



# 2025 Portfolio

Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk

[www.buryinbloom.org.uk](http://www.buryinbloom.org.uk)



BRITAIN IN BLOOM UK FINALIST 2025  
with the RHS



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BURY ST EDMUNDS  
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## Portfolio Key

**Horticultural  
Achievement**



**Environmental  
Responsibility**



**Community  
Participation**



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# Introduction

Welcome to Bury St Edmunds; a historic market town in Suffolk with a richly fascinating heritage and a striking mix of medieval architecture, Georgian squares and a modern shopping centre. Visitor attractions include the stunning Abbey Gardens and St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Highly praised in the media for its annual floral displays, Bury St Edmunds always strives to be ahead of the curve, offering tiered planters, hanging baskets and a focus on sustainability within the town, including the storage and use of rainwater within its self-watering planters.

Bury in Bloom is an independent charity, now in its 38th year, run by The Bury St Edmunds Society and is made up of over 200 volunteers, a coordinator who is able to give four days per week, and representatives from the local authority, community, education and businesses; many of whom are represented by our highly successful Business Improvement District who support us financially, allowing us to install over 400 baskets throughout the town every summer.

## Bury in Bloom Aims and Objectives:

- To ensure Bury St Edmunds maintains its floral town achievements.
- To encourage gardening across the ages from children at pre-school to residents in the town's nursing homes.
- To raise awareness of environmental issues, biodiversity and sustainability.
- To plant and maintain the hanging baskets, flower beds and troughs with colourful planting schemes around the town.
- To maintain the town's 18 roundabouts to make them attractive to sponsors.
- To use sculpture on those roundabouts to tell the history of the town for all to enjoy.
- To work with the local councils, sponsors and other Bury St Edmunds' volunteer groups to raise awareness of the need to meet these aims for the good of the town and its residents.

# Names & Roles

## Bury in Bloom Team

Robin Burnett	Chairman
Chris Wiley	Coordinator
Jackie Burnett	Secretary
Chris Hall	Pride in My Street Coordinator
Mags Slater	Greenfingers Coordinator
Yasmine Long	Greenfingers Coordinator
Liz Chapman	Greenfingers Coordinator
Lynda Seldis	Abbey Gardens Friends
Simon Hobson	Abbey Gardens Manager
Paul Marsh	Hodson's Helpers / AG Volunteer Coordinator
Libby Ranzetta / Richard Counihan	Bury Water Meadows Group
Jo Sweetman	Resident Photographer
Becky Torkington	Greene King
Michelle Freeman	The Crafty Foxes
Mark Cordell	CEO Our Bury St Edmunds

## The Bury Society

Martyn Taylor	Chairman Bury Society
Terry O'Donoghue	Secretary Bury Society
Alan Baxter	Website & Social Media
Ben Booth	Treasurer
Sarah Nunn	Assistant Treasurer

## West Suffolk Council / Bury St Edmunds Town Council

Cllr. Patrick Chung	Town Council
Cllr. Marilyn Sayer	Town Council
Cllr Diane Hind / Cllr Donna Higgins	Town Council Mayors
Gary Quilter	Parks Manager (WSC)
Damien Parker	Manger Green Spaces & Heritage (WSC)
John Van Rheede Toas	Landscapes Manager (WSC)
Jason Baldwin	Landscape Supervisor (WSC)



bury in bloom



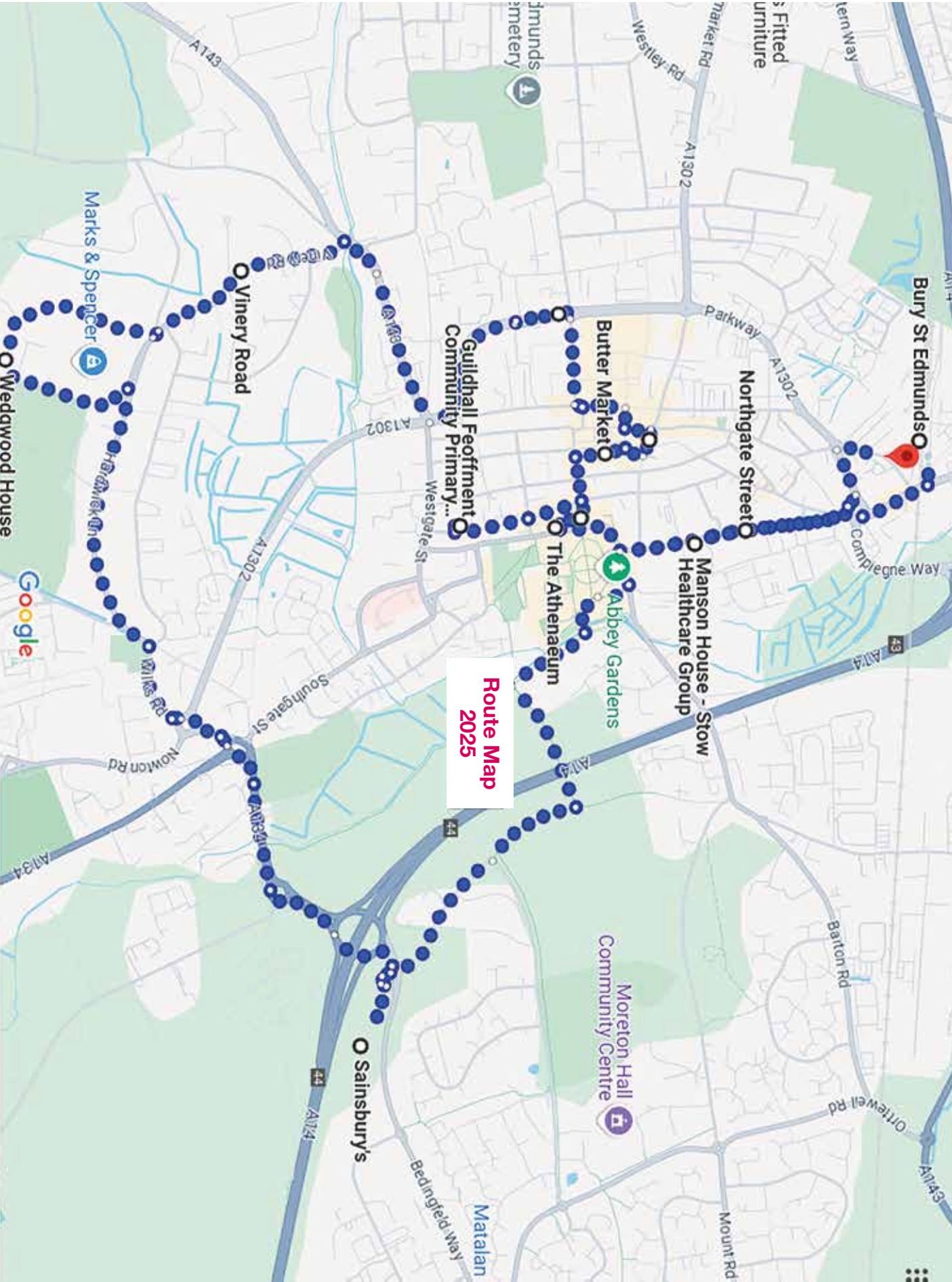
@buryinbloom



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# Route Map

Routes for Anglia in Bloom and Britain in Bloom do vary slightly, but remain very similar.



# Schedule for Anglia / Britain in Bloom

**Wednesday 30 July and Monday 04 August**

Location and Time	Special Awards
Introduction at Railway Station arrive 10.15am (AIB), 09.00am (BIB) leave 10.45am (AIB), 09.30am (BIB)	200 Years of Rail Travel
Walk to Cotton Lane Allotments (via Northgate Street) arrive 10.55am (AIB), 09.40am (BIB) leave 11.10am (AIB), 09.55am (BIB)	Grow Your Own Project
(AIB ONLY) Walk to Manson House arrive 11.16am (AIB) leave 11.26am (AIB)	
Walk (AIB) Rickshaws (BIB) to War Memorial, Angel Hill arrive 11.33am (AIB), 10.02am (BIB) leave 11.40am (AIB), 10.09am (BIB)	
Walk to Athenaeum arrive 11.42am (AIB), 10.11am (BIB) leave 12.00pm (AIB), 10.30am (BIB)	Community Project
Rickshaws to Abbey Gardens arrive 12.05pm (AIB), 10.35am (BIB) leave 12.20pm (AIB), 11.05am (BIB)	Local Authority Display Gardening for Wildlife or Biodiversity 30 Years of Anglia in Bloom
Rickshaws to Guildhall Feoffment (via Abbeygate Street/Angel Lane/Bridewell Lane) arrive 12.25pm (AIB), 11.10am (BIB) leave 12.35pm (AIB), 11.20am (BIB)	Young Peoples Project (under 12 years)
Rickshaws to Buttermarket (via Guildhall Street) arrive 12.40am (AIB), 11.25am (BIB) leave 12.55pm (AIB), 11.40am (BIB)	
Rickshaws to The Smile Bed, Parkway arrive 1.00pm (AIB), 11.45am (BIB) leave 1.10pm (AIB), 11.55am (BIB)	Sustainable Garden
(AIB ONLY) Minibus to The Bungalow (via A143/Vinery Road/Barons Road) arrive 1.15pm (AIB) leave 1.25pm (AIB)	Sheltered Housing/Care Home/Inclusive Garden
(BIB ONLY) Minibus to Wedgwood House (via A143/Vinery Road) arrive 12.00pm (BIB) leave 12.10pm (BIB)	
END – (AIB ONLY) Minibus to Greene King Beer Café (via Barons Road/Southgate Street) for Refreshments arrive 1.30pm (AIB)	
END – (BIB ONLY) Minibus to Railway Station (via A14/Compiegne Way) for Refreshments arrive 12.15pm	
Press photos upon arrival.	



# Diary of Events & Projects

August 2024 to July 2025



- Reception for Front Garden Judges
- Planning for 2025 projects
- Britain in Bloom Judging (2025)



- Anglia in Bloom Awards



- Greenfingers Awards Ceremony
- Plants ordered and colours chosen for 2025



- Community Bulb Planting in Abbey Gardens



- Planning of events and projects
- Christmas cards designed and emailed



- Engage with sponsors and source funding for projects



- Prepare for and host Seed Swap
- Thank You event for volunteers and sponsors



- Prepare budget for 2025/26
- Attend Britain in Bloom Finalists' online seminar



- Prepare for and host Plant Swap
- Replacement of chains and mats in Hanging Baskets



- Planting of Hanging Baskets
- Wildlife Day in Abbey Gardens



- Installation of Hanging Baskets and Pyramid Planters
- Hidden Gardens of Bury St Edmunds
- Floral Fencing unveiled in Abbey Gardens
- Installation of Floral Locomotive



- Greenfingers Schools and Care Home Judging
- Anglia in Bloom Judging



# First Impressions

First impressions are always the most important, so whether you are visiting Bury St Edmunds via public transport or driving in, our focus this year has been on creating an instant impact and a theme throughout the town, no matter where your journey begins. The 2025 theme being striking pinks, neon colours and attractive leaf variegation – with a focus on celebrating 200 Years of Rail Travel and 30 Years of Anglia in Bloom.

In winter, we are lucky to receiving funding via BSE Town Council to plant and install hanging baskets and containers full of winter and spring flowering annuals and bulbs such as Pansies, Wallflowers, Tulips and Daffodils – all with nectar rich flowers for early pollinators.



*Spring baskets 2025*



*Spring colour 2025*

Structure is also very important, hence why you can often find a mix of shrubs, perennials and trees within our displays. We know the importance of impactful displays in key roadside locations for visitors and residents alike, so planning of each scheme is crucial.

Last year, we begun swapping annual bedding displays for pollinator-friendly perennials. This, in collaboration with West Suffolk Council, was to not only reduce costs but to encourage beneficial insects to thrive and to save on plant wastage and watering. With more plans in the pipeline, such as continuing our trial of perennials in baskets, Bury St Edmunds is leading the way in encouraging biodiversity and a sustainable future for all.



*Bed planted with annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees 2023*





## A1 - Special Feature: Floral Locomotive

Since its opening in 1847, Bury St Edmunds railway station has been a significant landmark in the town's history. The station's architectural style by notable architect, Sancton Wood, characterised by striking red brick, stone window dressings and prominent domed towers, has been recognised as a gem and was listed in Simon Jenkins' "Britain's 100 Best Railway Stations" – so it is important for us to celebrate 200 Years of Rail Travel at Bury in Bloom, by showcasing a Floral Locomotive on the grounds immediately outside the station to welcome visitors into Bury St Edmunds.

The planting choices reflect and give a nod to the earlier mentioned features, such as the red brickwork that can be seen in the summer-long flowering Calibrachoa, the dark green and blue of the Petunias and Salvias that complement the colours of the early locomotives, and the fiery red/yellow of the Cannas that resembles the process of heating water to create the steam.

Working with our local Forge, Vikings Forge, a two-minute walk from the station, we have built a high-quality, steel locomotive that not only takes pride of place in town, but repurposes twelve self-watering planters that would otherwise have been made redundant from years gone by.

Proudly sponsored by Hopkins Homes.



*Locomotive installed June 2025*



*Locomotive with multiple uses!*



*Locomotive installed June 2025*





## A1 - Special Feature: Wedgwood House

Wedgwood House, a mental health service provided by the Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, has recently unveiled a new Therapy Garden after a two-year £100K fundraising project to transform what was once green wasteland. Now, in 2025, after one full growing season, the space has become a biodiversity rich sensory garden for use by patients, staff, carers and vulnerable members of the wider community.

Local volunteers, patients and staff planted more than 2,000 plants in the garden, designed by Stewart Landscape Construction. Bury in Bloom entered the Wedgwood House GreenMinds Therapy Garden into a Special Award for Anglia in Bloom last year, and it touched the judges' hearts so much that it went on to win Best Inclusivity Garden 2024.

The Trusts' mission was to offer a place of recovery and reflection, as well as a hub for therapeutic horticultural activities; a safe and welcoming garden where user groups can learn about sustainability in all its forms, from gardening for beginners, growing food, nutrition and healthy living to gardening for wildlife, biodiversity and the environment. Creative workshops including art, crafts and seasonal sessions are also included. Volunteers turn out weekly to help maintain the garden, which consists mostly of nectar-rich perennials, shrubs and small trees, as well as sculpture and a grass meditation area.



*Before transformation June 2023*



*The Growing Garden 2024*



*The Meditation Meadow 2024*

"I feel I can breathe out here; it reaches inside and calms my thoughts"

A Wedgwood House patient.



*After transformation July 2024*

Photos: Jo Sweetman & Katharine Falk





## A1 - Special Feature: The Abbey Gardens

The Abbey Gardens is renowned regionally and nationally for its floral displays and lies on the site of a former Benedictine Abbey that was one of the largest and most important in medieval England. In national terms the ruins of the Abbey Precinct are exceptional for their historic, architectural and archaeological interest. The combination of floral excellence, characterised by formal bedding schemes that have won international acclaim, against a backdrop of ancient monastic ruins makes the gardens a very special place to visit. Aviaries, water and sensory gardens, play park, café and plant shop all add to the visitor experience.

This beautiful landscape is treasured by the community both locally and from further afield, nestled on the banks of the River Lark and at the heart of the town, visitors flock all year round to enjoy the 'jewel in the crown' of West Suffolk.

The Abbey Gardens is the most visited park in West Suffolk. Its contribution to the cultural, social, economic and environmental needs of the local community is highly significant. The park creates opportunities to improve health and wellbeing, social interaction, create a sense of belonging and allows people to take part in caring for their environment.

A very active volunteer group meet most Wednesdays, the Abbey Gardens Friends, and host twice yearly plant sales of end-of-season bedding/perennials to raise funds for equipment and other running costs. There is currently a waiting list for volunteers.







## A2 - Maintenance of Planted Areas

Last year, we formed a brand new volunteer group called the 'Flying Squad', which consists of 20 willing volunteers all happy to help with maintenance around the town when required. Spiralling maintenance costs meant we could simply not keep up with paying contractors to perform annual tasks, but the very kind folk of Bury St Edmunds stepped up and now ensure that our standards don't ever slip – this is what community is all about, and we have it in abundance in Bury.

All hanging baskets are installed by West Suffolk Council staff and watered every few days, with the built-in capillary matting system drawing up water to the plants' roots slowly so that they never dry out in the heat of summer. Every couple of weeks, a liquid feed is added to the reservoirs to keep the plants looking in tip top condition.

We are very water conscious at Bury in Bloom, so all baskets and planters are watered with as much rainwater as we can collect throughout the year. It's not just better for the planet, the plants also prefer it – a win, win!

Weedkiller, although used in small amounts for 'hard to tackle' areas, is now no longer the go-to option for West Suffolk Council. We are very grateful for this at Bury in Bloom.



*New signage to promote our sponsor and volunteer group June 2025*



*Basket installation Summer 2025*



*Smile being planted Spring 2025*



*Smile bed Summer 2023*





## A3 - Plant Selection

For the first time, this year we are maintaining a consistency with our plant selection in hanging baskets, which mirror those being planted in the Abbey Gardens central beds. We had so much public praise for the plant selection in last year's park beds, mostly consisting of perennial/hardy plants, that whether you walk through town into the Abbey Gardens, or vice-versa, your eyes will be drawn to a few particular plants – namely Petunia Easy Wave 'Bubblegum' with its vibrant pink flowers, Begonia Starshine 'Appleblossom' for its triangular, towering effect, and Geranium 'Frank Headley' for its striking leaf variegation.

In a completely unpredictable UK climate, it's a challenge to know where to focus our efforts when it comes to selecting the 'right plant for the right place'. We consider plants an investment in the town's floral charm, so rather than using cheap alternatives to proven varieties, all our plants are selected for maximum impact in variable weather conditions, rather than a short burst of colour over a short few weeks in summer.

With sustainability in mind, none of our plants are imported. We only source locally and from approved



*Baskets plants 2025*

suppliers of peat-free plants. Furthermore, even though we can't guarantee that young plants haven't been sprayed with chemicals by the supplier, here at Bury in Bloom we never use chemical controls to keep aphids at bay. If required, biological controls are used – which was exactly the case when growing our hanging baskets at Nowton Park Nursery.



*Geranium Decora Lilac 2025*



*Geranium Frank Headley 2025*





## A4 - Plant Quality

Every plant in our containers and baskets around town is grown with exceptional quality control – keeping check of pests and diseases, from seed to mature plant, is of real importance to us and any that don't meet our expectations are discarded and replaced immediately.

Realise Futures CIC, at Nowton Park Nursery, now have the contract for our hanging baskets, and the nursery only uses biological controls to keep pests at bay. A balanced NPK liquid feed is applied to young plants and planted locations every two weeks, and this ensures the flowering period is prolonged and the foliage doesn't show signs of lack of nutrients.

When preparing new sites, soil is always professionally tested before any planting commences, so that we know how best to improve the soil and control the quality of the plants to follow.



*Begonia Starshine 'Appleblossom' in a 9cm pot*



*Young plants growing for hanging baskets 2025*





## B1 - Local Identity and Pride of Place

The historic market town of Bury St Edmunds has a rich heritage and is most famous for St Edmundsbury Cathedral and the Abbey of St Edmund ruins, once home to what was one of the largest and richest Benedictine monasteries in England.

The Abbey Gardens is a thriving tourist attraction, as is Nowton Park – a nature conservation area with almost 200 acres of beautiful Suffolk countryside.

Also home to Britain's last surviving Regency playhouse and the 3rd oldest theatre in the country, the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds is fortunate to offer many guided walking tours thanks to the town's Tour Guides, showcasing historical landmarks past and present.

With so much to offer, the local Councils and BID, alongside various other bodies and individuals take great pride in maintaining the various historical sites within the town and host a wide range of events such as Remembrance Parades, Spring Fayre, Christmas Market, Food & Drink Festivals, Music Festivals and much more.

Our Bury St Edmunds, the town's BID, has a policy of removing graffiti as soon as it's reported and the Council ensures streets are swept regularly and bins emptied before they become an issue. Litter picks are regularly performed, often unnoticed, by dedicated residents and bodies who take pride in their local area. Signage is also regularly maintained and updated.



*Rickshaw joy ride in Bury St Edmunds 2025*



*Abbey Gardens by Drone Sept 2024*



*War Memorial planting Feb 2025*

Photos: Melanie Lesser, Paul Smith & Rachel Thomas





## B2 - Natural Environment

There is absolutely no doubt that Bury St Edmunds has many pockets of land rich in biodiversity and historical charm; many areas of which are tended to by enthusiastic volunteers of groups such as Bury Water Meadows Group (BWMG), a charity formed in 2013 to safeguard a large green open space called the 'Leg of Mutton', as well as conserve and improve the rivers Lark and Linnett, two very important chalk streams – amongst only around 280 in the world. BWMG's work also includes scything, clearing weeds and debris from the rivers to allow a faster flow, litter picking and planting wildflowers and trees.

A recent flagship project for the group was their water vole initiative which, in conjunction with Suffolk Wildlife Trust, has created a habitat for water voles at Police Station Ditch at No Man's Meadow, a Local Nature Reserve. Water Voles and Otters have since been captured on trail cams that the group set up in the area.

A public park in Bury St Edmunds that excels at looking after our natural environment is Nowton Park. Open daily, you only have to look at the vast area of land to see its richness in wildlife habitats and sheer number of native trees and naturalised planting schemes.

Two designated wildflower areas can be seen within the Abbey Gardens, with one, the Wildflower Labyrinth, which is 36 metres in diameter and was designed to celebrate 1000 years since the founding of the Abbey of St Edmund in 2021. To this day, the site attracts endless numbers of pollinators and has become a popular tourist attraction.



*Nowton Park in Autumn 2023*



*Water Vole spotted in Bury St Edmunds 2024*



*Wildflower Labyrinth May 2025*



*No Man's Meadow Nature Reserve Sign 2025*





## B2 - Special Feature: Bury Wildlife Day

Since 2022, as part of a series of events celebrating 1,000 years since the founding of St. Edmunds Abbey by King Canute, Bury Water Meadows Group have hosted an annual Wildlife Day (formerly known as a BioBlitz), celebrating the wildlife on our doorstep. Their aim is to engage with the public to showcase and celebrate the rich biodiversity of animal and plant species within the town. Families also enjoy a range of free, fun educational activities including talks on swifts, water voles, plants and deer, as well as guided walks to explore particular areas of interest locally.

Bury in Bloom plays an active part in this family-friendly event, promoting its sustainable practices within the town's floral displays and providing an insight into our plans for the future of our local environment.

This event is completely free, along with every speaker and tour guide who gives their time voluntarily, whom all care for our natural environment and wish for others to do the same.



*A guided walk at the Wildlife Day 2024*



*BIB Coordinator, Chris, selling sustainable plants*



*Talk on Swifts 2025*



*Biodiversity bunting signage*





## B2 - Special Feature: Hedgehog Friendly Town

Hedgehogs, often referred to as a gardeners best friend, are often seen wandering the streets and gardens of Bury St Edmunds by night – but recently there has been a number of campaigns started to encourage residents to introduce ‘Hedgehog Highways’ in their gardens, and more importantly a request to drivers to slow down on particular roads that are known to have a larger hedgehog presence.

At dusk, hedgehogs can often be seen roaming the open green spaces within the Abbey Gardens, keeping pests at bay. That comes as no surprise, however, as a new Hedgehog Highway at neighbouring St Edmundsbury Cathedral was unveiled in April last year, complete with a hedgehog house in The Yard – a safe space for young people, once a piece of overgrown land.

When we first started our annual Seed Swap, the very first charity we decided to raise funds for was Suffolk Hedgehog Hospital – for which £179 was raised in donations. Moreton Hall Residents Association have also been active in raising money for signage to make drivers aware of hedgehogs on the highway, with events being held to educate people on the important of encouraging them into your own gardens.



*A Hedgehog in rehab at the Seed Swap 2024*



*Hedgehog spotted in Abbey Gardens 2025*



*Hedgehog Talk in June 2025*





## B3 - Environmental Management

Every project we undertake at Bury in Bloom has to meet our strict environmental criteria, comprising reducing our carbon footprint, benefitting nature, minimising the use of mains water and improving the life of our residents and tourists alike by sharing and recycling.

We have already made the switch to using 100% peat-free compost, capturing and storing 20,000 litres of rainwater, as well as supporting, via The Bury Society, a contribution toward the cost of two new battery powered Hayter lawnmowers to replace the petrol ones previously owned by the Abbey Gardens team.



We also source all of our plants locally, using only biological controls to keep aphids at bay, and, via a new Council policy, weedkiller is no longer the 'go-to' weed control in town. Another big and expensive task last year was to replace all the chains and capillary matting on our hanging baskets; this future-proofs the baskets for the foreseeable future, prevents wastage and ensures they remain safe.

These are just a few of the steps we've already made towards creating a cleaner and greener Bury St Edmunds, with many more to follow over the coming years.



*A bug hotel at the Quaker Meeting House 2024*

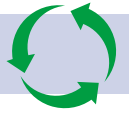


*Hanging Baskets being watered with harvested rainwater 2025*



*Signage explaining the environmental benefits 2024*





### B3 - Special Feature: Battery Powered Equipment

In a bid to improve pollution levels in Bury St Edmunds, much of the equipment now used is battery powered. Last year, Abbey Gardens management decided that a switch to two new battery mowers from their current, and long-used petrol powered mowers was a much more sustainable approach to grass cutting management in the local area. Therefore, local Councillors, Rotary Club, Abbey Gardens Friends and The Bury Society (via Bury in Bloom) were approached to request contributions towards the new mowers. Funding was immediately supported by all parties and the mowers are now in use.

In this photo, Pete can be seen showing off his new battery street vacuum, a modern solution to aid street management for clearing litter and other debris on hard and soft surfaces.

These new sustainable initiatives have been extremely well received and continue to be used for assisting our volunteer managed sites, as well as removing vegetation where required on footpaths and roadsides. The air quality is already improved with less petrol fumes in the atmosphere.



*New battery powered mower June 2024*



*Pete with new e-street vacuum 2024*





## C1 - Year Round Activity & Future Commitment

There is never a week to spare at Bury in Bloom; we are constantly working on new projects, planning beds and baskets, working with volunteers, gaining sponsorship, you name it – we probably do it!

Founded last year, our new Flying Squad consists of around 20 dedicated volunteers, all sharing a love for the towns floral displays. These are the people who make Bury St Edmunds look so impressive – maintaining and planting beds and containers, litter picking, helping at events, the list goes on. Additional to that, when substantial tasks such as replacing chains and mats in over 400 hanging baskets needs doing, a larger community steps forward to help!

It's always lovely to be rewarded for our efforts, and having picked up three Community Awards last year proves that we are certainly getting things right. A win for our Seed Swap, Certificates of Merit and Bury in Bloom in general were all very gratefully received.



NatWest Community Litter Pick June 2025



Community Awards 2024

The Hidden Gardens of Bury takes place annually and sees a variety of gardens, often hidden from view, open their gates in a bid to raise funds for St Nicholas Hospice Care.

There are around 30 gardens open this year and all of them are in the town centre within walking distance of each other. The event gives people the chance to discover well-tended borders and vegetable patches, to peaceful patios, colourful lawns and secret greenhouses.

We are also lucky to have many active community groups, such as the volunteer Station Adopters at Bury St Edmunds Train Station. Many groups have been entered into It's Your Neighbourhood this year, as we really appreciate all they do to enhance the town.



Basket upgrading 2024



Station Adopters 2024

### Hidden Gardens

of Bury St Edmunds

## Sunday 29 June

### 11am-5pm

The event gives people the chance to discover the secret patios, lawns, borders, vegetable gardens, greenhouses and much more besides. With over 25 Gardens open, be prepared to be surprised and inspired by the hidden gems of Bury St Edmunds.

Tickets available from the website or on the day from 10.30am on Angel Hill [www.hiddengardens.co.uk](http://www.hiddengardens.co.uk)

because you matter  
St Nicholas Hospice Care

Event sponsored by:

Photos: Emily Tovey, Chris Wiley & Brittany Wiley





## C1 - Special Feature: Realise Futures CIC

We are immensely proud to now be working with Realise Futures CIC, based at Nowton Park Nursery. After a successful trial in 2024, which saw them plant up 100 of our hanging baskets, they agreed to take on the full contract in 2025 with a total of 430 hanging baskets.

Realise Futures CIC helps adults with disabilities or additional needs to find and keep employment, with many of them living locally or within the town, so by becoming involved with this project they can also take a sense of pride in their town by seeing their hard work come to fruition.

Previously, our baskets were planted annually by Woolpit Nurseries, a local plant nursery. As their work expanded, they could no longer meet our demands, so for us to be able to bring all operations back into Bury St Edmunds was a great opportunity. So good that when we began promoting this, we were inundated with floods of lovely messages. This then led to something rather special – ITV Anglia News asked if they could come and film a ‘good news’ piece for the TV, so they came in May this year as baskets were being planted, filmed and broadcast the clip to both Eastern and Western parts of the county, which not only resulted in a real sense of pride and positivity amongst the community, but a dramatic increase in enquiries for Realise Futures – like nothing they have ever witnessed before, and that made it all totally worthwhile for us.



*A sea of planted baskets in late May 2025*



*Ellie from Realise Futures with her planted basket*



*Filming for ITV Anglia May 2025'*



*Filming for ITV Anglia May 2025'*



*Filming for ITV Anglia May 2025'*



*Planting of baskets at Nowton Park Nursery spring 2025*





## C1 - Special Feature: Community Herb Planters & Floral Murals

Always on the lookout for ways to combine community participation with sustainable practices, it became clear that offering a place for people to pick their own fresh herbs, for free, was a service that we should be offering. It immediately brought to light two possible locations, either side of town, that were looking for something new.

Four wooden planters, previously sponsored but no longer used, were immediately agreed upon in St Andrews Street South, as well as four new wooden planters in Brentgovel Street. However, it quickly became apparent that we needed to brighten up the rough-cut, Council funded planters – so what better way to do this than to add floral murals, by a local artist! Claire Morgan quickly jumped on board, offering to paint the murals for free if we covered her expenses, so that's exactly what we done. The feedback thus far has been better than we ever imagined.

Each planter offers a different flavour, to suit various different meals and drinks. They are also planted at a height to offer those with mobility issues the chance to pick their own herbs, and Realise Futures, our hanging basket supplier, have committed to maintaining these throughout the year.



*A herb planter Poppy mural 2025*



*A herb planter Oxalis mural 2025*



*A herb planter Daisy mural 2025*



We are also currently looking to add a large-scale floral mural to the Market Thoroughfare, a direct pedestrian link connecting the Buttermarket (town centre) to the more modern arc shopping centre. Working in conjunction with Our Bury St Edmunds, the town's BID, Bury in Bloom is liaising with a professional street art consultant to enhance the attractiveness and visitor experience within the town centre – with the main focus being on plants!



*Example of past work from our preferred wall street artist*



*Market Thoroughfare wall to be transformed June 2025*





## C1 - Special Feature: Seed & Plant Swap

Due to popular demand, Bury in Bloom continues to organise community events throughout the year to share the love of plants.

The first event was the Bury St Edmunds Seed Swap, the brainchild of our Coordinator, Chris, and Bury resident and allotment holder, Naomi Hamer. Two like-minded individuals, looking to bring the community together to share seeds, gardening books/magazines, houseplants and horticultural tips and tricks. This took place in February 2024, with funding from the Town Council to purchase reusable, undated signage, website hosting fees and hall hire. Attendance numbers were through the roof! Donations amounted to £179 and were donated to Suffolk Hedgehog Hospital (who were also in attendance).



*How it works signage and awards at the Seed Swap 2025*



*Volunteers behind the Plant Swap table 2025*



*Plant Donations to kickstart the Plant Swap 2025*

The Seed Swap returned, bigger than ever, in February this year, and a further BSE Plant Swap then took place at the end of April (Easter weekend) where people could swap their excess seedlings and young plants with one another. The event was sponsored by Havebury and exceeded our expectations – with £120 raised for Bury in Bloom.

Who knows what will be next, but you can be sure that the above two will most certainly be returning in 2026!



*Magazines on offer at the Seed Swap 2025*



*Seed Swap in full swing 2025*





## C1 - Special Feature: Crafty Foxes

Not a year goes by when we don't showcase a themed project within the Abbey Gardens, commissioned by a Bury in Bloom sponsor, to work directly with school children and care home residents. This year, the project was again awarded to the Crafty Foxes and kindly sponsored by Cllr Rout of Suffolk County Council. The theme being 'A Celebration of 30 Years of Anglia in Bloom'.

A free, family-friendly, Fabric Flower Workshop was hosted in the Abbey Gardens on 29th May, to create fabric flower fencing which will be installed on Heras fencing throughout the Gardens to brighten up and embrace the ongoing, significant conservation and heritage work to the ruins and visitor experience. Rag rugging was on trend in the 1990's when AIB was founded, so all fabric flowers will be rag-tied onto the fencing – everything made from old, donated t-shirts.

Another workshop was hosted for West Suffolk Sands and Oddfellows, with more than 25 people getting crafty, turning old t-shirts into fabric flowers.

This project has been so popular that those who missed out were offered free kits to make flowers at home, to be showcased on the fencing from late-June.



*A fabric flower at the workshop May 2025*



*A fabric flower made at the workshop May 2025*



*Flower creations at the Abbey Gardens workshop May 2025*



*Craft materials at the workshop May 2025*



*A family friendly workshop May 2025*



*Oddfellows workshop May 2025*





## C2 - Communication, Education & Awareness

A lot of our work involves communicating effectively with the community; this includes via local newspapers, magazines, social media, schools/ clubs, meetings and public/networking events. For us, education is key to our success, especially when promoting a greener future – so starting from early years education, right through to WI's and Gardening Clubs, we cover all bases.

One of our local schools hosts regular Careers Fairs for their students and invites Bury in Bloom to attend and showcase possible careers within the horticultural industry. West Suffolk College also host regular sustainability networking events, and we find this an invaluable way to not only showcase our work in the community, but it also gives us an opportunity to meet with like-minded eco-conscious individuals to discuss new approaches for the good of the planet.



*ITV Anglia News filming at Nowton Park May 2025*

In May this year, ITV Anglia News came to film a good news story on our new collaboration with Realise Futures at Nowton Park Nursery, who now have our annual hanging basket contract. Helping less able people into work, this came across incredibly well on the TV and received many positive comments from members of the public.

Every so often, one or two local schools are invited to help plant vast numbers of bulbs and other plants within the Abbey Gardens. This year, Tollgate School students spent half a day planting *Rubus Cockburnianus* amongst the spring bulbs that they planted in November 2024. The excitement from the children enjoying themselves was infectious and truly inspiring.



*Networking event presentation 2024*



*BBC Suffolk coverage 2024*



*Tollgate School planting bulbs in Abbey Gardens Nov 2024*



*Tollgate School planting in Abbey Gardens May 2025*





## C2 - Special Feature: Greenfingers

Inspiring the next generation of horticulturists is something that we keep high on our agenda, and a particular highlight in the Bury in Bloom calendar is the successful and much-loved Greenfingers – our flagship scheme that works with Schools, Nurseries, Assisted Living and Residential Care Homes, supplying bags of compost and plants free of charge to every entrant, sponsored by our wonderful businesses within the town.

Plants this year were all supplied using surplus stock from our hanging basket production, and Greenfingers aims to interact and encourage as many groups as possible to create wonderful displays in their own gardens that are then judged throughout July. The theme this year is Trains.



*Two of our Greenfingers Judges July 2024*

Greenfingers is run by a small team of enthusiastic volunteers, most of whom come from a public service background. Mags, Yasmine and Liz are stalwarts for this arm of Bury in Bloom and devote much of their time throughout the year to plan and organise the project.

In October every year, we host an Awards Ceremony to announce the winners and hand out certificates. The ceremony is sponsored by businesses too and representatives are invited to present the awards.



*An entry into last year's competition theme 'Theatre'*



*Awards Ceremony Oct 2024*



*A bug hotel entry 2024*



*Awards Ceremony Oct 2024*



## Section C – Community Participation



### C3 - Support & Funding

We are extremely fortunate in Bury St Edmunds to have the support of so many businesses, organisations and volunteers, all helping to keep the town looking its floral best.

Bury in Bloom is owned and insured by the Bury Society and gains much of its funding from roundabout sponsorship. We are also financially supported by Our Bury St Edmunds (BID) and BSE Town Council, both of which help fund hanging baskets and roundabout maintenance.

A full list of our supporters logos are below:



**GREENE KING**  
BURY ST EDMUNDS

**Headline Sponsor**



**Hanging Basket Sponsor**



**DENBURY  
HOMES**

**Roundabout, Project  
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**Sponsors of all Bury in Bloom  
Printed Material**



**Highways and  
Project Supporter**

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**Press Supporter**



**Project Signage Supplier  
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# Special Awards

Award	Nominee
Best Community Project	Pride in My Street
Best Gardening for Wildlife & Biodiversity	Floral Labyrinth, Abbey Gardens
Best Sustainable Garden	The Smile Bed, Parkway
Best Sheltered Housing/Care Home/Inclusivity Garden	The Bungalow
Best Grow Your Own Project	Cotton Lane Allotments
Best Local Authority Floral Display	Central Beds, Abbey Gardens
Best Young People's Project (under 12 years)	Guildhall Feoffment
Best Special Feature Celebrating 30 Years of Anglia in Bloom	Fabric Flowers
Best Special Feature Celebrating 200 Years of Rail Travel	Floral Locomotive

# Virtual Awards

Award	Nominee
Nursing/Care Home	Glastonbury Court
Nursing/Care Home	Davers Court



*Britain in Bloom Banner taking pride of place in town 2025*



