

Usk in Bloom – News - June 2017



New Girl Guides Garden created

To help celebrate Usk Girl Guides 100th Birthday celebrations and as part of the Royal horticulture society “Greening Grey Britain “ scheme, Usk in Bloom have created a new garden at the entrance to the Maryport North street Car parks on a neglected piece of land owned by Monmouthshire County Council. Styled the “Great Garden Makeover” and completed over 3 consecutive days, nearly 30 individuals and Guides helped takeaway this existing cobbles blocks and concrete and added new paving, seating, gardens. The planting mainly reflects the colours of the Girl Guide badge which is blue and white. Incorporated within the planting is Rosa ‘Queen Elizabeth’ to commemorate the fact that Queen Elizabeth II is the patron of Girl Guiding.

Whilst creating a garden to celebrate the achievements of Girl Guiding, it was also important to create a sustainable habitat for pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies. The planting includes useful early sources of nectar such as *Sarcococca confusa* and *Jasminum nudiflorum* which can flower from January. *Nepeta* ‘Walkers Low’, *Astrantia* ‘Roma’ and *Malus* ‘John Downie’ provide Summer nectar and late season nectar is provided by *Aster x frikartii* ‘Monch’, *Caryopteris* ‘Heavenly Blue’ and *Sedum* ‘Purple Emperor.’ The whole area is also underplanted with spring bulbs so that there will be nectar sources from January onwards. Bee hotels will also be placed around the garden to provide hibernation habitat.

Town planting

The main planting has been completed around the Town –our thanks go to Usk RFC for providing the muscles to help top up the planters with compost and place tubs around Twyn square clock and car park. There are 2 new wild flower beds in st Mary’s Churchyard to compliment the 3 outside Usk school. That’s 350 sqm of wildflowers which will make spectacular viewing through late summer.!

TV programme

You may have seen a few TV cameras around Usk recently too. Usk in Bloom have been chosen from over 100 nominations to take part in a new 15 part BBC2 TV documentary that follows 15 communities across the UK (we are the only one in Wales) throughout the summer in the run up Regional (Us - Wales in Bloom) judging on 5th July. A whole 30 minute programme to be shown in spring 2018 will be dedicated to Usk and will highlight not just flowers but how the “In Bloom Movement” contributes to the local economy, environment and demonstrates the community working together for the benefit of Usk. Exciting times.

Britain in Bloom Judging

In addition to Wales in Bloom judging, Britain in Bloom challenge is set for 2nd August. We will be organising more litter picking and hope that as many s possible will help show Usk at its best. We know Its tough economic times for our High Street and thank our businesses for supporting Usk in Bloom by putting floral displays and Hanging baskets out. Working together, we can make Usk better!
