



Newsletter August 2026

At the beginning of July
there were numerous



gardeners at work all round the Town Centre, enjoying the slightly cooler weather and getting ready for SW in Bloom judging day. Other preparations included our new poster being displayed in the precinct bus stop, the blue tubs getting a fresh coat of paint, courtesy of Portishead Town Council (a big thank you for this!), some poles painted by the Portishead Youth Centre replacing the sadly dead olive trees in the Town Garden beds and our own volunteers removing weeds from the pavement edges.



We are looking for places to display smaller copies our splendid new poster – if you would like an A4 version to put up in a prominent place please email portishead_in_bloom@outlook.com and let us know where you intend to place the poster so we don't duplicate.

All work parties are 9.30-11.30 am	Please bring your own gloves, tools, and green bags
Monday 3rd August	Rodmoor Gardens and Nuttery
Tuesday 11th August	Town Garden, Old Mill and other town centre beds
Wednesday 19th August	Rodmoor Gardens and Nuttery
Thursday 27th August	Station Road
Monday 7th September	Rodmoor Gardens and Nuttery
Tuesday 15th September	Town Garden and Old Mill
Wednesday 23rd September	Rodmoor Gardens and Nuttery
Thursday 1st October	Jubilee Park





Prior to the judging on 9th July, and with the heat returning, work continued, planting the four new blue tubs at the entrance to the Marina by Bottolino's, weeding the Boat Roundabout, the 'Scout's Beds' and planter at the bottom of the Portbury Hundred and attacking the weeds along the High Street.

We are very grateful to all involved – it's really lovely to see the community coming together to make the town look its best. Thanks to everyone for supporting us!

If you would like to know more about the work PiB does all year to prepare for Southwest in Bloom you can read the portfolio we prepare for the judges here:

<https://www.portisheadinbloom.org.uk/portfolio26.html>

We were delighted to welcome Jon Wheatley, Chairman of Southwest in Bloom as our judge on Thursday 9th July. After touring the town and meeting volunteers and our partner organisations Jon joined some of the volunteer gardeners for lunch at Clarence House. He told us that he thought some of our floral delays rivalled those at RHS Badminton this week – a lovely tribute to everyone's hard work.





Once again sixteen gardeners were scattered around the town early on Tuesday 14th July, tidying, weeding and dealing with the effects of the continued hot, dry weather. Deadheading the petunias will ensure a longer flowering season and keep the displays looking bright and cheerful. With a second round of judging due on Tuesday 28th there was no time to step back or rest, the gardeners all met up later in the morning in Rodmoor Gardens to deadhead, weed and mow before enjoying coffee and cake.

Everyone took a break and enjoyed The Big Picnic on Saturday 18th July – thanks to all who helped, to the entertainers and to everybody who joined us for a very pleasant afternoon. It's usually an anxious wait to see if the rain will hold off for this event, so it was a major change this year, fearing lest it be too hot for an outside event! Fortunately not!





As you can see from the preceding photographs the gardeners were back working on Wednesday 22nd, getting Rodmoor Gardens ready for Britain in Bloom judging. Despite the continuing hot dry weather, the roses are continuing to bloom and the agapanthus in the centre bed is at its best. The gardeners will be revisiting the judging route over the coming weekend and making sure the town is ready for the judges on Tuesday 28th. You can see more of the work that the PiB volunteers do on posts on



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/27227782471> and on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/portisheadinbloom/>



Areas being spruced up included the Scouts Bed and Boat Roundabout, the Lido Beds and steps, the steps by The Royal Inn and the Memorial Beds at Albert Road.



Then there was one final work party in Rodmoor on Monday 27th. The gardeners had done their best and despite the exceptional hot dry weather the town was looking tidy and most places were still full of colour despite the brown lawns .

RHS National Judges Ian Beaney and Brendan Mowforth were in town on Tuesday 28th July to tour the area. As well as looking at the areas PiB garden they also met representatives of our partner organisations before joining some of the regular gardeners and volunteers for lunch.

The immediate feedback was positive, but we have to wait until 20th October to hear how we have done. In the meantime, our thanks to everyone who has been a part of this endeavour.



After an especially busy month and exceptional temperatures to contend with the gardeners were undaunted and were in Jubilee Park on Thursday 30th for the final work party of the month. The work party schedule for the next two months is a little lighter but we will be busy behind the scenes starting to plan for 2027. If you enjoy gardening, please do come along to one of the work parties and join in – its all very informal, and we make everyone welcome!