

St Just In Bloom



2019

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AN INTRODUCTION TO ST JUST IN BLOOM

St Just in Bloom work hard throughout the year with limited funds and resources, keeping the town weed free, maintaining 12 plots, 66 tubs, planting up mine stacks and boats, and maintaining painted murals, lamp posts, railings and bins. Unused and waste areas around the town have been developed and are now used by the community. We have planted a variety of plants trying to extend the season for bees and insects, planting wild flowers, herbs, sustainable plants such as shrubs and perennials and colourful displays of bedding plants in the spring and summer. Due to our mild climate many tender plants overwinter and we can have flowering plants for twelve months of the year. We have a new watering system in place to water the tubs and tiers around the town, and have been working together with the schools, Bosavern Community Farm, and more recently with Penwith Landscape Partnership (www.penwithlandscape.com) on some new projects. We involve the community of St Just with the gardening, photography and painting competitions. Also, the shops and businesses create their own displays each year to bring added colour to the town. People living in St Just support the many local businesses here, some of which have been in the same family for many years. Not only do we have a good selection of shops, hairdressers, hotels, cafes and pubs, we have both primary and secondary schools, a doctors surgery, a library and fire station. For a small town St Just has everything you might need.

There is a strong local community in St Just which has a population of approximately 3,800 who are very proud of their old mining town situated in the far West of Cornwall above the only Cape in England. However being on the 'edge' exposed to strong winds, mists and salty air poses many horticultural challenges.

There is little top soil, as St Just sits on granite, and the soil is acidic and light with few nutrients. The sub soil of weathered rock is known as rab, and is gritty and sticky, so growing healthy plants requires hard work and patience. This year our colour scheme in the tubs and tiers is "a celebration of colour" which we hope will bring a smile to visitors and residents. We are highlighting the centenary of the Levant mining disaster in 1919 with a display in the Plen-an-Gwarry (playing place). Some of the disused mines in Botallack and Levant were used as filming locations for the recent adaptation of Poldark, and German visitors are attracted to the area as Rosamunde Pilcher books have been adapted for a popular series in Germany. St Just has been used as a location for several scenes.

St Just in Bloom had another successful year last year winning a Gold award and the Ayre Cup, and this year we have been entered into the Champion of Champions Competition for a second time and the UK Finals, an amazing achievement for such a small 'In Bloom' group with a small number of active members. Since we started our Facebook page we have received some very positive comments, and we have updated our website (www.stjustinbloom.org.uk), which now has much more information showing how we have developed over the years and detailing the work we do.

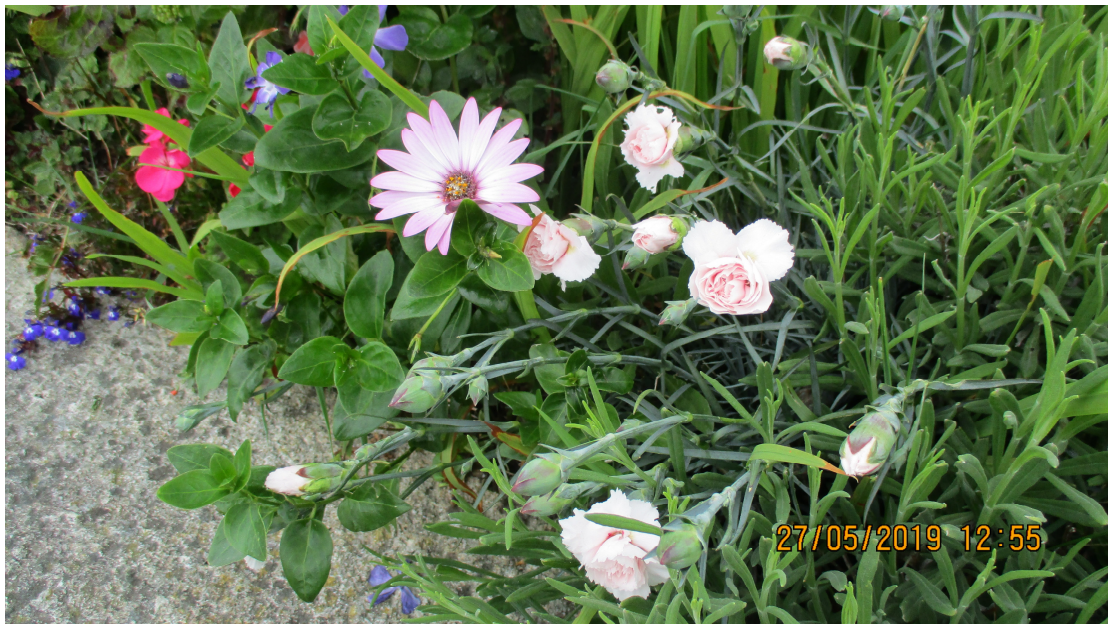
SPRING IN ST JUST



The Cemetery in spring



A newly planted tub with sustainable plants



Late Spring border

DIARY

July 2018

- Plans are made for protecting the planting in the tubs during the Lafrowda Festival. These will include fences, tape and barriers around the plots and tubs that are at risk of damage.
- The sponsored walk raised £812. £785 of this will be doubled by Barclays Bank reaching a total of £1607
- The allotment project at Cape Cornwall School is coming along. Extra-curricular gardening activities are being planned to start in September '18. This aims to further the children's gardening skills but also to provide food to be used in their canteen.
- This year's judging route is finalised and presentation and buffet arranged for the day.
- Plans are made for watering the beds, borders, walls and other displays as the weather has been so dry.
- The mural wall has been cleaned and jet washed and then retouched with paint.

August

- No committee meeting was held but watering and dead heading continue to be done by hand by our members.

September

- Further clearing has been done on the Cape Cornwall School allotment project.
- Weeds from the carpark wall have been cleaned out and gaps filled with thyme and scattered marigold seeds.
- £500 has been donated by Age Concern.
- Plans to begin removing the rotten tubs have begun. Plants will be removed and saved by the end of October. In light of this, plans are made to use more sustainable plants in the new tubs along with those plants that are saved.
- The bowser pump is being serviced and a new hosepipe has been bought for watering next year.
- Cornwall in Bloom presentation.

October

- Our community presentation evening is held on 12th October where winners of the painting, photographic and gardening competitions are awarded with their certificates and trophies.
- South West in Bloom awards in Yeovil.
- St Just was awarded a Gold and the Ayre Cup.
- The painting competition from one of the categories went to St Just

November

- Members walked in the yearly St Just Feast parade.

- Remembrance Parade was attended by our members who laid a wreath on the War Memorial.
- Plans to change how the watering is done are made, in an effort to make it more efficient.
- A 'Sustainable Planting Area' is proposed to be positioned outside the Nancherrow Youth Centre. This will be trialed next year in 5 of the tubs that are here.
- It is decided that the colour scheme for 2019 will be a 'celebration of colour'.
- St Just in Bloom has been accepted by the CoOp community fund whereby our organisation will be sponsored by the people of St Just. We should receive approximately £3000 from this scheme.

December

- Cape Cornwall School allotment project continues to run well; they have several very enthusiastic children participating.
- A new volunteer has been recruited to start after Christmas.
- A plan is made to create a memorial next summer to remember the 31 miners who lost their lives in the Levant Mine Engine disaster on 29th October 1919. A wire miner decorated with moss and ivy is proposed along with poppies and a replica of the Levant head gear.
- The Ayre Cup is being repaired by St Just Council as it was damaged when we received it.
- Carol Singing around St Just has raised approx £110.
- The Christmas tree at the Wesleyan Chapel display is decorated in red and white paper roses with a crib and doll underneath and brambles and fairies in the tree for our chosen fairy tale Sleeping Beauty.

January 2019

- Ideas for recruiting new volunteers have been shared. These include Facebook, leaflets, posters and signs to go up around the town.
- Plans for a new sustainable planting area at Nancherrow continue. It is proposed that sustainable plants to be used in the centre of the tubs and bedding plants around the edges.
- We will check with Cornwall Council whether they will replace the few trees we lost in the bad weather this winter.
- Confirmation comes from the RHS of our entry for the South West Region for the Small Town category of the 2019 Britain in Bloom U.K. finals.

February

- Further plans have been made for our Levant memorial project. The Primary School are eager to include the children and they have arranged to make the 31 poppies and other flowers for the display using recycled plastic drinks bottles. A miner figure will be made out of wire and moss. A subcommittee is formed to decide and plan the location of the memorial and the details of the display.
- A member of St Just in Bloom will be making his own replica of the Levant mine to go with the memorial.
- A recruitment poster has been drawn up.

- A 300 gallon water butt has been placed at the Recreation Centre at the top of the town to aid with this year's watering. A tap and hosepipe have been donated to St Just in Bloom for this purpose.
- A judge for the St Just in Bloom Gardening Competition has been secured.
- Cormac will have the grass in St Just cut for us.
- Our Chairman is giving a presentation to the Council to represent our plant supplier as he has applied for a grant from them.

March

- St Just in Bloom welcomes a new member from a successful recruitment campaign.
- We hope to support and encourage further bees and insects on our plots and in tubs and so a member of the community from Bosavern Farm gives a talk about how we may encourage this insect life through our planting. He specialises in plants for bees and is currently growing wildflower plugs for the Wheal Buzzy Project.
- Wooden recruitment signs have been designed and made by a member to be placed in tubs around the town.
- Unfortunately Cornwall Council will not be replacing the small trees we lost in the bad weather. They advise us to ask The Woodland Trust.
- Members plan to buy parts for the new watering system on the new butt.
- Our plant supplier will receive his funding from St Just Town Council.
- A member has begun a new used coffee grounds scheme whereby the grounds are collected weekly from the 2 large cafes in St Just. She will then distribute the grounds onto the beds and tubs.
- Weeding of plots and tubs must begin again in earnest.

April

- Plans for the Levant Memorial continue.
- Plans for where to place our Nationals banner are discussed.
- A sponsored walk is planned for 26/05/19 to Carn Gloose to raise money for St Just in Bloom and the Levant project.
- An Easter display was set up in the Wesleyan Chapel. 18 Eggs were blown and decorated and then hung on branches made to look like a tree. Pansies and Easter eggs were added to the table for further decoration.
- Painting of the tubs has begun.
- The engine house planter at the cemetery has been repaired.
- Planting day is planned for the 4th June.

May

- St Just in Bloom welcomes 3 new members from our recruitment campaign.
- The mesh miner for the Levant display is in production. We have been given permission to put the memorial in the Plen an Gwari. The memorial will consist of a 'tin seam' of flowers made by the Primary School children flowing down one bank of the Plen to the moss miner and Levant Mine model where 31 poppies will also be displayed.
- The Nationals competition banner will be displayed above the Barclays Bank building for the May bank holiday weekend.

- All tubs have been painted. Arrangements are made to remove plants and weeds before new compost can be added.
Plans are made to treat 8 benches with teak oil and the bins and bicycle racks will be painted also.
- Forms for the Gardening Competition have been drawn up and may be collected from Clemo's hardware shop for those residents who wish to enter.
- The date for planting day has been advertised and volunteers from the town and schools are welcomed.
- The amberol brackets are checked for safety.
- Geevor mine have donated £100 to go towards the refurbishment of the water bowser and are supplying their own artwork to go onto it.

June

- Planting of the tubs around the town went well with some additional help from the community. The tubs around the War Memorial have been given over to bee and insect friendly plants.
- Levant memorial plans are finalised
- The sponsored walk has raised approximately £500.
- The street furniture and the gates to the Plen an Gwari and the War Memorial have all been painted.
- The gardening competition will be held on 29/07/19.
- The tub closest to Cape Cornwall Surgery has been planted up with bee and insect friendly plants.
- Members visit a 'bee friendly planting' meeting held at the church where this is discussed further by members of the community.
- The painting competition will be judged on 20/06/19.
- A member has been in contact with Penwith Landscape Partnership and they are very keen to become involved and support us in our planting for bees and other wildlife.
- The carpark wall is infilled with begonias.



HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- **2003 – Silver**
- **2004 – Silver Gilt**
- **2005 – Silver Gilt**
- **2006 – Silver Gilt**
- **2007 – Silver Gilt**
- **2008 – Silver Gilt**
- **2009 – Silver Gilt**
- **2010 – Silver Gilt**
- **2011 – Silver Gilt**
- **2012 – Silver Gilt**
- **2013 – Silver Gilt**
- **2014 – Gold**
- **2015 – Gold, Ayres Cup**
- **2016 – Gold, joint S.W. Champion of Champions**
- **2017 – Gold**
- **2018 – Gold, Ayres Cup**
- **2019 – Entered into S.W. Champion of Champions and U.K Finals competition**



COMMUNITY AND FUNDRAISING

Displays for the Miners Chapel to help them raise funds



Christmas tree display ‘Sleeping Beauty’



Easter display for the Chapel

Presentation Evening for our Competitions Winners



Cups on Display



Some of our painting competition winners



Our garden competition winners



Our Mayor presenting a worthy winner



Our sponsored walk

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Old Churchyard is managed to encourage wildlife





Introducing pollinating flowers around the town



Introducing herbs around the town



Introducing pollinators in our tubs

ONGOING AND NEW PROJECTS



Painting the lamp posts



One of four new water butts



Part of our new watering system



Bowser, hose and new water butt

A wet Planting Day





Collecting plants for the Comprehensive school



School children involved in the new gardening project



New tubs this year



Newly planted border at the Comprehensive School

CONCLUSION

This is now our sixteenth year since first entering the In Bloom competition and many of the original members of our group still play important roles and are driven to make improvements and develop new areas. This is not a wealthy area, and it is difficult to attract new members with the time to commit regularly, but this year we have had a recruitment drive, trying to spread the word via social media and putting up notices in the tubs around the town, this has been a successful exercise in attracting some more volunteers. This year we have continued to replace the remaining old tubs and we have taken the old wood and metal from them to be recycled. One of our volunteers makes the tubs in his own time for free so we have saved on the overall cost of their replacement. We have tried to be more environmentally friendly, continuing to take our green waste to the community farm, using coffee grounds to control slugs and recycle as much as we can. We have introduced more insect friendly plants and herbs around the town and we have introduced hedgehog houses in our old churchyard area adding to the bird boxes and bat boxes. Our town is now single use plastic free with all the shops, cafes and pubs on board. We have raised additional funds through our Carol singing, talks and a sponsored walk, and we have received some donations from individuals and charities. We applied to the Co-Op Local Causes Scheme, and have been accepted, which means we have a chance of some further additional funding. We have continued to keep our plots around the town weed free and have raised many new plants from seed, cuttings or have over wintered them. We do all our own watering by hand during the summer months and we have a new watering system in place which enables us to use more rain water. We have four large water butts and two mobile bowsers and together with 225 metres of donated hose pipe will make watering much easier and more environmentally friendly, hopefully providing at least a third of the water we need to keep the tubs and tiers watered. We have also been involved with the school gardening project which educates the children in lots of ways through gardening, and Bosavern Community farm have been involved in helping us to introduce more insect friendly plants around the town as part of the Wheal Buzzy Project www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk. Local businesses have sponsored our new tubs, and they in turn have added to the summer display with their own tubs and baskets. We don't have the funds available which other bigger towns have so it is very much a community effort to get things done. We have 'weather' here, fog, horizontal rain, salty gales and this spring has been very dry. Gardening is not only good for our physical and mental health, it unites people from all backgrounds and ages. Planting flowers and trees helps insects and wildlife to flourish, which in turn helps us to feed ourselves. We live in uncertain times, where our future is unknown, but if we can each do as much as we can to start reversing some of the damage we have created, by thinking of our environment and educating people, then we shall all benefit from a cleaner, healthier, more productive world.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

The 2018 committee members are:-

- Chris Goninan (Chairman)
- Emma Gwynn (Minute Secretary)
- Marlene Smith (Secretary)
- Nick Skerratt (Treasurer)
- Margaret Sedgeman
- Robert Matthews
- Pat Charlton
- Anita Rose
- Giles Trembath
- Stuart Coleman
- Pam Callaway
- Jyoti Hardy
- Basil Stephens
- Pauline Wooldridge
- Dilys Ryan
- Dennis Ryan
- Pat Stanton
- Hilary Currie
- Mary Marriott
- Sally McConnell-Mason
- Mike May



SPONSORS AND HELPERS

Thank you to the many sponsors, organisations and individuals who have given donations, their time, their skills, raised money or provided facilities free of charge. We would not be able to provide the floral displays each year without your help.

St Just Town Council
Cornwall Council
Isles of Scilly Steamship Company
The Star Inn
The Commercial Hotel
Clemo's Pet and DIY
Webfooted Designs
Cape Cornwall Schools
Allotment Association
Bosavern Farm
The Old Town Hall
The Franks family
The Wellington Hotel
Lands End Hotel
David James
St Just Cars
Chris Sedgeman Scaffolding
Bank Square Gallery
St Just Garage
Phil Wilkins
Paul Callaway
Penwith Landscape Partnership
Neil McFadden (C.G.S.)
All helpers on planting day and those that raised money for our sponsored walk
Age Concern
The Jackson Foundation
Artists Richard Guy, Lyn Horne and Emma South, Pete Sinclair and Nick Smith
School Painting Competition judges Lyn Horne and Justus Hattam
Gardening Competition judge Ian Willsdon
Photographic Competition judge Sarah Lay
To anyone I may not have mentioned – THANK YOU.

