Newton in Bloom

PORTFOLIO 2026

NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL



Welcome to Newton in Bloom

Newton in Bloom is proud to showcase how horticulture can bring together environmental enhancement, civic pride, and community participation. Through our planting schemes, biodiversity initiatives, and sustainable gardening practices, we strive to create attractive green spaces that benefit both residents and wildlife.

Central to our work is community engagement. By working alongside volunteers, local schools, businesses, community groups, and partner organisations, we encourage people of all ages to take an active role in caring for and improving their local environment. These collaborative efforts not only enhance the appearance of our town but also support biodiversity, promote wellbeing, and foster a stronger sense of community ownership.

This portfolio highlights the projects, partnerships, and achievements that demonstrate our commitment to making Newton Abbot a greener, more vibrant, and environmentally responsible place for everyone.

A1 A2 A3 A4 B1

Floral displays in the town centre















A1 A2 A3 A4 B1

Victoria Gardens











A1 A2 A3 A4 B1

War Memorial







A1 A2 A3 A4 B1

Golden Lion Square

Golden Lion Square has undergone refurbishment to replace deteriorating timber flower bed edging with durable hardwood sleepers and a protective waterproof membrane. The project was completed by the Town Council's in-house maintenance team, delivering significant cost savings while enhancing the appearance and longevity of this well-used community space. These improvements will help ensure the square remains an attractive and welcoming area for residents and visitors to enjoy.







A1 A2 A3

Working with Newton Abbot Rotary Club

The completion of Phase 1 improvements at Golden Lion Square has been greatly enhanced through the continued support of Rotary Newton Abbot. Their contribution to the planting scheme has helped create a more attractive and welcoming environment for residents and visitors, adding colour, interest and seasonal appeal to this important community space.

We are grateful for Rotary Newton Abbot's ongoing commitment to improving the town and supporting projects that help keep Newton Abbot vibrant and well cared for.





A1 B1 C3

Working with Newton Abbot Rotary Club & Bearnes Primary School





Planting up Golden Lion Square

A2 C2 C3

Working with Bearnes Primary School

Quote from Bearnes Primary School Facebook page:
‘Our school councillors enjoyed a fantastic tour of Newton Abbot led by Rob and Steve. The children learned about how the town is kept clean and safe, gaining a real appreciation for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes. They also had great fun planting bulbs and were excited to take a look inside Sweeping Beauty!
A huge thank you to Rob and Steve from Newton Abbot Town Council for giving us such an informative and inspiring visit’





Working with Wolborough Primary School

Quote from Wolborough Primary School Facebook page:
‘The School Council had a great afternoon visit with Rob and Steve from Newton Abbot Town Council and the School Council from Bearnes. They learnt all about what the council look after in our town and shared their ideas of how Newton Abbot could be improved. They even got to visit the Council chamber and help brighten up the town by planting bulbs for the spring as well as trying out Sweeping Beauty, the new town road sweeper!
Thank you to Miss Bassett from Bearnes for organising the visit and inviting us and huge thanks to Rob and Steve for an interesting and fun tour!’



Citymaster & Foam Stream

Newton Abbot Town Council uses a pesticide-free Foamstream system to manage weeds without chemical herbicides, helping to protect biodiversity and the local environment. Our Citymaster road sweeper also helps keep streets and public spaces clean, removing litter and debris.





B1 B2 B3

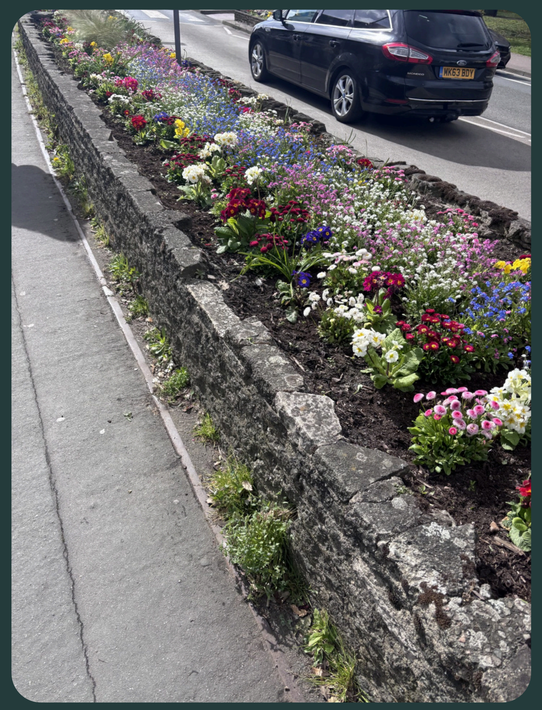
Tree planting

Newton Abbot is committed to planting trees that will benefit the community and environment for generations to come. Increasing tree cover helps improve air quality, support biodiversity and provide habitats for wildlife. Tree planting also plays an important role in tackling climate change, creating a greener, healthier and more resilient town for the future.





Winter Bedding



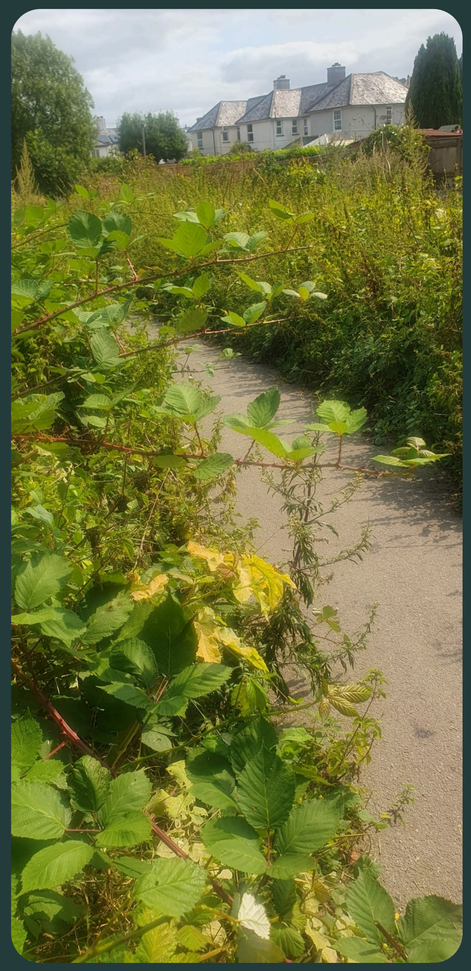
Our winter flower bed displays help ensure the town remains colourful and welcoming throughout the colder months. Carefully selected seasonal planting provides visual interest when many gardens are dormant, enhancing public spaces for residents and visitors while supporting pollinators with valuable sources of food during the winter season.

A3 C1

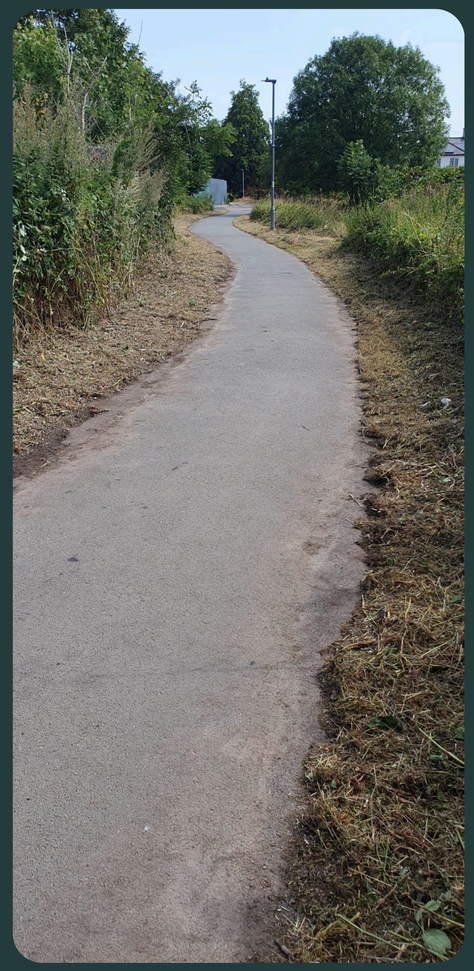
Footpath maintenance

The Town Council took up the suggestion to name its FPs (footpaths) to identify their locations, rather than having to remember a list of numbers. The names chosen, (through consultation with such groups as the Ramblers Association), reflect historical names or readily identifywith current road names or other features.
There are 51 numbered Public Rights of Way (PROW) footpaths within the Parish of Newton Abbot. Those paths within the parish boundary often continue into a neighbouring parish.

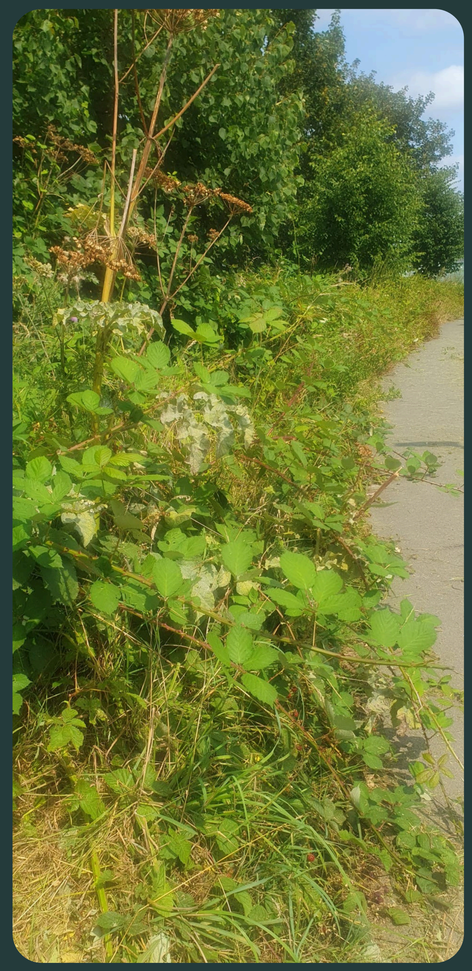
Before



After



Before



After



A2 B1

Graffiti removal



Keyberry Underpass





Tunnels of Love

Verges

Since early 2025, Newton Abbot Town Council has explored more environmentally responsible ways to manage grass verges. Supported by growing awareness of insect conservation, including Newton Abbot Museum's Insects Uncovered exhibition, a town-wide wildlife-friendly verge trial was launched in April 2026 to create habitats for pollinators and other wildlife.







A2 A3 B1 B2

Museum & Schools

Newton Abbot Museum continues to engage with the community through its extensive outreach programme, bringing fascinating objects, stories and hands-on activities directly to local groups, community centres and events. Alongside these visits, the museum offers a range of creative workshops, including family tree art projects, flower press making and miniature theatre construction, helping people of all ages connect with local heritage through learning and creativity.



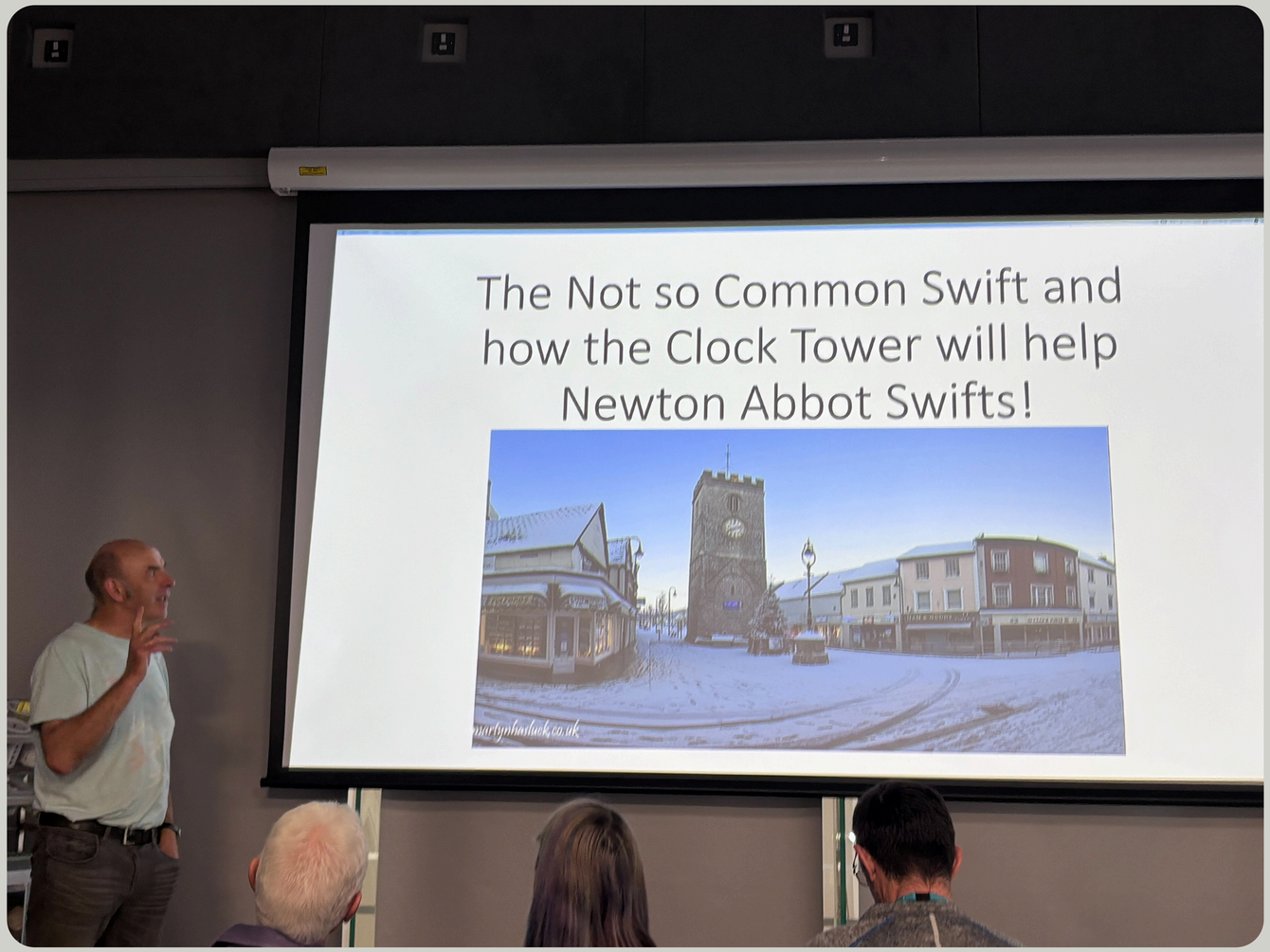
Community Engagement Officer, Kate Green

Working in schools with young people who are interested in history, and finding out about what is involved with working as a museum curator. The museum is also running a Young Curators Club each Tuesday morning in the summer holidays. More than 300 young people from schools and colleges in Newton Abbot have visited the museum over the last year.

Throughout the year, Newton Abbot Museum offers a wide range of talks, workshops, exhibitions and family activities, encouraging community involvement, creativity and lifelong learning. These events help connect people with local heritage, culture and the natural environment while creating opportunities for residents of all ages to come together.

Museum Volunteers

Volunteers from Newton Abbot Museum have attended a series of informative talks at Newton's Place focused on the conservation of swifts, one of Britain's most iconic yet declining bird species. The sessions explored the challenges facing swifts, the importance of protecting nesting sites, and practical ways communities can support their survival. By increasing awareness and understanding of local wildlife, these talks have helped strengthen links between heritage, education and environmental conservation, while inspiring volunteers to play an active role in promoting biodiversity across Newton Abbot.



B2 C2

Lantern Parade & Light Switch-On







The annual Lantern Parade and Christmas Light Switch-On is one of Newton Abbot's most anticipated community events, bringing together residents, schools, community groups and local organisations to celebrate the start of the festive season. Hundreds of participants proudly carry handmade lanterns through the town centre before gathering for the official light switch-on, transforming Newton Abbot into a vibrant and welcoming Christmas destination. The event showcases community creativity, encourages participation across all ages, and creates a memorable festive atmosphere enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

Town Crier Competition

Newton Abbot's annual Town Criers' Competition is one of the town's most colourful and popular heritage events. Welcoming competitors from across the South West, it celebrates a centuries-old tradition while bringing entertainment and community spirit to the town centre.

As part of the event, criers deliver messages on environmental responsibility and sustainability, helping to raise awareness of important issues in a unique and engaging way. With crowds gathering around St Leonard's Tower, the competition showcases Newton Abbot's rich history while promoting a greener future for the town.









Newton Abbot Allotments: A Valuable Asset for Our Town

Newton Abbot's allotments are a valued community asset, providing residents with the opportunity to grow their own food, enjoy the outdoors and connect with nature. They promote health and wellbeing through physical activity, relaxation and the satisfaction of cultivating fruit, vegetables and flowers.

The allotments also support the Town Council's ambition to reduce pesticide use and work towards a pesticide-free Newton Abbot. Through initiatives such as free pesticide collection events and the promotion of sustainable growing practices, plot holders are encouraged to adopt environmentally friendly alternatives that protect wildlife and improve biodiversity.

Just as importantly, allotments bring people together, fostering friendships, sharing skills and strengthening community connections while promoting a greener, healthier and more sustainable way of life.



A2 B2 B3

Awareness in the community



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 HERALD EXPRESS 3

The unveiling of a plinth marked the culmination of the three-year-long Restoring Stover Park Project — Devon County Council

Community can finally celebrate after labour of love to restore country park

by STAFF REPORTER
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@DevonLiveNews

THE the completion of a three-year restoration project at Stover Country Park has been marked by the unveiling of a commemorative granite plinth, a new woodland and a celebration of the area's history.

The Restoring Stover Park Project has seen more than £4.2 million invested in the park, which marks the biggest programme of improvement at Stover for generations.

Over the three years, volunteers have played a vital role in the project, contributing more than 5,500 hours caring for Stover's wildlife and heritage.

The project has delivered new and improved facilities, restored historic features, improved paths and trails, and carried out major work to improve Stover Lake for its wildlife.

It has also helped more people enjoy the park through education, volunteering and community activities.

Earlier this month, invited guests including funders, contractors, community partners and volunteers, attended an event at the park to mark the achievement.

Devon County Council's vice chair, Councillor Rosie Dawson, said: "Stover is more than just a beautiful landscape. It is an extraordinary asset to our county – a place where people of all ages can walk, learn, breathe and reconnect with nature.

"It supports wildlife, wellbeing and community. In a busy and often noisy world, spaces like this matter more than ever. This park is a shining example of what can be achieved when agencies, authorities, volunteers and communities work together with shared purpose. Local government partners, funders, environmental specialists and dedicated volunteers have all played their part. It is collaboration in action."

The final saplings in what will be a new woodland stretching from the Stover Centre to the lake were also planted.

At the start of the Restoring Stover Park project, a micro-tree nursery was created at the Courtenay Centre in Newton Abbot and at Stover School, in partnership with Devon Wildlife Trust's Saving Devon's Treescapes project, and with help from the Stover Shed volunteers.

Children from Bearnes Voluntary Primary School and Stover Prep School helped gather tree seeds collected in the park. They then worked with volunteers to germinate the seeds.

Last month, 99 pupils from Bearnes Primary School helped plant some of the saplings on the former de-silting site at the park, and 150 pupils from Stover Preparatory School planted a hedge along the fence line of the recently restored Serpentine Lake. On Valentine's Day, 100 people also turned out for a 'spread the love, plant a tree' event.

Eve Malster, Restoring Stover Park community engagement officer, said: "This project has been a wonderful example of partnership working, community involvement and volunteer support. Hundreds of schoolchildren have learned how to grow trees from seed to sapling and then plant them out. Numerous volunteers have gained new skills in tree growing and conservation, helping to bring the project together. There are now community tree nurseries in Heathfield and Newton Abbot, and Stover Country Park has a new broadleaved woodland. We couldn't be prouder, and it has all been made possible thanks to The National Lottery Heritage Fund and our other funders."

NEWTONCRYER | Summer 2026

With a delightful, memorable performance, Rydon Primary School took the top prize and will use part of the funds raised to improve their outdoor environment.

Following this successful year, we hope the 2026/27 Young Apprentice Challenge will be even bigger and better, with more teams ready to develop new skills, support their communities, and take on the challenge!

A NEW LANDMARK TAKES ROOT!

Rotary Newton Abbot has proudly planted one of Devon's special landmark trees donated by Devon Wildlife Trust as part of the Saving Devon's Treescapes project.

This beautiful tree will help replace those lost to ash dieback, boost local biodiversity, and grow into a lasting symbol for the community for generations to come.

Next time you pass Penn Inn, look out for the newest addition to Newton Abbot's landscape – a small tree today, a local landmark tomorrow!

Nick & Jane Taylor, leaders of our Gardening Club, joined Rotarian Jeremy Newcombe to inspect the newly planted tree at Penn Inn Roundabout – and just ten weeks later it was thriving beautifully!

L-R: Nick Taylor, Jane Taylor and Jeremy Newcombe (Newton Abbot Rotary)

Scan the QR code to access Rotary Newton Abbot's Facebook page

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Rotary Newton Abbot is proving that small changes can spark big transformations.

Following a heavily oversubscribed first round, the club has just concluded its second round of Community Grants delivering fifteen 'seed donations' of £300 each to the grassroots organisations that are working locally.

This latest injection of £4,500 brings the club's recent direct support to nearly 30 local charities, sports clubs, and community groups. For these volunteer-led organisations, a £300 boost isn't just a donation, it's a new kit for a youth team, a new exercise class, a much-needed piece of equipment etc.

Locally we have an incredible network of 'quiet heroes', small groups making a difference for our community. Our seed donations are designed to encourage these local efforts!

Congratulations to all recipients!

Newton Abbot Town Council works closely with local newspapers and community media to promote environmental projects, volunteering opportunities and local success stories. Regular coverage helps raise awareness of initiatives such as wildlife-friendly verges, tree planting and community gardening schemes, encouraging residents to get involved and support their local environment.

Publications such as The Newton Cryer help keep residents informed about environmental projects, sustainability initiatives and funding opportunities across the town. By highlighting local achievements and promoting grants and community activities, the publication encourages residents and organisations to contribute to a greener and more sustainable Newton Abbot.

Support and Funding

Newton Abbot Town Council works closely with the Newton Abbot Community Interest Company to support projects and events that enhance the town centre, encourage community participation and promote local pride. Through partnership working, both organisations help create a vibrant and welcoming town while supporting local businesses, residents and visitors.

Working alongside Green Futures, the Town Council supported the successful Check Your Shed campaign, encouraging residents to safely dispose of unwanted pesticides and gardening chemicals. The initiative raised awareness of environmentally friendly gardening practices and supported Newton Abbot's wider ambition to reduce pesticide use and create a healthier environment for people and wildlife.





NEWTON ABBOT
TOWN COUNCIL







Thank you

We hope you enjoyed our Newton in Bloom portfolio and tour.





