Portishead in Bloom

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Contrasting weather marked the first two days of December with the gardeners at West Hill soaked to the skin whilst those next morning at Rodmoor Gardens enjoyed sunshine. Eleven gardeners swept leaves, planted the last tulip bulbs and continued cutting down and tidying the beds.

All work parties are 9.30-11.30am	**Please bring your own gloves, tools and green bags**
Sunday 12th January (early start from 8.30am)	**Boat Roundabout (be aware of the busy roads)**
Tuesday 14th January	**Town Garden, Potager and Old Mill**
Saturday 18th January	**West Hill**
Wednesday 22nd January	**Rodmoor Gardens**
Saturday 25th January	**Millennium Garden**
Thursday 30th January	**Jubilee Park**
Saturday 1st February – heavy work!	**Rodmoor Gardens – mulching with compost**
Monday 3rd February	**Rodmoor Gardens**
Tuesday 11th February	**Town Garden, Potager and Old Mill**
Wednesday 19th February	**Rodmoor Gardens**
Thursday 27th February	**Albert Road**

Fifteen gardeners tackled a major weeding challenge at the Town Garden working in close harmony to rescue the native hedge from being completely swamped – and the old adage that many hands make light work was proved correct. The far end of this area has also been completely cleared and will be replanted with pollinator friendly plants – our D of E Silver Award volunteer is working on choosing appropriate plants. Meanwhile we have also cleared a raised bed for our D of E Gold Award volunteer who will be planting it with herbs and vegetables for the community.

As always our volunteers gathered for coffee and a chat after their hardwork. We welcome anyone who would like to join us – no gardening skill necessary – enthusiasm is all that's needed. Just pop along to any work party and we will welcome you!

The flag makers are often mentioned in the newsletter but seldom seen – here they are enjoying coffee and mince pies together – we are very grateful for their efforts and look forward to seeing their new designs for 2025. If you know of any local groups who would be interested in being depicted on a flag please let us know by emailing Portishead_in_Bloom@outlook.com – please note our new email address

You can spot some of the same dedicated volunteers in this photograph too – busily making table decorations to be sold at the Christmas Sale. We are so grateful for the support Portishead in Bloom receives from so many people in the community – without their valued contribution the town would be a much less colourful place.

And here are the team at the Christmas Sale on Saturday 14th December – we had a very busy morning selling all the table decorations and hyacinth bowls within couple of hours. We made just under £750 – a great total to put towards the plants we will be using to improve the look of various areas of the town in the Spring.

On Wednesday 18th December the gardeners were back doing what they do best, enthusiastically pruning and cutting back – one of our aims was to restore the full width of the paths to improve access. The Portishead ladies' Walking Group joined us, collecting sprigs from our prunings to make table decorations – always good to see things re-used!

The final work party of 2024 was at Station Rod on 30th December – in the drizzle. Good to see the daffodils so close to blooming!

A big thank you to everyone who has helped and supported PiB throughout 2024 – your input and shared enthusiasm for making the town bright and floriferous make it all worthwhile.

To end the year here are some photo's of the flowers which could be spotted in Rodmoor Gardens on Christmas Day.

Fuschia, pansy and primroses

Join us in Café Lido from 10am on Thursday 20th February for a coffee and a preview of our 2025 plans – hope to see you these!