

# A HEALTH WALK WITH PORTISHEAD IN BLOOM

*Portishead in Bloom has initiated or taken on the responsibility for maintaining many areas in this lovely town of Portishead. We have linked all these spaces together to form a walk that can be done as a whole or in sections.*



## Walk 1 – TOWN GARDEN / RODMOOR GARDENS / LAKEGROUNDS / JUBILEE PARK



Starting from the Town Garden near the library, walk towards the high street crossing the road to Cabstand.

Go slightly uphill on Nore Road and turn right into Battery Road, following signs for the Lake grounds .

At the end of this short road, you will find Rodmoor Gardens on the left hand side. Enjoy a good rest on one of the seats in the lovely gardens that Portishead in Bloom care for.



There is something to see at any time of the year as we have planted bulbs for the spring, roses and perennials for the summer and colourful shrubs for the autumn and winter.

Continue to walk down Rodmoor Road to The Nuttery just above the Bowling Club

A collection of donated nut trees were planted in 2014 with Transition Portishead.





Continue walking towards the coast to the Lakeside Nursery. We look after the bed outside the nursery gates.

*'Rodmoor Gardens and the Lakegrounds'*

The mature shrubs and bushes are home to a colony of house sparrows which are on the decline nationally.

During the autumn we plant up native bulbs such as bluebells and daffodils with the nursery children. These are grown on ready for planting out the following spring at the Esplanade Meadow:



## *'The Esplanade'*

Walk right along the Esplanade to the Lions bed which was planted up with yellow Lions roses in 2012.

For protection against the strong estuary winds, an eyebrow shaped wall was built using recycled stone from the local old police station. The bed behind the wall was planted up with wind tolerant shrubs.



The outdoor swimming pool 'The Lido' –was built in 1965 and is now run entirely by volunteers along with the café.

In 2015, all local schools were given two insect houses –one for the school's own use and the others have been erected on the Lido's walls.

Inside the pool, two astrolabes which were donated by Johnny Johnstone, one of Portishead in Bloom's early members, decorate one of the walls there.

We also look after the flower beds here.



## 'The Esplanade' hedges

Just up Esplanade Road beyond the Lido are two new native hedges which have replaced two *Lonicera nitida* hedges that had probably been planted during the 1950s.

These were very overgrown and were of no benefit to wildlife.

The hedge on the left hand side (going up the road) was removed in 2009 and replaced with mixed indigenous whips and surrounded by fencing to enable it to establish itself.

It is now a well established hedge that supports wildlife.

When we were judged nationally in 2014, the judges advised us to remove the hedge on the other side of the road and replant.

We replaced this with a fruit and nut hedge in February 2015.

North Somerset Council removed both the hedges and prepared the ground for planting by Portishead in Bloom volunteers.



A few years ago, we asked North Somerset Council if they could stop close cutting the Esplanade Meadow and just leave mown paths through.

The meadow is now cut in the autumn and the clippings removed to lower the fertility of the area.

This has proved a great favourite with walkers, runners and picnickers and the wild flowers and grasses coming through seem to be more prolific as the years go on.

Every spring, we plant out the native bulbs that have been grown by the Lakeside Nursery children.

Parents are invited to come along and the occasion is enjoyed by all.



A lovely addition to the meadow are two benches made from recycled wood by a local company. These were paid for by the Gordano Society and the family of Johnny Johnstone who was for many years a councillor in Portishead.

A few fruit trees have been planted on the meadow including mulberries (donated by Waitrose) and crab apples which at one time were prolific in the orchards in Portishead.



Walk up to the top of Esplanade Road and turn left along Woodlands Road noting the Viewing Point towards the end of the road.

When the Royal Hotel is reached, turn right until Woodacre is reached.

Walk down until you reach the Spanish Steps (where Woodacre turns to the right) and arrive in Jubilee Park where Power Station A once stood.

Together with the "Friends of Jubilee Park", Portishead in Bloom has enhanced the beds here with mainly grasses and spring bulbs.

Harbourside Women's Institute planted a Tulip tree in 2015 to celebrate the centenary of its foundation.

From Jubilee Park, walk along the top road, Burlington Road, down South Road where it intersects with Beach Road East and turn right.

Walk along to the next crossroads to our bed on the corner of Woodhill Road.

We were asked by North Somerset Council to take this neglected area over five years ago.

It is planted with spring flowering bulbs and summer perennials.

Turn left down Woodhill Road to Nore Road and turn left again.

At the bottom of the road, take the zebra crossing to the Town Garden.

This was an unloved and neglected piece of land that was eventually granted community asset status in 2015.

We have turned the area into a wild flower meadow which is glorious during the summer months.

The Tinca Gallery got local children to join in painting the ugly wall and Transition Portishead made raised beds to grow vegetables and herbs that are given away to interested passers by.



