

Penzance Community Flora Group

Quarterly Report – April to June 2026

Despite challenging weather, volunteers continued to maintain public planting areas across Penzance throughout the quarter. Persistent rain affected work in April, while the heat in June meant earlier starts, but regular Sunday and midweek sessions continued whenever conditions allowed.

Volunteer contributions

April: 59 volunteer hours| 0 admin hours

May: 134 volunteer hours| 13 admin hours

June: 94.5 volunteer hours| 14 admin hours

The group now has **21 regular volunteers**, with one regular volunteer joining since May and two prospective volunteers. Sunday sessions regularly attract 10/12 volunteers followed by a well-earned coffee together. All sessions are weather dependent.

Key achievements

Continued maintenance of public planting areas across the town.

Causeway Head planters weeded, re gravelled and reseeded.

Large areas of invasive three- cornered leek removed from Abbey Basin.

The bed at top of Abbey Slip suffered significant damage during the recent firework display. As part of the restoration, we are introducing more robust, defensive planting to help deter dog fouling and protect the bed from foot traffic while continuing to provide an attractive display.

New secure storage boxes installed for empty dumpy bags are now installed at Wharfside Harbour carpark and at St John's Hall.

Thanks to funding and support from **Penzance and Mounts Bay Rotary** and **Tim Dwelly**, new hi-vis vests and equipment have been purchased.

The group continues to operate through volunteer effort, fundraising and the generous support of local organisations and individuals. The committee has decided to continue funding the groups activities through these sources and, as a result, we are not seeking financial assistance from Penzance Town Council this year.

Although the group is not directly involved with Golowan, we again held our Maze Day plant stall outside the Egyptian House raising **£276.25** an impressive **25p** more than last year. Unsold plants have been donated to The West Cornwall Hospital Summer Fete, with any remaining plants to be used in town displays.

Councillor Andy Law

GOFA – Good Old Furniture Available

GOFA began its operations on a small scale in the early 1990's and was originally run by a band of volunteers using their own resources to distribute goods. As the activity increased into the new millennium, it became clear that there needed to be a more formal structure. In 2005 GOFA registered as a charity and a company limited by guarantee.

The board of trustees is made up of volunteers with a wide range of experience and meets quarterly. We have successfully recruited a new company treasurer to join the board following the resignation of the former incumbent in the post.

GOFA was established to provide a mechanism for recycling quality household goods (furniture, white goods and small electrical appliances) no longer needed by the original owners, but with more than enough useful life left in them for potential new owners. GOFA has been successfully doing this for many years in the Penzance and West Cornwall area. The charity now employs 3 members of staff who are the backbone of the weekly operations, but are ably supported by a band of volunteers.

GOFA is experiencing very challenging trading conditions as are many businesses in Penzance and West Cornwall. We are actively addressing this situation and have established a working group to look at the business model and any areas for improvements. The working group has identified several issues as follows:

- An estimated operating loss of £30,000 in the current financial year
- Costs beyond the control of the organisation such as increased employer costs and energy costs, which GOFA has to try to absorb.
- Rental cost of the premises from Cornwall Council which has transitioned to a market rent from a peppercorn rent under the former Penwith District Council.
- Reliability issues with the large van which is critical to the business.
- Fundraising from philanthropic regular donations.
- Explore all the digital advertising options to create a stronger profile and presence.

Councillor Andy Law

Jubilee Pool Penzance Ltd (JPPL)

In line with the SLA, I continue to represent the Council on the Board of Directors for the JPPL. Our last board meeting was held on 7th June 2026, followed immediately by the AGM. This is the update from [REDACTED], Chief Operating Officer:

'I'm not too sure how much more there is to report, but it's been a strong start to the year financially, with lots of work and maintenance currently occurring.

Cormac are onsite, repairing winter storm damage, which included a couple of significant cracks in the sea wall.

The delivery of the NHLF grant, is on-going, with a number of areas complete, such as renewable energy assessment, catering assessment, and resealing the pool surround. All other areas are progressing well. We have sourced a suitable secondary catering unit, and are awaiting its delivery, with a view to opening it through July and August. The user and non-user surveys are currently in the field. The project is on course to be delivered by the end of September 2026 and within budget. An evaluator has been procured.

We have recently delivered our first two weddings, as well as hosting three photoshoots. Our development of secondary income streams is progressing well, and we recently welcomed a site visit from a location manager, as we look to develop of TV and media work.

We recently held our AGM, where three Directors stood down, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] continues in his role as Company Secretary until a new one can be appointed. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been elected, with a subsequent applicant, [REDACTED], likely to be coopted.

We are working with a local resident who is seeking to launch a parent and baby support group, which enables new parents access to the pool and sauna. It is hoped these Wednesday morning sessions will start in the next week or so.

Our annual Quest assessment is scheduled for September.

[REDACTED]
*Chief Operating Officer
Jubilee Pool Penzance Ltd'*

Councillor Peter Lapin

PENZANCE COUNCIL – 20th JULY 2026

Reports From Outside Bodies – Penzance-Concarneau Twinning Association

- **Visit by Concarneau delegation to Golowan 2026**

██████████ and ██████████ from the Concarneau twinning association visited Penzance for the Civic Parade and Mayor's Lunch on Mazey Day, and also joined members of the Penzance branch for a buffet meal and get-together at the Coach House Café in Penlee Park. The new Mayor of Concarneau, Quentin le Gaillard, was unable to attend in person due to other commitments, having only just taken up office. However, he appreciated the invitation, and appears to be continuing the support for the association previously provided by his predecessor.

The visit was a great success, and our guests particularly appreciated the quality of the food and service at the Coach House. It also provided an opportunity for our new Mayor and Deputy Mayor (as President and Vice-President of the Association) to get to know the leading lights of the Concarneau association.

The next official visit by a Concarneau delegation is scheduled for 2028, which also coincides with the Town of Culture year. ██████████ and ██████████ were enthusiastic about the potential for expanding cultural collaborations between the two towns that year, regardless of whether the Penzance ToC bid is successful. In addition, discussions will resume later this year with a view to the Golowan Band being invited to take part in the Filets Bleus festival in Concarneau in August 2027.

- **Other collaborations**

██████████ (coxswain of the Penlee lifeboat) is visiting the Trévignon station of the SNSM (the French equivalent of the RNLI) at their invitation, to take part in the 14th July festivities. The aim is to continue building on links between the crews (and volunteers) in the two stations. Other areas of collaboration being actively explored include links between the two Lions Clubs, plus potential exchanges involving heritage boats, archery and artists (among others).

- **Social events**

There continues to be an active programme of social events, from a lively evening of pétanque at the new boules piste in St Anthony's Gardens to coffee and cake, the walking group, quizzes and many more.

Membership numbers remain healthy – but new members are always welcome!

Cllr Stephen Reynolds

8th July 2026

Report from Outside Body: Newlyn Community Flora Group

Reporting Period: July 2025 – July 2026

Councillor Representative: Councillor Penny Osborne



Newlyn Community Flora Group continues to make a significant contribution to the environmental quality, biodiversity and community cohesion of Newlyn through volunteer-led gardening and public space improvement.

The group remains highly active with consistent volunteer engagement (although more volunteers are desirable) and strong partnerships with local organisations including Cormac, Newlyn Harbour, local schools and other community groups.

Throughout the year, the group has maintained and enhanced a number of key sites across Newlyn, including:

- **Duke Street Car Park** – this site continues to be maintained and improved.
- **Lower Green Street** – ongoing planting and maintenance has transformed this area into an increasingly attractive green space with a beautiful coastal planting scheme.
- **Old Paul Hill** – regular tidying and planting to create a sub-tropical border.



- **The Bowjey** – significant effort has gone into clearing pathways, restoring access, planting woodland bulbs (kindly supplied by Cormac), and improving biodiversity. Plus storm recovery work following Storm Goretti.
- **Rosebud Garden** – continued restoration work at Newlyn's only formal public garden and viewing point for St Michael's Mount and the bay, including planting for year-round interest, pruning and restoration of benches on all three tiers.
- **Gwavas Playing Field** – collaborative work with Cormac-led sessions including bulb planting and general maintenance.

These efforts have resulted in visibly improved public spaces, with increased planting, better accessibility and enhanced visual appeal.

A notable development this year has been the group's involvement with the **Newlyn Harbour Marine Skills Centre**, where they are currently:

- Designing and implementing a new planting scheme
- Selecting and sourcing appropriate coastal-tolerant plants
- Installing pollinator-friendly perennial planting

The group has also strengthened its partnership working:

- Supporting **Cormac-led volunteer days** at Gwavas, with similar sessions soon to be launched at Bolitho Gardens
- Attending **Newlyn School's Community Garden Day**, donating plants and assisting with planting and garden clearance

Community participation:

- Regular volunteer sessions typically attract between 9 and 14 participants
- Activities are inclusive and welcoming, with new members joining throughout the year
- Intergenerational engagement includes students undertaking volunteering (e.g. Duke of Edinburgh Award participation)

Social value:

- Opportunities for social interaction and community connection
- Positive wellbeing benefits through outdoor activity
- Strong sense of shared ownership and pride in the local environment

Feedback from residents is really positive in person and on social media, with passers-by frequently stopping to thank volunteers and comment on improvements.

Highlights from 2025-26

- **The Bowjey:** Significant progress has been made in reopening paths, uncovering previously hidden features such as benches, and establishing woodland-style planting including snowdrops, bluebells, and primroses. The group played an active role clearing debris here following Storm Goretti.
- **Rosebud Garden:** Ongoing work is steadily restoring this space which is now seeing more visitors - both local and holiday-makers. Planting schemes provide seasonal colour and improved structure.
- **Fundraising Success:** first pop-up plant stall in the centre of Newlyn raised £255, demonstrating strong community support. A regular stall selling annuals and other seedlings brings in funding to ensure the group is self-sufficient. Stock for the stall is nurtured at the group's polytunnel, kindly funded by Penzance Council and now HQ for the group. Funds are reinvested to provide plants, tools and gardening-related items for Newlyn's green spaces.



- **Biodiversity Improvements:** wildlife-friendly planting such as Cerinthe, foxgloves and wildflower species to improve pollinator activity.

Despite its success the number of regular volunteers means that capacity is limited and there is a desire to improve volunteer recruitment.

Thanks as always go to the support of Cormac's team at Long Rock for green waste disposal following each gardening session; to Cormac's Volunteer Coordinator [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for supplying some of the bulbs and plants for this year, as well as copious amounts of enthusiasm; and to Mr [REDACTED] for use of his land for the polytunnel HQ.

Submitted by:

Councillor Penny Osborne
9 July 2026