



BRIXHAM IN BLOOM 2026



Brixham In Bloom couldn't happen without support from:



BRIXHAM
TOWN COUNCIL





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Brixham in Bloom is all about our community

We have around eight volunteers that meet regularly and give ideas and help move BIB forward. Our core group is supported by volunteer IT and graphic design specialists. We act as an umbrella organisation for the various garden groups across the town.

We feel our approach of inclusive community gardening really is so important for your wellbeing and is so therapeutic.

We are represented by our Chair at regular Greenspace meetings throughout the year, which link councils, educators, health and wellbeing organisations, conservation groups & more. We work closely with Swisco, Brixham Town Council, Brixham Chamber of Commerce, Torbay CBT (community builders), Healthy Minds Torbay and all the Friends Groups across Brixham.

Talks at our local library and various community groups about BIB have taken place, to spread what we are doing in the town and how to get involved.





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One of the huge successes for BIB is our Love Your Brixham Garden (LYBG) competition. Each year the amount of entries has grown and anyone can enter with just a single container or a vast garden. In October the local Scala Hall is decorated so our community receive fabulous awards. It is truly inspiring to see everyone come together, chatting, laughing and enjoying the celebration.

We are planning for more children to be part of the garden experience, to learn and be creative but most of all have fun. We are looking to get schools involved in the RHS South West in Bloom 'Its Your School' for next year and also to actively promote the RHS Campaign for School gardening initiative that will run from Jan-June 2027.





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As we move forward we are encouraging more business involvement and we hope to increase sponsorship opportunities. We are encouraging more involvement through on our social media platforms, our RHS award winning website and other promotional materials.





A Letter From The Chair

When did you first start a love for plants? It's a story that many people can tell. Well I would help my dad plant his award winning chrysanthemums and dahlias when I was only five years old. I remember there was no companion planting, just very regimented, one plant one stake in lines. But he loved doing it and I loved to be there with him. The time and effort he put in, not only to care for the plants but also the sharing of this love for gardening will always stay with me and it's a memory that gives me such joy.

We all know that garden's outside spaces can create the most amazing activities, just taking that half hour to feel grounded. To feel pleased with what you may achieved. No matter how small or large that space is. To be caught in a moment with a nosey robin, hoping to help you remove those pesky bugs, or washing the soil from your hands after potting up some seeds or cuttings. These are the things that make me feel real and always relaxed, pottering outside until there's not enough light to see where I've put my tools.



A Letter From The Chair

Through years of nursing I saw first-hand how much patients would benefit from the outdoor areas the hospitals have, just to take in the air, smell the scents and hear the chatter of birds and bees. Their longing to get back to their own garden brought smiles to their face. My career change to floristry has only confirmed those benefits every day.

I love that you can plant what you want anywhere, give it a go and take in the wildlife. Chat to your neighbours, share your experiences with friends and family, in particular the younger ones. Get them involved, its memories & therapy - it's nature's prescription.

Jan_x

Brixham In Bloom Chair



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The Heart of Our Town: Community

Everything we do starts with the people who live here, and nothing shows that off better than our Love Your Brixham Garden (LYBG) competition. It is now in its fifth year and has become a massive part of our identity. We've made it completely inclusive - whether someone has a single hanging basket on their doorstep, a small patio, or a large allotment, there is a category for them.

It isn't just for residents, either; we have categories for local businesses, from shop fronts and cafes to pub beer gardens, because we want the "Power of Flowers" to reach every street corner.





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The real hub for the competition is Flour Flower in Middle Street, where people can pick up entry forms or get advice. We even launched an online entry form recently to make it easier for people to sign up, and the numbers have been fantastic.

The absolute highlight of the year, though, is the Grand Celebration evening held every October. It's a wonderful night where everyone who took part gets together to celebrate their achievements. It isn't just about who wins a trophy; it's a chance for our whole gardening community to catch up, share stories from the growing season, and enjoy the friendships that have flourished alongside the flowers.





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Beyond the competition, our volunteer spirit is incredible. We have groups like the Friends of Furzeham Green out twice a week, and the Very Eager Growers, where kids and adults work side-by-side on their allotment and donate their extra produce to the local food bank.

Our library has also become a real focal point, serving over 500 community breakfasts this year and even working with students from Brixham College to design a new space just for teenagers.

When you add in our Murals Project and the Festival of Arts, you can see that Brixham is a town that truly blends its maritime culture with its green spaces.





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Horticultural Excellence: Garden Achievement

On the gardening side, we've been working hard to keep our standards high. St Mary's Park is a real jewel in our crown, having held a Green Flag for three years running. This year, they've added new "shell beds" filled with drought-resistant plants that are tough enough to survive on just rainwater. We've also had a great boost from the Brixham Rotary Club, who donated 1,000 bulbs for our annual Crocus Walk.





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One of our biggest recent projects was the total refurbishment of the Bonsey Rose Gardens. Many of the old roses were past their best, so with the help of a generous benefactor, the main beds have been completely replanted to give the whole area a fresh lease of life.

Down at Moorings Reach, volunteers have done a brilliant job transforming old "dog toilet" areas into beautiful themed gardens, including a model of the Mayflower ship to celebrate our local history.





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Even our historic sites are blooming. At Battery Gardens, fifteen volunteers have restored the sea views and planted "Sir Winston Churchill" daffodils to honour the site's past, among a raft of other improvements.





Civic Stewardship: Environmental Responsibility

We are taking our environmental responsibilities more seriously than ever, and Berry Head National Nature Reserve is the perfect example of this commitment. As a site of special scientific interest, it's home to rare species like the greater horseshoe bat and the Goldilocks Aster.

Recently, we've completed some massive restoration work there, including seeding a whole hectare of species-rich wildflower meadow and bringing in a full-time Ranger to lead our volunteer teams in protecting this unique limestone headland.





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Back in the town, the Council has made a major shift from annual flowers to perennial wildflowers. It's a much smarter way to garden - perennials have deeper roots that handle droughts better and they don't need to be replanted every year, which is far more sustainable.





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At Wishings Field, they've started a "rotational cutting" programme. By not mowing everything at once, we're creating a much better habitat for local wildlife to find food and shelter.

You'll see this same eco-friendly thinking everywhere: St Mary's uses five big water butts to collect rain, and the team at Furzeham Green uses recycled coffee grounds from a local cafe to feed their soil.





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We're also looking out for our smaller residents. We've built "Buggingham Palace" at the Battery Gardens to give insects a home and are working on bringing back our "Bee Hotel."

Even below the water line, we're part of a major Seagrass Project to protect what we call the "rainforest of the sea" in our local bays.

By taking over the management of local spots like the War Memorial and Jubilee Gardens, we're making sure Brixham stays clean, green, and sustainable for years to come.





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Friends Of Furzeham



In 2015, after the local council withdrew its funding, a community group called The Friends of Furzeham Green took over the care of three flower beds in the middle green area. Their dedication has kept the beds well-maintained, with volunteers regularly watering and weeding, especially on Sunday mornings. Although Swisco still maintain one of the beds, they also kindly help water an additional bed managed by the Friends when time allows.

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Brixham Library



As part of the charity Libraries Unlimited, Brixham Library aims to make a positive difference to people's lives by offering resources, experiences and a place to meet and connect. We aim to bring ideas, imagination, creativity and knowledge to enrich lives and help support Brixham in continuing to be a thriving community. Our Friends Group run monthly coffee mornings, fund and maintain a defibrillator for the use of all and also stock and maintain our beautiful flower boxes at the front of the building.

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St. Marys Park Friends Group



St Mary's Park Friends Group in Brixham, Devon, is a dedicated community group committed to enhancing and preserving St Mary's Park, a cherished green space in Higher Brixham. The park features amenities such as tennis courts, a playground, football pitches, and a wildflower meadow, making it a popular spot for both recreation and relaxation. The friends group actively participates in maintaining the park's natural beauty and biodiversity, contributing to its status as a vibrant community hub.

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Very Eager Growers



Based at Dixon's Land Allotment, locals residents have come together to form the Brixham V.E.G community growing group. An accurate acronym, these Very Eager Growers hit the muddy ground running transforming a 6m x 10m plot of oxalis and grass into a garden providing for people and nature.

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Middle Street Nature Garden



A little green oasis in the centre of the town. The garden incorporates materials and objects that are relevant to Brixham. The central planter is a boat that was repurposed by recycling, repairing, and repainting it. To maintain a nautical and environmentally themed atmosphere, shells are used as ground cover, while lobster pots, buoys, and fish netting contribute to the overall aesthetic. The project promotes wildlife conservation by planting bee-friendly flora and providing safe havens.

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Moorings Reach



Moorings Reach, a housing complex built on the former site of Upham's Boat Yard, faced a challenge with two adjacent plots of land near its steps. One was developed into a carefully maintained cottage garden, while the other, known as the boat garden, evolved with various plantings, notably incorporating the original keel from the Pilgrim, gifted to and accepted by Rose Boyd. The gardens continue to evolve year on year.

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Shoalstone Pool



The outdoor swimming pool at Shoalstone dates back to 1896 and saw significant development in the early 1900s, evolving into the facility we know today. Originally operated by the local council, the pool was closed in 2012. In response, the Shoalstone Pool CIO was quickly established and has successfully managed the pool ever since. The team at Shoalstone organises a wide range of community events and activities, such as Wellbeing Days and Yoga sessions,

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Battery Gardens



Brixham Battery Gardens is a site of national and historical interest. Although there has been a battery on this site since 1588, established to protect Torbay against the Spanish Armada, its current layout dates from 1941 when Sir Winston Churchill ordered the construction of 116 coastal batteries around the UK coastline, in order to defend the coast against an anticipated German invasion.

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Thanks and Acknowledgements

The Brixham In Bloom group would like to extend special thanks to all the people who have contributed in making Brixham look so beautiful again this year.

We would particularly like to thank the members of **Brixham Town Council** and **The Brixham Chamber of Commerce** for their support and encouragement throughout the year.

Additionally, we would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations that have contributed towards Brixham In Bloom in some form or other during this year:

- Torbay Council / SWISCo
- Brixham Heritage Museum
- The Prince William
- Torbay Mini Buses
- The judges of the Love Your Brixham Garden competition
- Jan and Simon at Flour Flower
- Tom at Shooting The Dog
- Julie Williams Graphic Design
- Ralph at Furzeham Publishing
- All the groups who have put gardens together for the It's Your Neighbourhood contest.

Most importantly - anybody else who we might have temporarily forgotten but has helped in some way to make this happen!



And of course. all the wonderful residents and businesses of Brixham who enter the Love Your Brixham Garden competition every year.





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