

MACCLESFIELD IN BLOOM

PORTFOLIO 2024





Macclesfield has been a Britain in Bloom town since 2018. As well as focusing on bringing a variety of colours, textures and scents to the town, in order to create an attractive place to live, work and visit, the Macclesfield in Bloom committee are also focused on adding to our activities and embracing a more sustainable approach. This includes: making the switch to peat free compost, making our planting more sustainable, increasing the biodiversity of the area as well as making greater use of recycled materials.

Macclesfield Town Council continue to be the main financial supporter of Macclesfield in Bloom, whilst also offering the support of the Macclesfield Town Ranger team and administrative help.

ABOUT MACCLESFIELD

MACCLESFIELD TOWN RANGERS



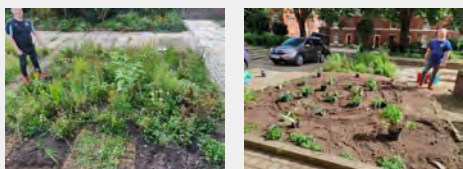
Our current team of three rangers have now been in place for over a year and are becoming more involved in various projects such as Britain in Bloom, with two of the three sitting on the committee.

With existing planting schedules to follow, plus assisting various community groups around the town with their planting, watering of planters, cleaning up grot spots, repainting road signs, and a continual battle tackling graffiti, as well as their work with the Bloom committee - the Rangers are extremely busy as well as being a popular part of the Town Council family.



OUR

August



Local group Roe-naissance are awarded a community grant to create a formal planting scheme to improve the appeal of the church grounds and to create a seasonal planting regime.

September



Plans for this years Nature Needs You and Eco Summit are well under way. A great opportunity for children to explore nature and their environment.

October



Macclesfield In Bloom awarded three Gold awards at the North West In Bloom awards in Bolton!

November



Volunteers help to move soil and bark chippings at Ivy Bank School.

December



The Town Council run a wreath making workshop with greenery collected by the Rangers when cutting back, so no waste!

January



Even in the snow the Rangers are out improving the public realm.

YEAR



February



The Rangers spent a bright February day clearing this pocket park on the outskirts of the town centre.

March



Macclesfield Town Council runs a recruitment event for volunteers for Macclesfield in Bloom.

April



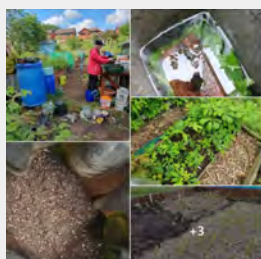
5 green volunteers joined the Rangers, Officers and Councillors to sow wild flower seeds.

May



Monthly litterpicks take place across town despite the rain and cold, involving different groups.

June



Macclesfield Community Tree Nursery working with volunteers at their allotment site.

July



MaccWildNetwork trustees, volunteers & supporters hand mow the meadow with scythes.



HORTICULTURE - WILDFLOWERS

In 2022 the Town Council trialed a wildflower area near a town centre supermarket. Following the success of that, two additional areas were wild flowered in 2023. The impact these areas had on the look of the environment, plus the habitat they provided for pollinators and the feedback from the general public, has meant that in 2024 we wild flowered a total of 8 areas!

Last year a shaded mix was tried in the central area between the trees which didn't work as well as hoped, so this year was left for nature to reclaim. We have seen a number of the plants more suited to that shaded area from last year germinate and flower without us having to do anything. This is not only great for the environment but also more economical for the tax payer.

The area behind the bus station which was seeded in 2023 was also left un-seeded in 2024, and again has produced fabulous results, with the perennials doing a great job of doing what nature does best.

The other areas which have been wild flowered were suggested by Councillors and residents, and checked for suitability first in terms of sunlight, tree growth etc. This year we have used a predominantly perennial mix which will be more sustainable in the long run, with a handful of annuals to add the pop of colour and show that people expect in the first year.

This has worked extremely well, and means nature will do more of the work in future years, leaving volunteers to focus on the list of locations that have been requested to be added to next year's sowing schedule!

"The flower displays around the town and in the parks are absolutely beautiful. The work involved in making the town so attractive for residents and visitors is greatly appreciated." AN

"I just wanted to thank you for the beautiful wildflower bed on green street. It lifts my heart every time I see it." TT

"I want to offer thanks and congrats for the wild flower meadows dotted round the town. The one at the Sainsbury roundabout is magnificent. I always look forward to seeing it when I go past. Hooray for Nature." RD

"I just wanted to send a massive thank you for planting the wildflowers up Hurdsfield Road, they're beautiful and a few of our neighbours have said how much they love them too. Great to see ecological diversity!" HM

HORTICULTURE - PUBLIC REALM - SMALL RETAIL

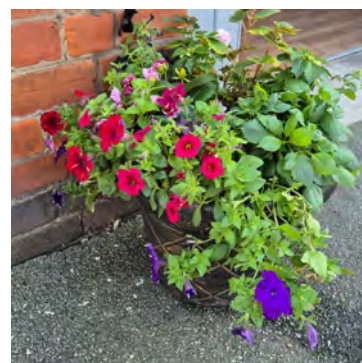
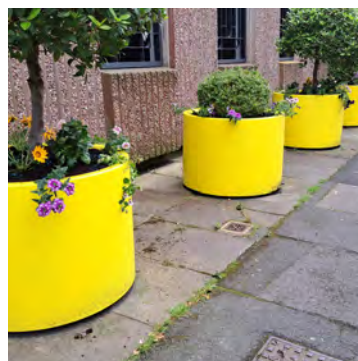
Totally Locally

Over the last year a vibrant Macclesfield version of Totally Locally has taken over the town. This large group of proud retailers have done wonders for the town.

One of the ways they have chosen to engage with Britain in Bloom is via a planter scheme provided by the Town Council.

With the planters subtly branded to show their affiliation with Totally Locally and the Town Council, businesses were able to come and fill their planters with the help of our Green Volunteers.

The planters are visible across the town, providing a talking point as well as beautiful display filled with pollinator friendly plants. This scheme will be expanded next year to include more planters and hanging baskets in even more shop doorways.



HORTICULTURE - MACCLESFIELD BUSINESSES



Violet Salons
PR Jones Jewellers
Panadero Lounge
Proper Sound
Gastown Cafe Bar



Fina
PR Jones Watchmaker
& Jewellers



B&V Trading
Cheshire Cat
Sophia Palucci
Bate Hall



Cafe Mustard
Holden & Prescott
Cherry Blossom Bakery



N Carter & Co
The Castle
Old Millstone
Five Clouds / Pizza Express
Plums Kitchen / R&G



ENVIRONMENT- BIODIVERSITY

A lot of the planting work done around the town is dual purpose. Not only does it bring greenery to the town, encourage others to try sustainable planting, create beautiful floral displays and increase variety, but it also creates the perfect habitat for wildlife. Some of the work done has been specific in trying to increase pollinators and bird life.

Swifts

St Michaels church has become a haven for swifts, with a cohort of new birds seen as recently as July which will hopefully choose to nest there in 2025. The church have wildflower beds for bees and pollinators which will provide food for the swifts. The group “Swifts Over Macclesfield” have been running regular tours across Macclesfield.



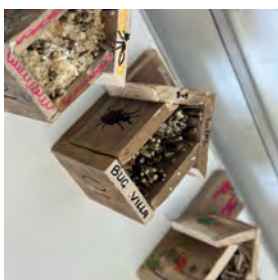
Bug Hotels



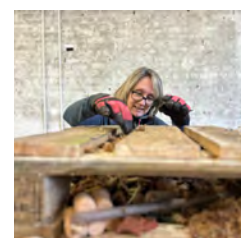
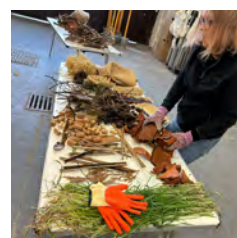
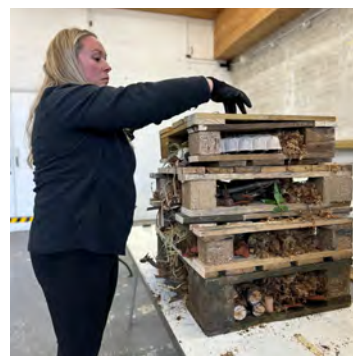
We have the wildflowers to attract bees and other pollinators, but we also wanted to focus on a habitat for creepy crawlies. We ambitiously embarked on two projects to build big and small bug hotels.



Small bug hotels were made during the Easter holidays as a drop in event. Over 25 were made with more than 1 child working on each bug hotel. They were decorated, varnished and then hung in local parks and wooded walks with a trail map created so children could find them.



The larger bug hotels were put together by our Green Volunteers. Three hotels were made, and have been placed locally with the volunteers checking on them to replace or top up any of the materials.



COMMUNITY - PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Macclesfield Train Station / Avanti West Coast

Macclesfield Train Station Community Champion Mark Robinson, was recently given access to a budget that could be used for floral arrangements around the platform areas.

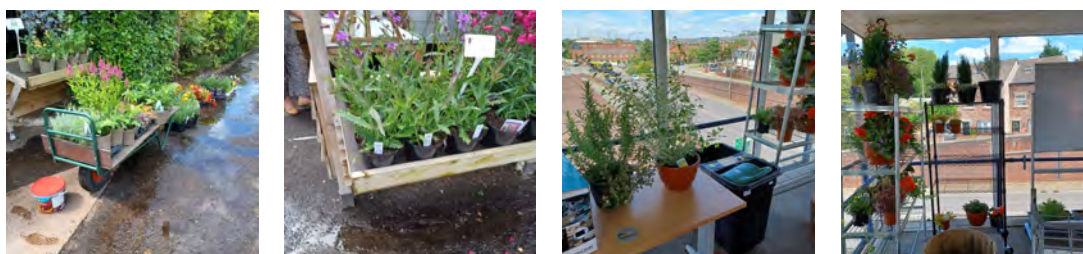
“Our long term goal at the station is to have better links with our local community. To do this we want to encourage local volunteers to come and share their passion and vision for Macclesfield. One aspect of this is improving the presentation of the station through gardening. We have used local suppliers where possible to both lower our carbon emissions and also to support local businesses.”

There were planters already at the station, but these were made of plastic and filled with overgrown and leggy plants. On platform 1 they have installed a large raised planter and planted scented plants such as thyme, lavender and curry leaf. The intention is that when customers are coming back from a long day at work in Manchester/Stockport, they will smell and see the plants as they come down the stairs and feel a little more relaxed.



With the planters spaced out on platform 2 their aim was for an injection of colour, That will help to brighten the day of customers on platform 1 as they begin their day. The whole project aim is to provide some small source of pleasure for the community.

The train station are also in talks with One Project and Macclesfield Tree Nursery with regards to using a section of the overhead bridge to house saplings over the winter as part of “Nursery in the Sky”.



Silk Museum - Tunnickliffe Garden

Volunteers at the Silk Museum have been further working on the Tunnickliffe garden.

In the spring an Auricula Theatre was repurposed from a piece of furniture. It was particularly important for us to have Auriculas in the garden, as it is believed that the Silk weaving Huguenots brought the seeds to London and over the years a special relationship developed with Macclesfield trading silk with craftsmen in Spitalfields. The Auriculas bloomed beautifully and have now been replaced by Succulents during the Summer.

The second development is a planting scheme based on plants for dyeing, some of which have been grown by our volunteers from seed e.g. Woad. The colour scheme in the garden is mainly red, yellow and orange to complement the dye plants. Following a grant from the 'Cheshire Community Foundation', dyeing workshops are planned for the Autumn.

The artwork in the garden created by the 'Have a Dabble art group' is inspired by the work of Charles Tunnickliffe OBE (1901 - 1979).

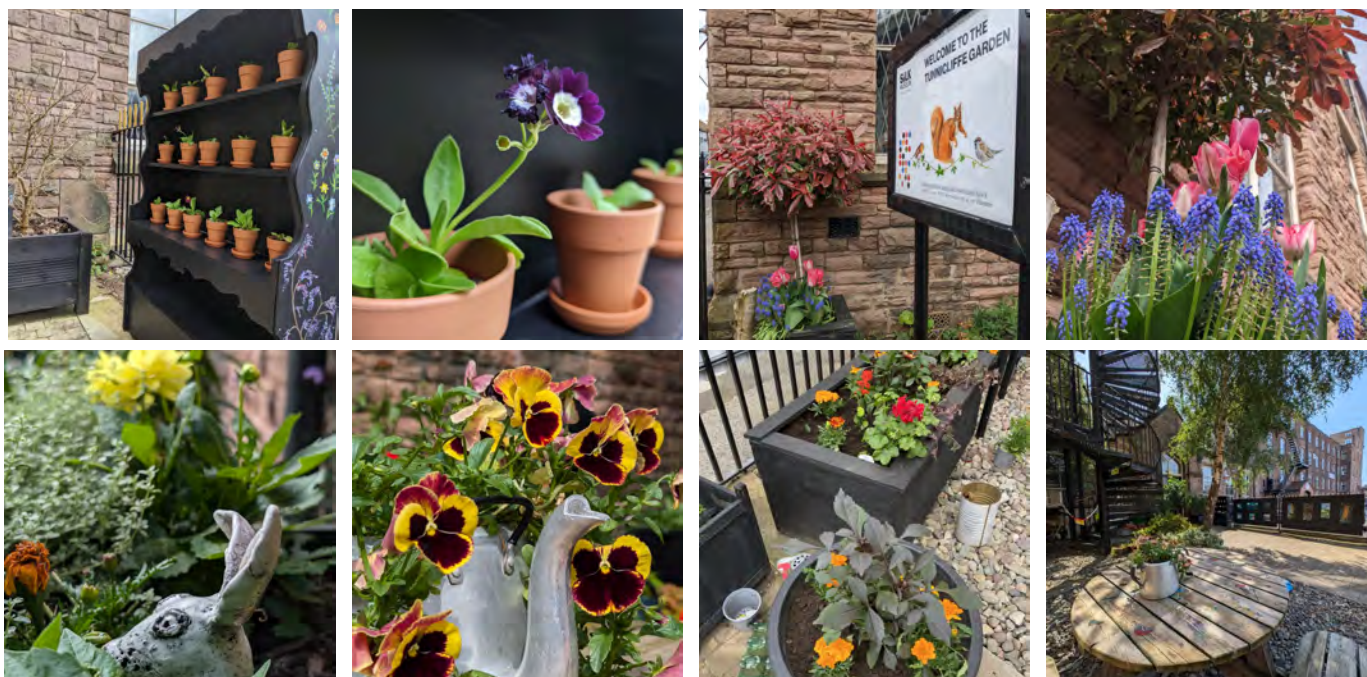


Photo credit - Daniel Hearn

Eye Society planter

In 2022 East Cheshire Eye Society adopted a planter in the town centre. With texture and scent included for those with sight problems, they have been maintaining the planter beautifully ever since.



Ivy Bank



Ivy Bank Primary School in the west of Macclesfield had an empty patch of land where old classroom portacabins once stood. A parent of the school saw the potential of turning the space into a garden for the children to grow their own fruit, vegetables and flowers and for it to become a calming seating area for pupils and teachers.

A collaboration between The One Project, parents, teachers and the children have seen the space begin to transform.

Our hope is for it to become a place for the children to relax, learn, play and grow.

from this



to this



and then this!



The park was donated to the town of Macclesfield by a local businessman and philanthropist, Francis Dicken Brocklehurst in 1894. Since then the park has been an important community asset for the enjoyment of those living on the east side of the town.

So often parks become hot spots for anti social behaviour, but Victoria Park doesn't have that problem. It is used for a number of community activities and events, and is well looked after. Junior Park Run takes place every Sunday, attracting over 70 runners each week, with a number of volunteers giving up their time to marshal and time keep. The bandstand also plays home to various brass band events run by KEMS.

The park is also used by community groups such Macclesfield Pride who hold their yearly picnic in the park there, Pearls of Cheshire have held various events there and Rossendale Trust plan to use the park for their yearly fundraising fete in 2025.

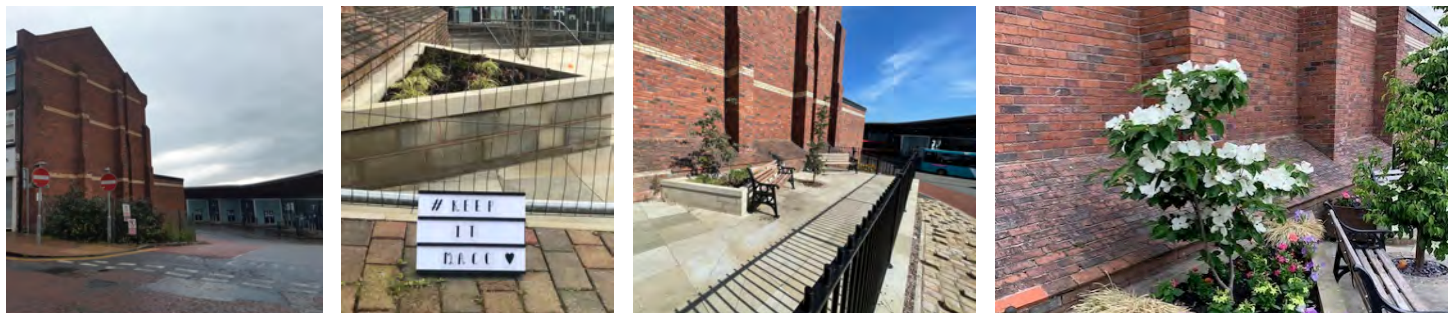
Green Spaces for Wellbeing run a number of weekly sessions in the park's Pavilion. Wednesdays is their "Gardening Drop In" session, where any member of the public can go along. They also run "Mindful Art in the Park" combining nature and art to create experimental, personal pieces in a supportive and kind environment.

They invested in a small polytunnel at the end of 2023 & since then the group have not only grown their own produce of fruit, vegetables & flowers, but started a journey of transforming what was a tired & unloved depot area, into a beautiful, inviting & serene little pocket within the park. Gardening is also undertaken, they currently look after 4 garden beds and have larger areas for various projects yet to come. The scheme has given participants a feeling of ownership & pride in the work they have done and are planning to do. It has been very rewarding to see the transformation of the space and the community involved.



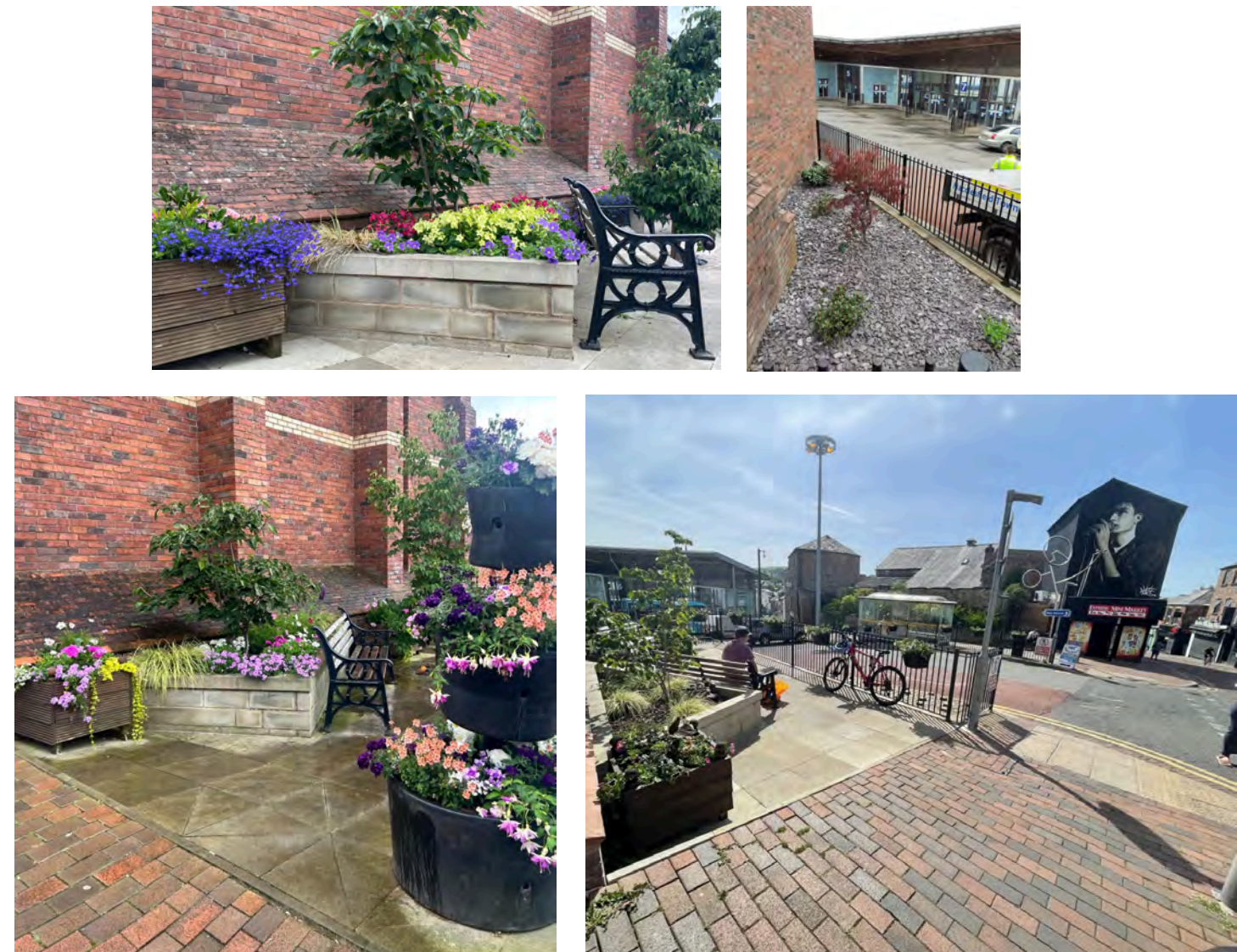
POCKET PARK

In September 2021, the pocket park at the bus station was completed. Funded by Cheshire East Council and maintained by Macclesfield Town Council Rangers, it used to be an area of land full of litter and a magnet for anti-social behaviour.



The pocket park has an established bed, against a sunny wall, with seating that is regularly in use during the day. A white cornus (dogwood) has been used as a focal point for the bed and was full of blooms earlier in the year. The colour and textural plants around the base of the tree provide an eye catching display day in and day out.

The Rangers have recently finished the lower bed at the pocket park which now has more planting and looks much fuller. This enhances the experience of those taking in the Ian Curtis mural painted by Aske-P19 in 2022.



**Macclesfield In Bloom Committee - Janet Jackson
MBE, Cllr Mike Hutchison, Damon Bayley, James White,
Nicola Mellor and Abi Sherratt would like to thank;**

The Macclesfield Town Rangers, ANSA and Laura Ault,
Doug Christie & Mick Plant Cheshire East Council, Scoop
and Scales, Totally Locally, One Project, Macclesfield Tree
Nursery, Rossendale Trust, Avanti West Coast, Macclesfield
Train Station and Mark Robinson, Green Spaces for
Wellbeing and Colette Cannon & Lucy Baker, St Michael
and All Angels Church, For Me and For You, Kate Ellis and
Laura Turner, and everyone else.



THE ROUTE

- Driving Route
- Walking Route

