- Cornwall Community Award
- South West In Bloom Schools Painting Competition 12-15 yrs- First Place
- South West in Bloom Best Business Floral Display



It's Your Neighbourhood Entries 2016

- St Just Cricket Club
- Top of Nancherrow hill
- Bottom of Nancherrow hill
- Bosavern Community Farm
- St Just Primary School
- Cape Cornwall School
- Wee Plots
- Besorne Road
- St Just Garage Plots
- Plot adjoining Recreation Centre
- The Drill Hall
- The Old Churchyard
- The Library Garden
- Back of Carrallack Lane
- St Just Cemetary
- Kenidjack Allotment Ass.
- Brambles Nursery
- Fore Street Mural
- Cape Trelew
- British Legion
- South Place Gardens



Recycling, Rubbish and Waste

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

The inhabitants of St Just are encouraged to recycle as much as possible. House to house collections are made every two weeks for recycling items and green waste. There are plenty of recycling bins situated adjacent to the car park catering for cardboard, paper, tins, bottles, clothes and shoes.

We have a street cleaning team who ensure our town is kept free of litter and they are always willing to help St Just in Bloom clear away the debris from the areas we manage. They clear away after community events such as Lafrowda Day and Feast Day. Two local shops provide bins for used batteries and we have two charity outlets in the town, Age Concern and Free Church Chapel where pre-owned items can be taken.

St Just in Bloom try to preserve the life of tubs, the poly tunnel and seats around the town by keeping on top of maintenance and repairs . We paint the bike stands outside the Co-op, the waste bins in Market Square and Bank Square, the lamp posts and gate to the Old Churchyard. We only replace when absolutely necessary and this year we have replaced tubs for the first time since the groups' inception. The Council provide dog bins around the town which help but unfortunately some dog owners forget they are there.



Sponsors and Helpers

There have been a large number of businesses, groups and individuals who have either raised money, provided facilities free of charge, given up their time or have sponsored new tubs for us this year.

We would like to say a special thank you to the Town Council who have again given their financial support to us and also to St Just Airport and Isle of Scilly Steam Ship Company who have been extraordinarily generous to us this year.

Without our sponsors support and generosity we would not be able to do our work and we would not be able to provide the floral displays enjoyed by the inhabitants and visitors of St Just. A big thank you to all the following people, businesses, individuals and organisations:-

St Just Town Council
Cornwall Council
St Just Airport
Isle of Scilly Steamship Company
Wilkins Estate Agents
The Star Inn
The Kings Arms
The Commercial Hotel
Clemo's Pet and DIY
Bank Square Gallery
Bosavern Guest House
Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding
Little Blossoms
E J Stedman
EKO Naturally Cornish
Leswidden Building Supplies
McFadden's Butchers & Bakers
The Makers Emporium
Roseland Caravan and Camping Park
Ramsay Pharmacy
Shelley's Hair and Beauty
Trevaylor Caravan and Camping
St Just Garage
The Premier Shop
The Wellington Hotel
Webfooted Designs
Cape Cornwall Comprehensive School
Elaine George
Jackie Nicholas
Howard Eddy
Lyn Way
Royal British Legion Club
School Painting Competition Judges- Lyn Horne and Justus Hattam
Gardening Competition Judge- Colin Warne
Photographic Competition Judge- Sara Lay

