

Our 2018 Exmouth in Bloom Calendars sold out, raising us the sum of £1400. We thank our sponsors, shop outlets and all of you who bought them. What a splendid result.

A new Community Boat - Has been sited in Brixington, it will be tended by volunteers in the local community. Exmouth in Bloom were helped by Keith Graham, Myles Blood-Smith, Jeff Trail and Darryl Nicholas. It has now been planted and painted in red with paint kindly donated by Wilsons Paints.



A new Bloom member joined us last year, Mr Horace Hedgehog, who became our Wildlife Co-ordinator. Horace is pictured complete with his own name badge. He was kindly knitted and given to us by Bloom helper Liz Hamling.

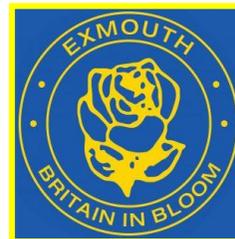


Website - We have a new look website thanks to help from Websites & More in Exeter Road, who have taken on the hosting and management on our behalf. We are grateful for the professional support and advice that has been given to us non technical human beings.

Copies of all our newsletters and new Friends application forms can be found on the website.

If you would prefer an electronic copy of your Newsletter, rather than a hard copy, please email the Friends Group Secretary at:- **l-dennis2@sky.com**. We are happy to send either or both.

Contact details as follows:- Chairman - Mrs Gerry Bassett, Tel 01395 488718; Friends Secretary - Mrs Linda Dennis, Tel 07879 654256; Secretary - Sharon Darton, Tel 07387 582228 or email us via the web site:- www.exmouthinbloom.org.uk.



Welcome to our first 2018 Friends of Exmouth in Bloom Newsletter

Exmouth in Bloom has just enjoyed a very successful and rewarding year. We maintained our RHS **Gold** standard award and also received the 'Exceptional Community Effort' award. The Friends Group increased its numbers, with 233 members joining in 2017, raising the sum of £2296. Since our launch in March 2011 we have raised £11,240 in total from Friends subscriptions and your generous extra donations. The financial contribution from the Friends Group enables us to continue providing the beautiful floral displays in and around Exmouth. We thank every single one of you for your encouragement, support and wonderful comments.

Some of our New Plans for 2018

include - Improving the appearance of the wall, behind our large 'wavy flower bed' near the leisure centre. It will be cleaned, disinfected and painted in matching colours.



Clean up and paint a mural on the wall by Marks and Spencer and in a joint project with EDDC tidy up overgrown shrubs by the underpass, then 'cloud' cut it and paint the wall to freshen it up.

We are trying to obtain permission to site some new multiple hanging basket containers in the Strand to make the area more colourful and welcoming. We also have 'Project Swan' - Rescuing a Swan Boat from Exmouth Fun Park, see our enclosed extra page for details.

The 2018 Friends money will be spent on plants for our black flower towers, planters, troughs, flower beds and various containers in and around the town centre. You will see Friends Group sponsor notices on many of the containers.

Our recent AGM - held in January, has seen some changes to our committee. We have a new Treasurer, Mr John Drew, and four new committee members, Alison Hammond Hall, Francis Hall, Jean Holden and Lena Price; we are pleased to have them join us.

Exmouth in Bloom are looking forward to implementing our new ideas and maintaining the high standard of planting achieved in previous years. We are a small committee, but are fortunate to have a loyal band of helpers who turn out in all weathers to help. Without them we could not maintain our boats, flower beds, planters and troughs. Exmouth in Bloom owe them all a huge thank you.

It was suggested at the AGM that we reduce our Friends Newsletters to two a year instead of three. The Friends Group has been such a success that we have found producing, printing and delivering over 200 Newsletters, three times a year, quite a mammoth task, especially in the summer months when we are busy with our other duties, organising the local gardening competitions, weeding, watering, planting, planning, coffee mornings, plant sales, helping schools and local groups with their projects and preparing for the South West in Bloom judging.

We hope Friends that you don't mind and we will still let you know what we have been up to and what we spend the Friends Group money on. All of us on the Bloom committee are very dedicated and committed to keeping Exmouth tidy, floral and welcoming. We aim to keep the town bright and cheerful.

It is very important that we let everyone of you know how much we appreciate our Friends Group. Exmouth is still in Bloom thanks to our community support. The next newsletter will be issued in the autumn after our South West in Bloom judging Presentation event. We will continue to work hard keeping up the high standard of displays for all of us to enjoy.



We work all year round, tending to our beds, boats and planters. We have weeded, cut back shrubs, planted new bulbs, given the water wheel a spring clean as well as finding time to help with beach clean ups and making bug houses from assorted materials. Our members have also been busy making cakes, jams and marmalades to sell at our coffee mornings and plant sales. A wonderful team effort.





Dates for your Diary

Please come to our fund raising events, we would be delighted to meet our Friends Members and Supporters.

Saturday 3rd March, 10-1pm - Table Top Sale at the 'Repair Cafe' held in the Tower Street Methodist Church. We will be selling plants and various Bloom items. Coffee and refreshments are available.



Saturday 7th April, 10-1pm - Selling plants at the 'Repair Cafe' held in the Tower Street Methodist Church.

A Bucket Collection at the Exmouth Rugby Club match.

Wednesday 2nd May, 10-12noon - Coffee Morning and Plant Sale at Littlemead Methodist Church Hall.



Saturday 5th May, 10-1pm - Selling plants at the 'Repair Cafe' held in the Tower Street Methodist Church.

Saturday 2nd June, 10-1pm - Selling plants at the 'Repair Cafe' held in the Tower Street Methodist Church.

Saturday 7th July, 10-1pm - Selling plants at the 'Repair Cafe' in the Tower Street Methodist Church and the presentation of prizes to the winners of Exmouth in Bloom Children's Painting Competition.



Project Swan

When the sea front Fun Park closed at the end of summer in 2017, Exmouth in Bloom were lucky enough to be given the smallest of the Swan Boats by owner Chris Wright. An idea for a Swan project was then put to the Town Team who gave us the go ahead.



Local resident and Town Team member Peter Riggs managed to get us permission to use a patch of land outside of the Southwest Sewage pumping station, near the Leisure Centre. The Town Team kindly agreed to fund the project. Peter negotiated and organised for local businesses to donate the materials for the work needed to make the area safe and for a background mural to be painted. Drywall Linings and Tool Care came up trumps donating the equipment.



Exmouth in Bloom committee member Graham Bell and his able assistant, Jill Newcombe, are painting a wonderful estuary view which will include local landmarks as well as flying swans, sailing boats, kite surfers and a train. An edging of railway sleepers will be installed. The Swan boat, which has been renovated, will be positioned and then planted with grasses giving the look of feathers which move in the wind. The surrounding area will also be planted up to give a natural appearance.

Kings Garden and Leisure will be providing the landscaping and helping with planting. Exmouth in Bloom is grateful for all the support in assisting with an innovative and exciting new project. Please let us know what you think; we welcome your feedback.