Penzance Community Flora Group

It was with great sadness that [redacted] passed away, peacefully on October 6th. He will be greatly missed not only as a volunteer but as a friend too. He introduced us to the PZ Community Fire Station, the fire officers and the Memorial Garden which we now maintain and are able to store our equipment. We have ordered a rose (Remember Me) to be planted in the garden next to the one he planted for his wife. His daughter will be organising a plaque to be placed on the tallest granite post. A eulogy was read by [redacted] at the AGM on October 13th and a minutes silence

Volunteer hrs for July. 95.5

Admin hours for July. 6

TOTAL HRS FOR JULY 2026. 101.5

Volunteer hrs for August. 155

Admin hours for August. 6.5

TOTAL HRS FOR AUGUST 2026 161.5

Volunteer hrs for September. 52

Admin hours for September. 1

TOTAL HRS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026 53

Overview of last year from August 2025 to 2026

Volunteer Hours (September 2025 to September 2026) 1565.50

Admin Hours (September 2025 to September 2026) 358.25

1923.75 TOTAL HOURS

We have continued working throughout PZ at least once a week. The spring and early summer has been fantastic as far as the abundance of colour and we have had many positive comments on our Facebook page.

We were approached by [redacted] who promotes Wharfside to see if we would consider letting him do a short video of what we do. He has produced two from the interview and has asked if he can return in spring

Since the trampling of the plants in the bed at Abbey Slip the night of the fireworks before Mazey Day We have purchased £98.50 defensive plants from Kenneggy Nursery to re supply this bed. [redacted] has dug out most of the cannas that had not performed well and these have been replanted on the Woodland bed on Wharf Rd. He has also cut back part of the failing Cornish Palm and [redacted] has redesigned the bed

and will continue to work up there independently but with any support from us that she needs. Abbey Slip now looks better than it has ever looked and is maturing nicely. We haven't yet posted photos on fb, we are waiting for the plants to settle in

The hot weather has taken its toll on all the plants especially along Wharf Rd but we have continued to make everywhere tidy. We continued to work SJH carpark, the Crescent, Alfred Smiths, and the whole of WR in September

Our two waterproof posters along WR which have recently been replaced one has been defaced with facial stickers. New poster has been put up

[redacted], [redacted] and I went to an afternoon of succulents up at Primal Plants which was very interesting. We purchased three unusual scarlet euohorbia which have now been planted along WR and Abbey Slip right for a drought tolerant planting scheme

Agaves have now been planted at the Information Centre, these replaced plants and left gaps where people take short cuts over the gravel

[redacted] had requested purchasing more Queen of the Night tulips to be at the top semi-circular bed at Morrab Rd. [redacted] had suggested sea holly along WR as good drought tolerant plants. These have been purchased through You Garden who had a good offer on. The sea holly has now been planted and the tulips are planted at the top of Morrab Road plus a few at the planters at the junction near Premier Inn.

On a most serious note we have had a medical situation that occurred on Sunday August 2nd when one of our volunteers became unwell. Since this incident every Flora volunteer has been asked to supply an emergency contact no which are now on my phone and have also been provided to [redacted] and [redacted].I always have bottles of water in the car at each session for the Volunteers

1) Thanks to all our **Flora Volunteers** who work so hard and cheerfully especially [redacted] for her patience and dealing with calls etc and [redacted] for her role as Secretary
2) Thanks to **Cormac,** special mention to [redacted] who empties all the tons of waste that we generate and returns the dumpy bags to the Flora locked boxes
3) Thanks to [redacted] for his continued support
4) Thanks to [redacted] at Wharfside Shopping Centre who provides us with free parking for 4 cars on Sundays
5) Thanks to [redacted] at CoastCopywriting for approaching us to do short videos along Wharf Rd promoting our efforts and mentioning for new volunteers
6) Thanks to **Penzance Community Fire Station** for their continued support to Flora up at the Veterans Memorial Garden
7) Thanks to [redacted] **and** [redacted] for their generous donation of £500
8) **Thanks to** [redacted] **and** [redacted] for donating plants for Mazey Day
9) **Thanks to** [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] for their positioning of collection boxes raising cumulatively £94.16

10) We had an anonymous donor of £100.00 November 2025. I have been withholding the amount in petty cash to buy something specific with it. This money has bought the Queen of the night tulips for the top of Morrab Rd and sea holly and scarlet euphorbia which are now along Wharf Rd. the donor has been informed
11) Last but not least thanks to [redacted], [redacted] **and staff** at the **Longboat** who accommodate us every month for our meetings

Veterans Memorial Garden up at the **Fire Station**

We continue to keep this garden tidy and we notice evidence of visits by families which is very rewarding (bunch of flowers laid at the granite post)

Sunken Garden at the Library

This has matured well. We don't need to be there too often but keep our eye on the area

Abbey Slip

This area at the top of the Slip is now taken care of solely by [redacted] with any support she requires from us

All other Areas

We continued to keep the planting areas around Pz well stocked and tidy. WR particularly looked colourful this year and created a lot of positive comments on our Facebook page

The hot summer has since taken its toll on many of the plants but we have continued to work every week to keep the area tidy. New plants are purchased with awareness of warmer climate conditions

We have now purchased salvia and agave from a NGOpen Day at reduced prices and these are planted

[redacted] has acquired well rotted and mature manure which will be spread in due course

Rose for [redacted] up at FS next to [redacted] rose

Next meeting Tuesday November 10th 5.30pm at Longboat which will be the last one of the year

Councillor Andy Law

GOFA – Good Old Furniture Available

The report in September 2026 demonstrated the fragile nature of the business with the dramatic change in staffing. The newly appointed manager has made considerable progress in developing his role within the constraints of only two full-time paid staff instead of three. We are working with Job Centre Plus to create a work experience placement and, from past experience, we know that there are some substantial benefits for all parties involved but the longer term aim is to equip the person placed with us with the relevant skills to then go on to a permanent position.

There has been some progress with raising the profile of GOFA through various channels. Social media pages are a means of contacting large numbers of people very quickly to show what goods we have available. Advertising in targeted local publications keeps us firmly focused on the Penzance and surrounding area. We are also updating our website to make it more user friendly and to provide a greater flexibility for the user.

We are also exploring the options for the possible replacement of our larger van which is essential to the business for moving the larger items of furniture and white goods. Our existing vehicle is proving to be both unreliable and expensive to maintain, however a replacement will be quite expensive. To that end, we are exploring grant funding opportunities to help meet the cost.

CH 23.10.26

Councillor Andy Law

CALC Larger Councils Committee

I represented Penzance Council at the quarterly meeting of the Larger Councils Committee of CALC (Cornwall Association of Local Councils) in Bodmin on 22nd October 2026.

The main agenda item was due to be an online Q&A discussion with Clare Simpson (Strategic Director for Community Wellbeing at Cornwall Council), who has overall responsibility for localism. This would have been a timely event, given the live discussions that are ongoing between Cornwall Council and Number Ten of the North about the architecture of Cornwall's future status as a Foundation Strategic Authority; engagement with local stakeholders (including town and parish councils) is a key part of that process. Attendees had been hoping for some clarity around Cornwall Council's emerging "Valuing Local" strategy, and to explore what went wrong in past failures by Cornwall Council to engage successfully with the local council sector (such as the fallout from Cornwall Council's decision to resume glyphosate use earlier this year).

In her absence, attendees held an informal discussion session on joint working with Cornwall Council. Issues raised included:

- The slow pace of transfers of devolved assets and services
- Failure to communicate and consult on policy changes that directly affect towns and parishes (glyphosate was a clear example; some attendees felt there was a cultural problem, with local councils treated as second-class citizens)
- Cautious welcome for Cornwall Council's apparent commitment to working with others in a more productive way, as expressed in a CC paper prepared by Leigh Frost (Leader) and Adam Paynter (Deputy Leader) and presented to a recent meeting of the Cornwall & IOS Leadership Board (of which the Chair of the Larger Councils Committee is a member)
- The importance of towns and parishes having a go-to person within Cornwall Council at a senior enough level to ensure departments within CC work together alongside local councils to resolve issues, rather than operating as silos delivering conflicting messages
- The need to increase knowledge among Cornwall Council's senior leadership about what towns and parishes actually do
- Whether the ongoing financial issues at Cornwall Council will affect implementation of any blueprint for better partnership worting
- Acknowledgment that although there is room for improvement, the situation is better than in many other parts of the country
- Disappointment that the "Valuing Local" paper had not been shared more widely to towns and parishes

I intend to take part in both the online Q&A and face-to-face-meeting with the Service Director, and will feed back to a subsequent Penzance Council meeting.

Meanwhile, I am aware that the Town Clerk and Town Mayor are engaging directly with the senior leadership of Cornwall Council on these issues, and also that the Town Clerk is involved in working groups at Cornwall level that are looking to build a more resilient and balanced relationship between Cornwall Council and the towns/parishes (especially the larger towns), as Cornwall continues its journey towards Foundation Strategic Authority status – as confirmed in the recent Budget Statement by the Chancellor.

Councillor Stephen Reynolds

Penzance Concarneau Twinning Association

British Embassy grant funding bid

Unfortunately, the Association was unsuccessful in its bid for grant funding to support a “Golowan Band x Bagad Bro Konk Kerne exchange”, which would have seen the Golowan Band visiting the Filets Bleus summer festival in Concarneau in August 2027, with a reciprocal visit from the Bagad (Breton pipe band) for Golowan 2028. Consideration is now being given to whether the Golowan Band and the Twinning Association could raise funds for next year’s trip to the Filets Bleus by other means.

Group visit to Concarneau

Twelve members of the Twinning Association enjoyed a visit to Concarneau in September; the next trip is scheduled for July 2027.

Reception for Nevada City Town Crier

[redacted], the Town Crier of Nevada City (California) – another town twinned with Penzance (along with St Just in this case) – visited Cornwall in September to be initiated as a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd. To mark his visit occasion, members of all our twinning associations were invited to a reception at the Coach House hosted by the Mayor, Cllr Andy Law.

This event has in turn led to discussions about the potential for increased collaboration between the associations, and about possible strategies for re-energising the twinning movement in our area. These will be explored in the weeks ahead.

Cllr Stephen Reynolds