

Gearing up for 'In Bloom' 2019



After a successful year in 2018, when Penrith gained many prestigious regional and national 'in bloom' awards, the Town is gearing up for the 2019 competitions. Cumbria in Bloom judges will visit Penrith on 9th July, while Britain in Bloom judges will tour the Town on 2nd August. They will assess horticultural and environmental achievements as well as the level of community participation.

Penrith Town Council is absolutely delighted to be co-ordinating the Town's entries, and is extremely proud of the community groups, businesses, schools and local residents, who together are creating hugely imaginative projects to make Penrith blossom in 2019.

Taking part in the 'in Bloom' competitions provided the initial impetus for residents and businesses in Great Dockray to come together and make the best of their immediate area. At the outset, the group adopted the flower beds and added extra flower planters. Inspired by how well these efforts turned out, the group decided to raise community pride even higher by approaching the Richard 111 Society for information to enable them to combine heritage and horticultural themes around the medieval King, who lived at Penrith Castle and also for a short time at Dockray Hall. The Society have provided information leaflets about Richard 111 and will give a talk about his involvement with the 'Princes in the Tower' in Penrith Library on 12th July. White 'David Austin' roses have been planted in the flower beds and medieval banners related to King Richard's time have been hung from buildings. Businesses in Angel Lane have also been enthused and have now created their own displays.

Residents and visitors to the Town are enjoying the wonderful displays created by the Garden of Eden Community Gardeners at Penrith Train Station. They are also growing edibles and other plants at Stricklandgate, the Salvation Army and the Polytunnel.

St Catherine's School is among local schools now involving pupils in growing and learning about edibles, while a local resident in Carleton Hall Walk has been motivated by the Community Gardeners to plant her own garden with blooms and edibles, and is encouraging neighbours and local children to get involved in learning about horticulture, edibles and the environment. She is also sharing produce with others. Penrith BID is again encouraging local businesses to sponsor beautiful planters and hanging baskets in the Town.

Pride in the community is what underpins all the Town's 'in bloom' projects, and the hope is that more local people will get involved in helping to make Penrith the most beautiful town in Cumbria, so raising community spirit higher and building even more pride in the town.



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