

CARY IN BLOOM

PUBLICITY NOTES

January 2026

After our wonderful success in the RHS South-West in Bloom competition last year – Three gold medals, The Ayres Cup, two outstanding awards for The Primary school and Eat Cary, best portfolio in the South-West, Viridor Composting Trophy and the most wonderful community spirit in town during the summer.

So, what better than doing it all again!!!! The working group have already met twice and have plans for our 2026 entry. We would like to share these with as many people as possible. The community, local businesses and our local organisations.

2026 Cary in Bloom Projects

Castle Cary 2026 Britain in Bloom entry - Entry needs to be in by 1st March. We will do small town plus various IYN and IYS entries. IYN will be Millenium Wood, Community Garden, station and IYS will be Primary school. Eat Cary possibly.

The Living Wall Project – We plan to continue this project. The wall will be replanted in the Spring. Plants donated by community and some purchased. Bigger tins being used. If bus shelter replaced we would make a sedum roof.

The Primary School – The school will be taking part in the project again this year focusing on their artwork, raised beds and sunflowers in particular. Help needed with garden club.

The Woodland Garden Project – New project for 2026. Cary 2000 have been consulted and are happy for us to take on care of the wood. Would CCTC take on lease of the area? Peppercorn rent as Glebe land. Cary 200 would probably repair fences before handover. Hopefully Ansford Academy will become involved.

Cary in Bloom to look at tidying the wood, new bulb planting, holding events and making people more aware of the area. The Newt Woodland team are offering advice to us.

The Sunflower Festival – No scarecrows this year, but let's paint the town yellow. Sunflower festival for community. Think out of the box – fabric, metal, wood, plastic sunflowers, plus hopefully some real ones. Scattered around town, a trail for community to see. Hanging baskets with recycled sunflowers??

Our Programme of Talks

January Planting for the Future, Head of Woodland team at The Newt

February Meetings with Remarkable Roses by Abigail Willis

March Sustainable Cary and The Ketchup Story by Higher farm

These talks raise funds towards the costs of staging CIB. £5 tickets. The Newt provide refreshments.

The Art Exhibition – 1 – 12 July. An Exhibition by local artists and the primary school in The Assembly Room at The Market House. Calling all local artists, ceramicists, glass artists, photographers, printmakers, sculptors, textile artists.

The Community Garden at The Newt – New project for 2026. An area in The Four Seasons Garden has been given to us by The Newt for 1 month in July. All local organisations are asked to plant a pot to represent their group. Pots will be provided by The Newt plus a lesson in planting. Possible free entry in July to The Newt.

The Sow, Grow and Bloom Festival – Saturday 11th July. A summer festival in Castle Cary for the people and organisations that make the town thrive. A community led, family friendly event with a strong emphasis on horticulture, environment and community. An opportunity for local groups to raise money that will be match funded (up to a level) by The Newt and money to be raised for The Pavilion Project.

Further details from **Penny Steiner** penny@castlecary.net