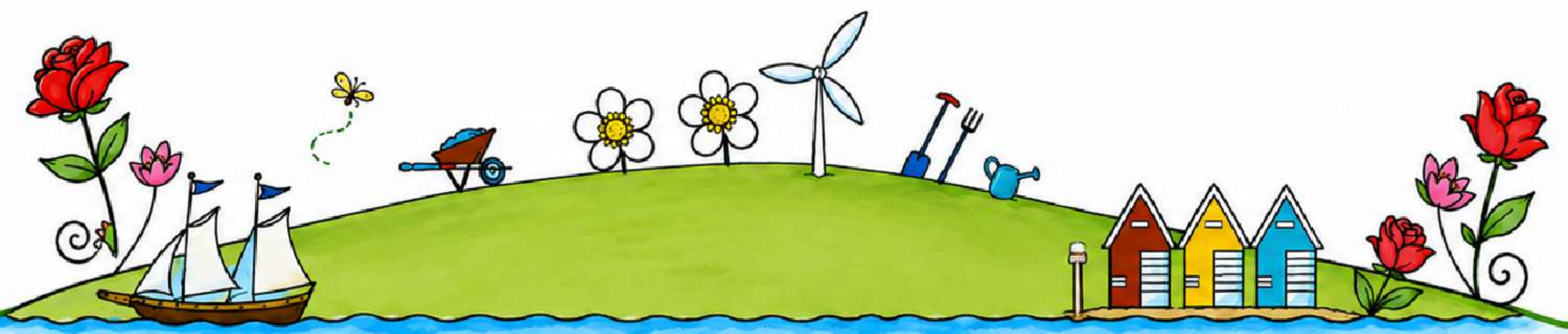


# Blyth In Bloom



2026





# Welcome!

Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Blyth in Bloom competition. Our judges were hugely impressed by the creativity, care and diversity on show across Blyth. Judging took place over a week in July; visiting gardens, community spaces and Blyth's allotment sites. It was fantastic to see the pride and hard work that goes into making our town greener and more beautiful.

## CATEGORIES

Allotment

Community  
Garden

Yard

Environmental  
Conservation

Front Garden

Garden

## Councillors' Welcome

It is a pleasure to welcome you to our Blyth in Bloom celebration. Tonight is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the dedication, creativity and hard work of everyone who has taken part. From beautiful gardens to colourful community spaces, your efforts help make Blyth a brighter and more welcoming place for everyone. On behalf of the Town Council, we would like to thank you for taking part and congratulate all our entrants on their achievements.

Councillors Denise Nicholson, David Johnson  
& Natalie Rolls



# CATEGORY Allotment

## SITE Newsham Side Club



Barbara has transformed this allotment into a beautiful traditional post-war British garden, full of charm, character and exceptional horticultural standards. From the moment you arrive, you are greeted by a stunning flower bed, setting the scene for what lies beyond. Passing through the gate, visitors are treated to a classic 1950s-style garden, with a beautifully maintained lawn, that hosts healthy apple, pear and other fruit trees with colourful herbaceous borders and an atmosphere that evokes the pride and care traditionally associated with gardens of that era.

A particular highlight, is the delightful addition of a peach tree laden with tempting fruit that is growing in her greenhouse. Barbara's expertise continues throughout the allotment with an impressive collection of fruit bushes, including redcurrants, blackcurrants, whitecurrants, raspberries and blackberries, all maintained to an exceptionally high standard.

The vegetable garden is equally impressive, with neatly arranged beds producing a wide variety of traditional vegetables that are clearly thriving under Barbara's careful attention. A row of potted olive trees overlooking the beds adds an unexpected yet attractive feature, bringing both structure and interest to the overall design.

Environmental awareness has also been thoughtfully incorporated into the plot. A substantial potting bench, constructed from recycled timber, demonstrates a commitment to sustainable gardening, while traditional reclaimed ceramic sinks have been creatively repurposed as attractive planters. A peaceful pond, filled with vibrant lily pads, provides an important habitat for wildlife and adds another beautiful focal point within the garden.

Every aspect of this allotment reflects Barbara's dedication, knowledge and attention to detail. The result is a wonderfully balanced space that celebrates the timeless appeal of a traditional British garden while embracing sustainable gardening practices and encouraging wildlife. It is an outstanding example of horticultural excellence and a thoroughly deserving entry in this year's Blyth in Bloom competition.

# CATEGORY Allotment

## SITE Beatrice New



Paul and Julie have shown incredible dedication in transforming their allotment from an overgrown and daunting space into an impeccably organised and productive garden. Their hard work and determination are evident throughout, with every area carefully planned and thoughtfully developed.

The allotment is both practical and environmentally conscious, featuring well-constructed raised beds, a paved side path, and barked areas around the growing spaces to create a tidy, accessible, and attractive environment. Alongside a vibrant display of colourful flowers, there is an impressive variety of vegetables, all maintained to an exceptional standard and thriving beautifully.

A wonderful decked seating area, complete with an indoor summerhouse, provides the perfect place to relax and appreciate the results of their efforts. It is clear that this space has been created not only for growing but also for enjoyment and wellbeing.

Paul and Julie have also embraced the true spirit of allotment community, working alongside fellow growers by sharing cuttings, recycling materials, and supporting each other's ideas. Their allotment has year-round interest, whatever the season, and is a fantastic example of what can be achieved through passion, teamwork, and a commitment to creating a beautiful and sustainable growing space.

# CATEGORY Allotment

## SITE Beatrice New



Laura has achieved an outstanding transformation in just one year. When she took on the allotment, it was completely overgrown and in need of extensive restoration. Through determination and hard work, she began by clearing and levelling the site, creating the perfect foundation for what has become a thriving and productive growing space.

The allotment has been thoughtfully planned, with well-constructed raised beds bordered by bark pathways that provide both practicality and an attractive appearance. Every part of the plot has been used effectively, creating an organised and inviting environment. A charming summer house with seating offers welcome shelter, allowing Laura to enjoy and maintain the allotment throughout the year.

The plot boasts an excellent selection of fruit, vegetables and flowers, all of which are healthy, well-maintained and clearly demonstrate Laura's commitment to high standards of cultivation.

Looking ahead, Laura has ambitious plans to take on the neighbouring overgrown plot, expanding both the size of the allotment and the opportunities it offers. Given the remarkable progress she has made in such a short time, there is every confidence that this vision will become another successful transformation.

Laura's enthusiasm, dedication and hard work are evident throughout the allotment, making this an impressive entry and a wonderful example of what can be achieved with passion and perseverance.

# CATEGORY Allotment

## SITE Beatrice Old



**This is a truly inspiring allotment that combines horticulture, education and community spirit in an exceptional way. Faye has created a welcoming and engaging environment where pre-school children aged 2–5 years can discover where their food comes from, learn about the changing seasons, and develop an early appreciation of growing their own produce.**

**The children's involvement in the One Potato Day project is particularly commendable. Each child is given a seed potato to grow, with the winner being the one who harvests the heaviest crop. Most importantly, all of the harvested potatoes are then donated to the local food bank, teaching valuable lessons about generosity, sustainability and supporting the wider community.**

**The allotment produces an impressive variety of fruit, vegetables and flowers, with Faye also making homemade jams and pickles from the harvest. The addition of chickens further enhances the children's understanding of food production and caring for animals.**

**The site has been thoughtfully designed with both children and the environment in mind. Soft bark pathways around the raised beds provide safe access, while the dedicated children's potting and washing area encourages hands-on learning. Recycled seating and the brightly painted boundary fence create a colourful, welcoming space that is both practical and environmentally conscious.**

**It is evident that an enormous amount of care, dedication and hard work has gone into developing this wonderful allotment. It provides a rare and invaluable educational opportunity for very young children, fostering curiosity, confidence and a lifelong appreciation of gardening, nature and healthy eating. A thoroughly deserving entry that reflects the very best of the Blyth in Bloom ethos.**

# CATEGORY Allotment

## SITE Cottage Gardens (Bolam)



Janice has made excellent use of her large allotment plot, creating a productive and attractive space that has potential to develop year on year, with plenty of scope for future growth, and the careful planning already in place is evident throughout.

The impressive greenhouse is home to thriving sweet grape vines, a notable achievement in the Northumberland climate, while the wide variety of produce on display reflects Janice's dedication and skill. Cabbages, tomatoes, rhubarb, onions, sweetcorn, strawberries, potatoes, sunflowers, lavender, and a mature apple tree laden with healthy-looking fruit all contribute to an abundant and productive allotment. Successfully growing crops such as grapes, sweetcorn, and tomatoes in Blyth's cooler coastal conditions is particularly commendable.

Adding to the visual appeal is a pleasant seating area which provides an inviting place to enjoy the surroundings, and the domed pergola has excellent potential to become a stunning feature when clothed in a living climbing plant, adding both shade and seasonal interest. Colourful succulents planted in a wooden railway sleeper border further enhance the pathway with texture and colour.

This is a productive, well-cared-for allotment that demonstrates enthusiasm, commitment, and a genuine passion for growing.

**Briardale House offers a wonderful display of flowers and trees, creating a warm and welcoming first impression from the moment you enter the grounds. The thoughtfully designed outdoor spaces cater to the whole community, featuring a safe children's garden, a secure dog garden, a sensory garden, and a thriving community allotment.**

**The grounds are enhanced by beautiful mature apple and cherry trees, while environmentally friendly practices are evident throughout, including the use of bark mulch to help protect plants from slug damage. The team also grows a range of vegetables, helping to reduce kitchen costs and provide affordable meals for the local community.**

**Candice and her team have created an attractive, inclusive, and well-maintained environment that is clearly valued by the many people who visit. Their commitment to sustainability, community wellbeing, and creating welcoming green spaces is evident in every aspect of Briardale House.**

## **CATEGORY Community Garden**

### **SITE Briardale House**



Suzan and the residents of Belford Court have worked incredibly hard to create beautiful and welcoming grounds that can be enjoyed by everyone, including local wildlife. Their commitment to biodiversity is evident through the wildlife pond, bird houses and baths, a bug hotel, and a hedgehog house, which regularly welcomes a visiting hedgehog.

The garden is both productive and ornamental, with olive and cherry trees alongside tomatoes and other edible crops. A colourful display of flowers and lush greenery is complemented by a variety of imaginative artistic features, adding character and interest throughout the space.

There is a real sense of pride, vibrancy, and community spirit at Belford Court. Suzan and the residents have created a garden that not only looks beautiful but also brings people together and supports nature. They have every reason to be proud of what they have achieved.

CATEGORY  
Community  
Garden

SITE  
Belford Court



## CATEGORY Yard



Dawn has demonstrated that the size of a “yarden” is no barrier to creating something truly special. Although compact, her space has enormous personality and has been transformed into a colourful, uplifting garden that reflects creativity and determination. Every inch has been used to maximum effect.

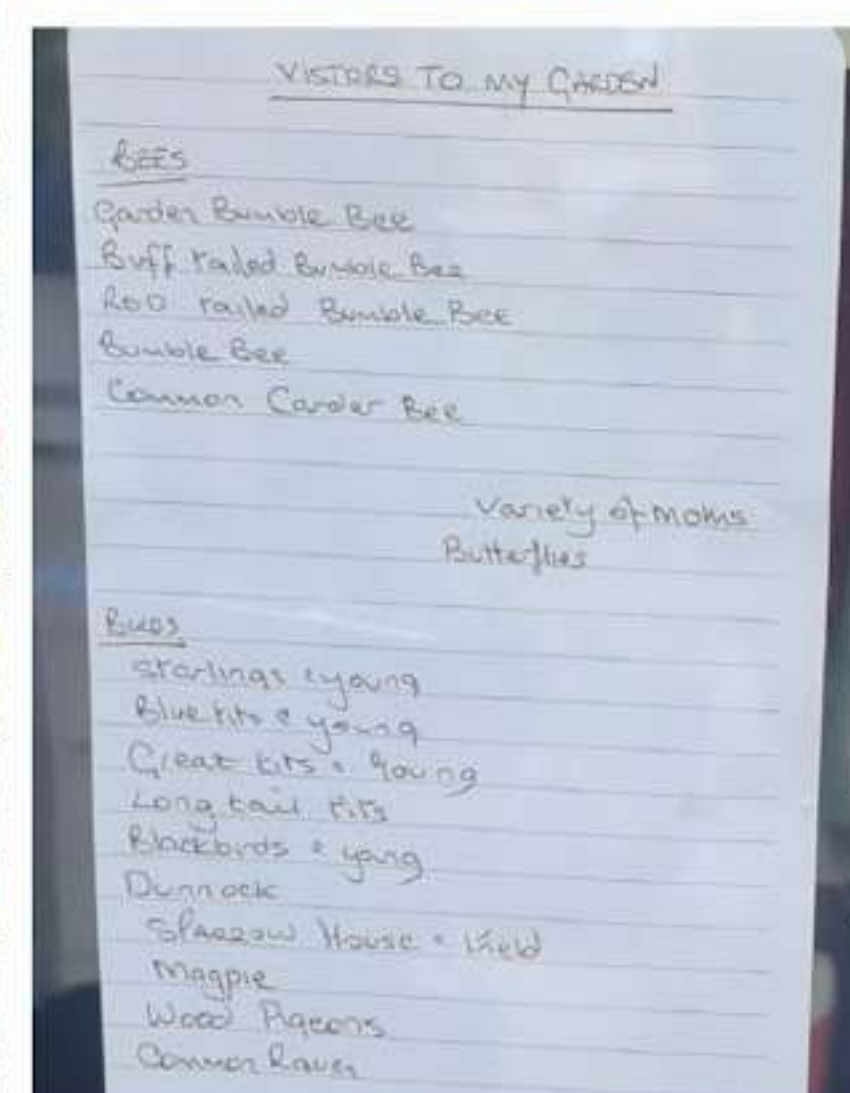
The windowsill is filled with potted succulents, while beneath it, multi-tiered pots overflowing with flowers, ferns and ornamental grasses create a striking living wall. The soft cream side wall provides the perfect backdrop for hanging baskets and climbing plants, while strawberries, mint and lemon verbena add an edible touch. Further tiered planting along the rear wall culminates in a magnificent bamboo pot, bringing height, movement and tranquillity.

An outdoor rug adds warmth and defines the central space, while a bright covered seating area, complete with table, chairs, paper lanterns and bamboo wind chimes, creates a welcoming outdoor room. Even with all this, Dawn has found space for a dedicated potting area.

The yarden also provides nectar and shelter for wildlife, with a bee house, bird nest box and feeders alongside a wonderful variety of flowers, grasses and foliage.

What makes Dawn’s yarden particularly inspiring is the thought and determination behind it. She has created a joyful sanctuary despite the challenges of the surrounding area, demonstrating how imagination, hard work and pride can transform even the smallest space. It is not only a beautiful garden, but an example that could inspire others and help foster greater pride in the neighbourhood.

# CATEGORY Yard



Gillian has transformed her courtyard garden into a vibrant oasis that is truly a feast for the eyes. Every element of the space has been thoughtfully planned to create a welcoming environment for wildlife while providing a colourful and relaxing retreat.

Her passion for supporting nature is immediately evident. Displayed in her window is a record of the many species of bees and birds that regularly visit her garden, highlighting the success of her efforts to encourage biodiversity. Bird feeders, a feeding table and a water feature provide essential food and water for visiting birds, while the diverse planting also attracts moths, butterflies and a variety of pollinating insects.

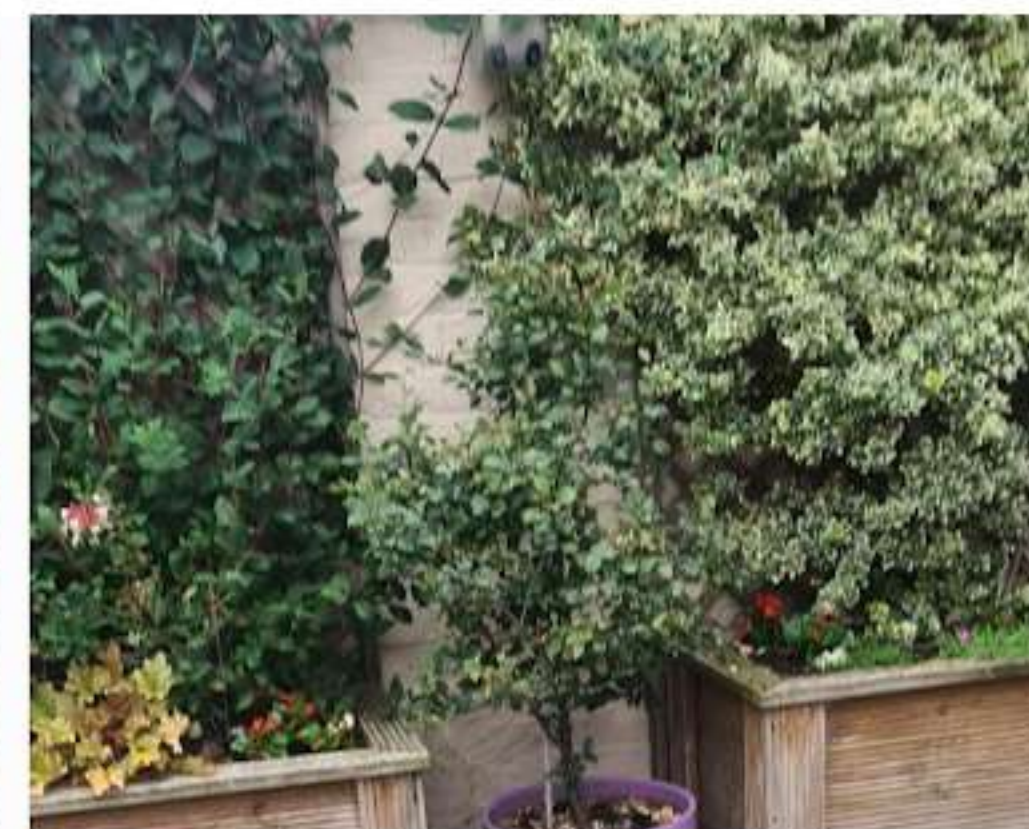
Despite the compact nature of the space, Gillian has made excellent use of every available area. A wide selection of colourful flowers and attractive foliage thrive in pots and raised beds, creating layers of interest throughout the garden. Productive planting also features, with an apple tree and strawberries adding both beauty and a practical element to the display.

A comfortable seating area has been carefully positioned, allowing Gillian to relax and enjoy the constant activity of the wildlife her garden attracts. It is easy to imagine spending time here watching birds, bees and butterflies making full use of this carefully nurtured habitat.

This garden is a reflection of Gillian's enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment to gardening. Her attention to detail, successful encouragement of wildlife and imaginative use of space create a beautiful and environmentally valuable garden. It is easy to see why she has previously been recognised as a Blyth in Bloom winner, as her passion continues to shine through in every aspect of this delightful garden.

# CATEGORY

## Yard



Irene has created a welcoming and relaxing garden that demonstrates how even a practical courtyard can be transformed into an attractive green space. Although the area also serves as parking for a car, she has carefully balanced its dual purpose to create an environment that feels both functional and inviting.

At the heart of the garden is a wicker dining table and four chairs, providing an attractive focal point and a pleasant place to sit and enjoy the surroundings. The high brick walls, painted in a soft beige, provide a warm backdrop, while climbing plants have been carefully trained to soften the boundaries and introduce a more natural feel to the space.

Colourful flowering plants arranged in pots throughout the yard create interest and vibrancy, helping to blur the distinction between courtyard and traditional garden. Productive planting also features, with healthy tomato plants adding an enjoyable and practical element to the display.

Despite the limitations imposed by the need to accommodate a vehicle, Irene has ensured that wildlife remains an important part of the garden. Bird feeders and a bee house provide valuable resources for local wildlife, and her efforts have clearly been rewarded, with regular visits from bees, a family of sparrows and blackbirds. These features help support local biodiversity while bringing movement and life into the garden.

Irene has made excellent use of the space available to her, creating a peaceful and attractive courtyard that overcomes its practical constraints with thoughtful planting and careful design. Her garden is a testament to how creativity and enthusiasm can transform a functional space into a relaxing haven for both people and wildlife.



## **SITE** **Isabella** **Heap**

## **CATEGORY** **Environmental** **Conservation**



**The Isabella Heap Volunteer Group is an outstanding example of what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared vision. Around 10–12 young volunteers aged 12–15, alongside 15 adult volunteers, have transformed the Isabella Heap into a thriving conservation area that benefits both wildlife and the wider community.**

**Surrounding the Centre building is a thoughtfully planned community garden, where volunteers grow tomatoes, carrots, squash, potatoes, raspberries and salad crops. Young pear, apple and cherry trees have also been planted. Wildlife is carefully considered, with bee and bug hotels, a wildlife pond and the striking “Lady Isabella” sculpture providing a focal point among the colourful planting.**

**The group’s work extends far beyond gardening, with pond restoration, wildlife surveys and habitat improvements. Bat boxes have been installed throughout the site, with four species of bat identified, including one regularly feeding over the pond. Hedgehog houses have also been introduced, while the surrounding meadows are bursting with wildflowers providing food for bees, butterflies, moths and other pollinators.**

**Carefully maintained walking routes allow visitors to enjoy the site, while education is central to the group’s work. Local schools regularly take part in pond dipping, wildlife surveys and conservation activities, alongside community events such as bug watching and Pride litter picks. The group also supports local residents through activities linked to the Community Centre, including the food bank.**

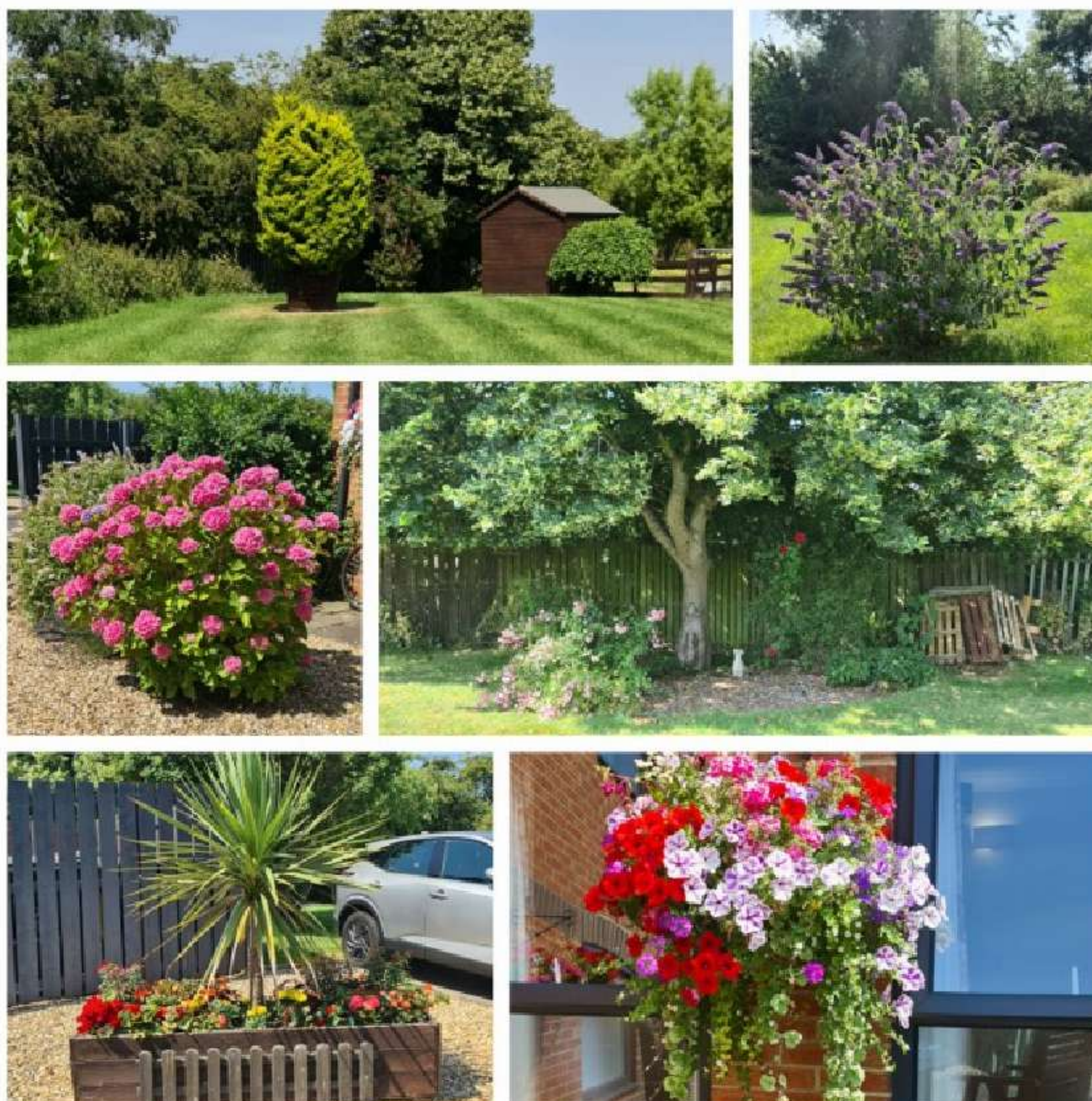
**Through their dedication, the volunteers have made the site more accessible, welcoming and valuable to both people and wildlife. Creative use of natural and recycled materials blends beautifully with the landscape, while their continued conservation work has created a thriving green space.**

**The Isabella Heap Volunteer Group embodies everything Blyth in Bloom seeks to celebrate. Their commitment to conservation, education, sustainability and community involvement is truly inspiring, and they are thoroughly deserving of recognition for the positive impact they have made on Blyth.**



## **SITE** **Blythgate** **Manor**

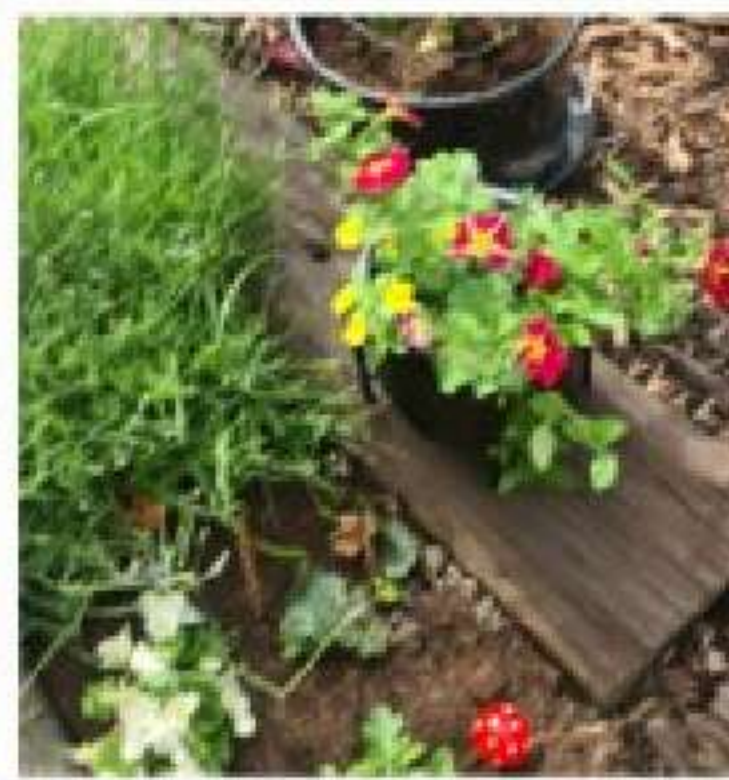
## **CATEGORY** **Environmental** **Conservation**



**Blythgate Manor Care Home has created a welcoming and peaceful outdoor environment that provides great enjoyment for its residents. Colourful hanging baskets at the entrance offer a cheerful first impression, while beautifully maintained planters, a magnificent hydrangea, and a striking purple shrub add colour and interest throughout the grounds. A memorial tree and generous lawned area provide attractive spaces for residents and visitors to enjoy.**

**A particularly commendable feature of the garden is its commitment to conservation. An area has been thoughtfully retained as a natural habitat, where wildflowers flourish and provide an important refuge for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. Surrounded by an increasingly built-up environment, this small conservation area is a real gem, demonstrating how even a modest green space can make a valuable contribution to local biodiversity.**

**The residents clearly benefit from having access to such a peaceful, colourful, and nature-rich setting. The home's dedication to creating and preserving this wildlife-friendly environment is a wonderful example of how gardens can enhance wellbeing while making a positive contribution to conservation.**



## CATEGORY Front Garden

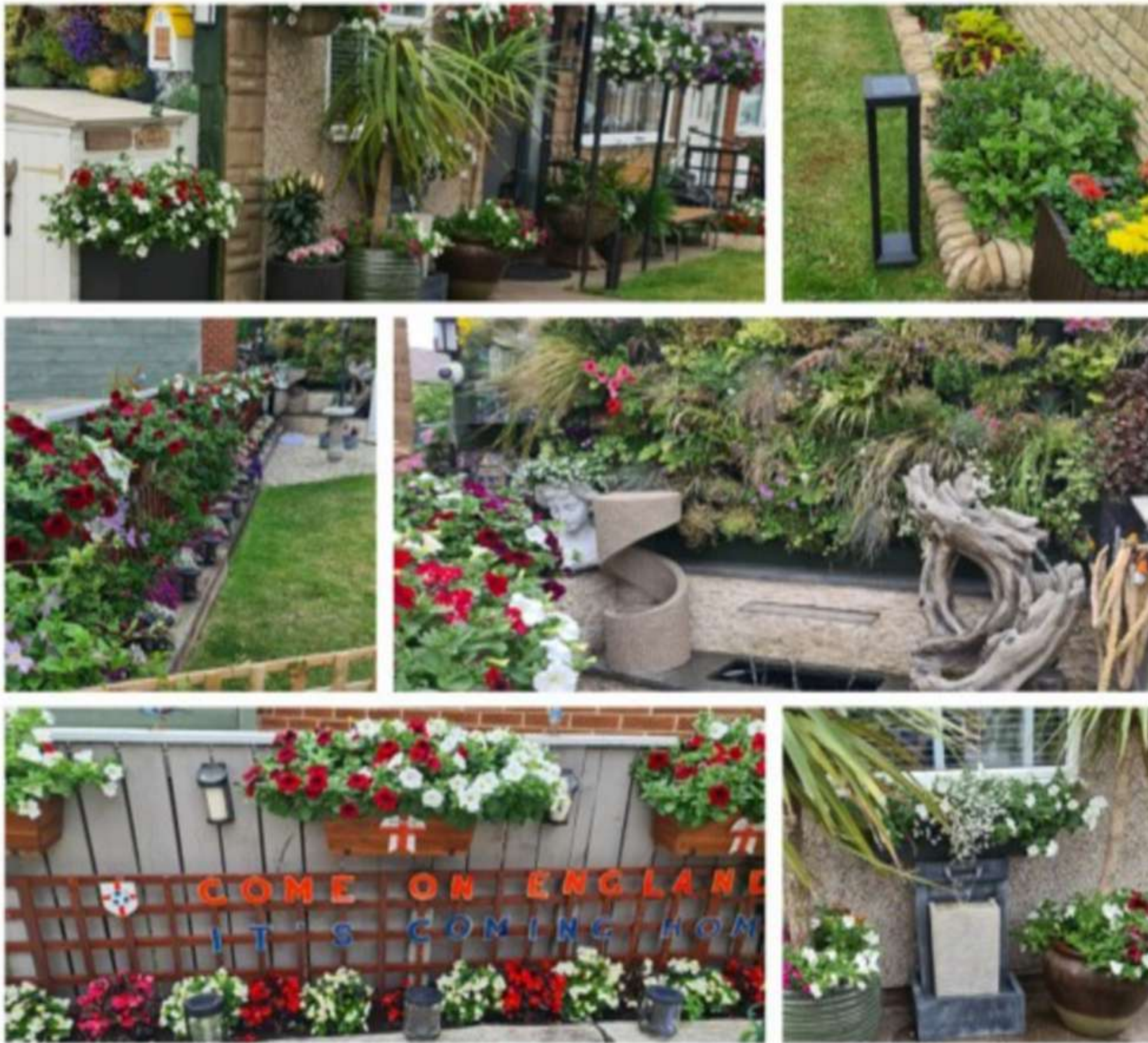


Dean has transformed this small front garden into a vibrant display that immediately catches the eye of anyone passing by. Every inch of the space has been utilised to outstanding effect, creating a colourful and welcoming garden that is a real asset to the street.

A charming seating area with a wood bark surface sits at the heart of the garden, surrounded by beautifully maintained plants displayed in hanging baskets, tiered pots, and containers. The planting is predominantly floral, creating a stunning array of colour, while herbs and tomatoes are thoughtfully incorporated to add an edible element.

The pathway is bordered by a rainbow of flowers, drawing visitors through the garden, and despite the compact size of the space, Dean has even found room for a young child's gardening station, encouraging the next generation to enjoy growing plants.

This is a joyful, imaginative garden that demonstrates how a small space can have a big impact. It is undoubtedly a talking point for neighbours and a delightful feature for everyone who has the pleasure of passing by.



## CATEGORY Front Garden



Shaun has created a striking front garden that immediately catches the eye of everyone who passes. It is a wonderful reflection of both his passion for gardening and his love of football, with the two themes combined in a tasteful and imaginative way.

The red and white colours of the England flag are echoed throughout the flower borders and hanging baskets, creating a vibrant display that complements the property without overpowering it. The planting is neat, healthy and well maintained, bringing colour and seasonal interest to the metre-high stone boundary wall.

A beautifully kept lawn is divided by a wide entrance path that provides an attractive approach to the house. Rather than leaving the space purely functional, Shaun has enhanced it by positioning elegant potted palms on either side of a small water feature, creating a welcoming focal point that immediately draws the eye.

The porch area continues the high standard of presentation, with beautiful hanging baskets next to an inviting seating area that offers a pleasant place to relax and enjoy the garden. One of the garden's standout features is the magnificent living wall on the side of the garage. Filled with a rich variety of plants and complemented by another attractive water feature, it adds texture, colour and visual impact while making excellent use of vertical space.

Shaun has also ensured that wildlife is welcomed into the garden. A stone bird bath, bird box and bee house provide valuable resources for birds and pollinating insects, while the diverse planting helps to support biodiversity and creates a healthy garden environment.

This front garden is a credit to Shaun's dedication, creativity and attention to detail. It is beautifully maintained, thoughtfully designed and makes a significant contribution to the appearance of the street. It is easy to understand why Shaun was recognised in last year's Blyth in Bloom competition, as he continues to set a high standard for gardening within the community. I'm sure that many people passing by pause to admire the care, effort and pride that have gone into creating this outstanding display.



## CATEGORY Front Garden



**Stuart and his wife have created a delightful garden that is beautifully maintained and thoughtfully designed, combining colourful ornamental planting with an impressive area for growing fruit and vegetables.**

**The front garden offers a warm and welcoming first impression. A neatly maintained boundary fence is complemented by colourful flower borders and an attractive collection of planted pots. A charming wooden flower ladder provides an eye-catching feature, displaying a variety of flowering plants that add height, colour and character to the entrance. A small seating area completes the space, creating an inviting spot to sit and enjoy the surroundings.**

**The same high standard of care continues into the rear garden, where a neatly edged lawn is framed by attractive borders filled with healthy flowers and shrubs. The highlight of the garden is a well-planned raised vegetable plot, demonstrating Stuarts' enthusiasm for growing their own produce. The beds are thriving with an impressive range of crops, including beetroot, herbs, turnips, carrots, dwarf beans, tomatoes and rhubarb, alongside soft fruits such as blackcurrants, blackberries and raspberries. Carefully cultivated cherry and apple trees further enhance the productive nature of the garden while also providing blossom that benefits pollinating insects in spring.**

**The balance between ornamental planting and productive gardening has been achieved with great success. Every part of the garden is clearly well cared for, reflecting many hours of dedication and enjoyment. Stuart and his wife have created a beautiful outdoor space that is both productive and visually appealing, making it a wonderful example of a traditional family garden.**



## CATEGORY Front Garden

**Andrew has entered his front garden into Blyth in Bloom, creating an impressive and spacious outdoor area with strong features and plenty of potential.**

**The large lawn wraps around the side of the property, providing a generous open space that gives the garden a sense of scale and openness. Shrub planting along the boundary wall adds structure and softness, helping to frame the garden and create a pleasing transition between the hard boundaries and the planted areas.**

**A standout feature at the front of the property is Andrew's impressive raised rockery display. This provides a strong focal point and showcases a thoughtful mix of planting, including a carefully trimmed leylandii tree, a variety of colourful flowers and striking green cordyline plants. The combination of textures, heights and foliage creates interest and gives the entrance a distinctive character.**

**The lawn had recently undergone thatching work at the time of judging, demonstrating Andrew's commitment to improving and maintaining the space. With continued care and recovery, this will develop into a healthy and attractive feature that complements the rest of the garden.**

**Overall, Andrew has created a garden with excellent structure and strong visual features. The rockery display demonstrates creativity and an eye for design, while the spacious layout provides a wonderful foundation for future planting and enhancement. It is clear that time and effort have been invested into developing this outdoor space, and it will continue to mature beautifully with ongoing care.**



## CATEGORY Garden



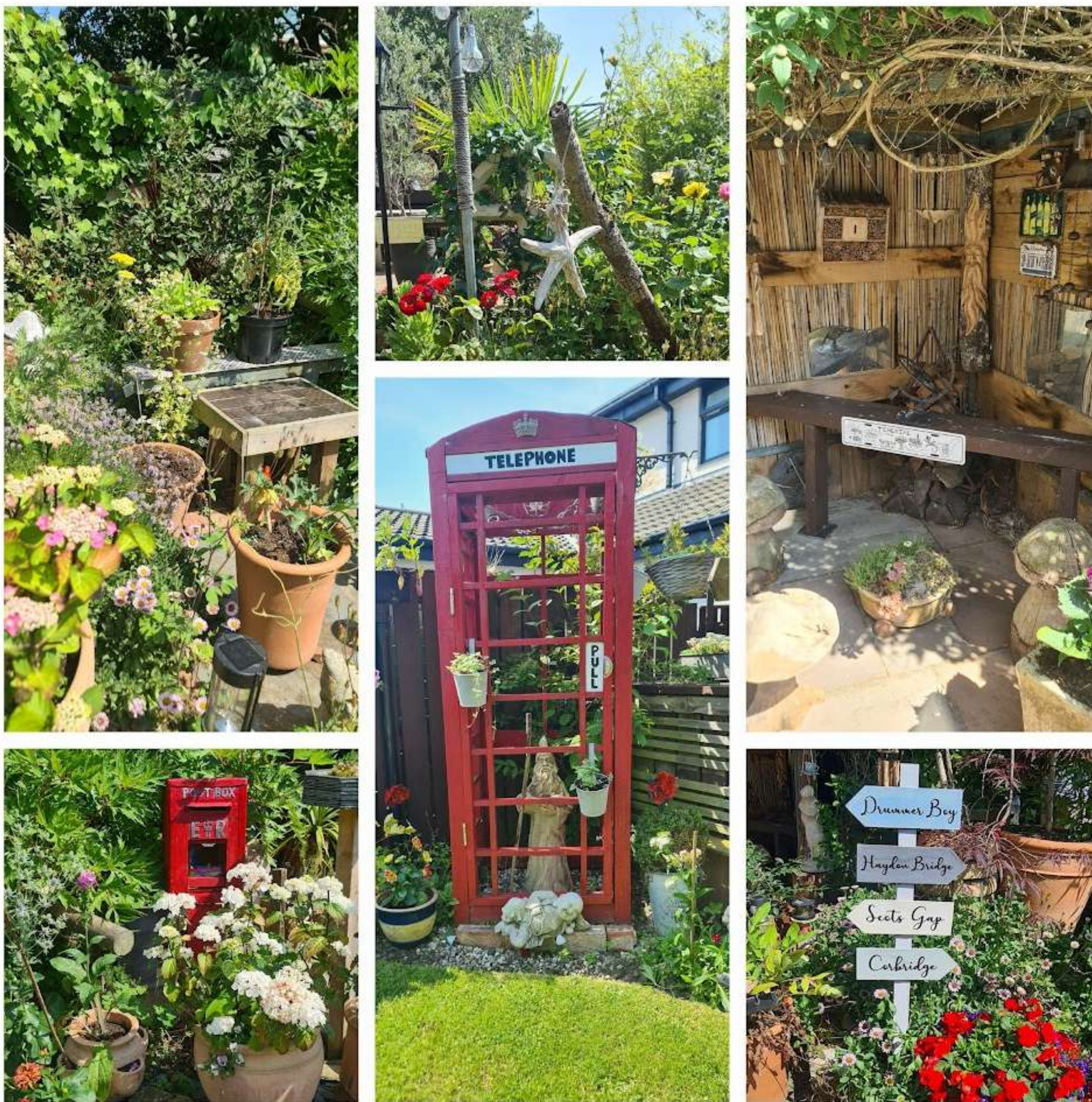
**Tony has created a wonderful traditional garden that successfully combines productive growing with an attractive and welcoming family space. It is immediately apparent that this garden has been shaped by years of dedication, hard work and a genuine passion for gardening.**

**Stepping out from the house, visitors are welcomed by a cosy seating area that offers the perfect place to appreciate the impressive variety of fruit and vegetables growing throughout the garden. The productive planting is exceptional, with tomatoes, raspberries, blueberries, rhubarb, gooseberries, artichokes, onions, lettuce and apple trees all thriving. Particularly memorable are the magnificent cabbages, whose size and quality are a testament to Tony's horticultural skill and careful cultivation.**

**The garden has been thoughtfully designed to balance productivity with relaxation. As you continue towards the bottom of the garden, the space opens into a well-maintained lawn surrounded by established trees, creating an ideal area for family enjoyment. A further seating area provides a peaceful spot to take in the beauty and tranquillity of the surroundings.**

**Wildlife has also been carefully considered. A pond provides an important habitat for aquatic life and visiting insects, while bird feeders encourage a variety of birds into the garden, helping to support local biodiversity. The mix of productive planting, mature trees and wildlife-friendly features creates a healthy and thriving garden environment.**

**This is a garden that reflects countless hours of care and commitment. Tony has successfully created a traditional kitchen garden that is both highly productive and visually appealing, while also providing a welcoming space for family life and supporting local wildlife. His enthusiasm and dedication are evident in every corner of this impressive garden.**



## CATEGORY Garden



**Wow! This garden delivers a real sense of imagination and discovery, with narrow pathways leading you through a series of unique zones, each offering something new to explore. It is a true feast for the senses, blending culture, art, creativity, and the natural outdoors in a way that makes every corner a surprise.**

**Roger has a remarkable talent not only for gardening but also for creating eye-catching handmade features that bring character and personality to the space. The garden is filled with vibrant colour, fascinating details, and thoughtful touches, including a signpost celebrating favourite walks shared with his wife, a wonderful water feature, a wooden telephone box, a post box, and a variety of quirky ornaments and seating areas.**

**The planting is equally impressive, with a great mix of flowers, trees, edible crops, succulents, and a pond that adds another dimension to this imaginative garden. Every inch of space has been carefully considered and creatively utilised.**

**There is so much to discover that one visit simply cannot take it all in. Roger has created a truly individual garden that reflects passion, creativity, and a wonderful sense of fun, making it a memorable and inspiring place to visit.**



## CATEGORY Garden



**This is a truly remarkable garden that delights at every turn. More than simply a garden, it is an immersive experience full of character, imagination and craftsmanship. Every corner reveals something new, creating a series of outdoor rooms and secret spaces. It is easy to imagine this as a small celebration venue, designed for family, friends and making lasting memories.**

**Mature palms, trees, shrubs and flowering plants provide height, texture and year-round interest, while reclaimed and repurposed items are cleverly incorporated throughout, encouraging visitors to explore and discover unexpected treasures.**

**Several seating areas offer different perspectives, including a cosy corner centred around a small log burner. An archway made from reclaimed doors, complete with old iron keys still in the locks, leads to a charming tiki bar and intimate seating area, showcasing the owner's flair for creating unique outdoor spaces.**

**One of the garden's most impressive features is a mature leylandii skilfully transformed through careful pruning into a giant bonsai. Its rounded branches and opened canopy allow more light into the garden while creating a striking sculptural feature. Beneath it, reclaimed timber seating provides the perfect place to appreciate it.**

**At the top of the garden, a dedicated family area for the owner's grandchildren includes play equipment and a picnic bench, with nearby seating for adults. Elsewhere, a beach-hut-inspired area creates a coastal atmosphere, with timber sleepers and golden gravel leading past colourful signposts to an impressive Easter Island-style statue.**

**Wildlife has also been carefully considered, with bird feeders and a bird house alongside diverse planting providing food and shelter for insects and pollinators. As daylight fades, extensive solar and wired lighting transforms the garden, highlighting its many features and allowing it to be enjoyed into the evening.**

**This is an outstanding garden that reflects exceptional creativity, vision and dedication. Imaginative, welcoming and full of personality, it invites exploration and rewards curiosity. Quite simply, if you were fortunate enough to visit, you would be reluctant to leave.**



## CATEGORY Garden

From the moment you arrive, it is clear that this is a garden created with care, skill and dedication. John grows virtually everything from seed, demonstrating both horticultural expertise and a commitment to sustainable gardening. His generosity extends beyond his own garden, with surplus plants donated to the Bede Academy Serenity Garden, a local church group, and Crofton Heap, helping to bring colour and enjoyment to the wider community.

The front garden makes an excellent first impression, with a thoughtful design that balances attractive hard landscaping with lush planting. A well-maintained lawn is bordered by a raised flower bed filled with vibrant pansies, English lavender, marigolds and carefully chosen shrubs arranged in two visual layers, creating depth, texture and year-round interest. The flowering plants are not only visually striking but also provide valuable sources of nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects, while the shrubs offer shelter and habitat for wildlife.

The same high standards continue into the rear garden, where every area is neat, tidy and beautifully maintained. A delightful pond, edged with an attractive rockery, provides an important habitat for amphibians, insects and visiting birds, while also enhancing the tranquillity of the space. Wildlife has clearly been considered throughout, with bird feeders and a bird bath encouraging a variety of garden birds to visit and thrive.

Sunflowers growing in pots along the fence are still in their early stages but are already showing strong, healthy growth, promising an impressive display later in the season. Large, pristine white hydrangea blooms add elegance and impact, complementing the colourful planting throughout the garden.

This is a garden that reflects many hours of hard work, careful planning and genuine passion for gardening. The exceptional quality of the plants, the thoughtful design and John's willingness to share the fruits of his labour with local community projects make this an outstanding example of what Blyth in Bloom seeks to celebrate. It is a beautiful garden that not only brings pleasure to its owner but also benefits wildlife and enriches the wider community through John's generosity and enthusiasm.



## CATEGORY Garden

First impressions are excellent, with Claire creating an attractive and immaculately maintained front garden. A beautifully planted border, filled with a lovely mix of flowers and greenery, wraps around the patio seating area, providing a warm and welcoming entrance to the property.

The rear garden demonstrates an excellent use of space, successfully combining the needs of family life with a clear passion for horticulture and wildlife. A stone-pebbled patio, enhanced with an attractive selection of potted trees, plants and colourful flowers, provides an inviting introduction to the garden.

From here, a neatly laid stone and paving-slab pathway, skilfully constructed by Claire herself, guides visitors through the garden. A well-kept lawn creates an open, family-friendly space, complemented by a wooden climbing frame for children. Wildlife has been thoughtfully encouraged throughout, with bird feeders hanging from a young apple tree, while rhubarb and strawberry plants thrive around a charming pond, adding both beauty and productivity.

Further into the garden is a delightful decking area, creating a peaceful retreat with comfortable seating surrounded by carefully positioned pots and containers. A flourishing passion flower climbs elegantly around the seating area, adding colour, texture and a sense of enclosure that makes this a particularly relaxing corner of the garden.

Adjacent to the decking is one of the most attractive chicken houses seen during judging. Home to a healthy collection of chickens of different breeds, it has been designed with both practicality and animal welfare in mind. The adjoining bark-covered run provides ample space for the birds to roam, with fresh food sources and carefully placed planting helping the area blend beautifully into the overall garden design.

Claire has clearly invested a great deal of time, care and enthusiasm into creating a garden that is attractive, functional and welcoming. The successful balance of family living, productive gardening, wildlife-friendly features and excellent presentation makes this a wonderful example of a well-loved home garden and a very deserving entry in this year's Blyth in Bloom competition.



## CATEGORY Garden

Over the past seven years, June has transformed her small garden into a vibrant explosion of colour, making excellent use of every available space. Narrow pathways weave through an abundance of healthy, well-maintained plants, creating a delightful journey through the garden and showcasing the high standard of care it receives.

A wildlife-friendly pond, home to newts, together with bird feeders, a bird house, and a bird bath, provides a welcoming habitat for a variety of wildlife. A cosy seating area offers the perfect place to relax and enjoy the colourful surroundings, while a small but productive vegetable-growing area adds further interest and practicality.

June has created a charming garden that demonstrates how even a modest space can be transformed into a beautiful, thriving haven through dedication, thoughtful planting, and a love of nature.



## CATEGORY Garden

Victoria has created a truly exceptional garden that impresses from the moment you arrive. The transition from the house into the garden has been thoughtfully designed, seamlessly extending the living space outdoors.

A substantial timber gazebo provides a striking focal point, with the centrepiece being a stunning mosaic floor created by Victoria herself. Using broken tiles set in concrete, she has crafted intricate concentric circles in colours that complement the surrounding planting and hard landscaping, showcasing her creativity and skill.

Inside the gazebo, tiered displays of potted plants, flowers and hanging baskets create an explosion of colour and texture, while a generously sized rabbit house and exercise pen have been thoughtfully incorporated into the design.

Beyond the gazebo, an elegant arbour provides another welcoming seating area. Mature shrubs and carefully selected flowering plants bring structure, colour and seasonal interest, while plum slate pathways and timber-effect concrete sleepers guide visitors through the garden to a peaceful seating area overlooking the whole space.

From here, an attractive pond with fish, aquatic planting and a solar-powered fountain creates a tranquil focal point. Decorative features, including a Buddha and yoga-inspired frog sculpture, add character without detracting from the garden's natural beauty.

Wildlife has also been carefully considered, with bird feeders, a bird bath, and bee and bug hotels providing food, shelter and habitat. The diverse planting further supports pollinating insects and creates a thriving garden ecosystem.

Victoria's artistic vision, attention to detail and horticultural knowledge have combined to create a beautiful, peaceful and welcoming space for people and wildlife. It is a garden of outstanding quality, reflecting exceptional creativity, craftsmanship and dedication.



## CATEGORY Garden

Graham has worked tirelessly throughout the year to bring his creativity, imagination and passion for gardening to life. His garden is thoughtfully divided into a series of themed areas, each with its own unique character and charm, creating a delightful journey for visitors.

The first area is a nature reserve designed to encourage wildlife, featuring a recycled pool that provides an ideal habitat for frogs. This section is enhanced by a beautifully crafted four-foot wooden windmill, made by Graham while attending the Horticultural Skills Unit at Hepscott Park. A vibrant mix of colourful flowers complements the feature perfectly, creating an attractive and welcoming space.

Moving into the Cottage Garden, visitors are greeted by a small pond constructed from recycled materials, demonstrating Graham's commitment to sustainability. The area is filled with an excellent display of flowers, both planted in the ground and arranged in containers, while a small selection of trees provides structure and a pleasing balance of greenery.

The next section, aptly named the Botanical Garden, adds a playful touch to the garden's design. Hidden amongst the shrubs and ornamental grasses are dinosaurs waiting to be discovered, with some even moving, much to the delight of visitors. Lavender sits through the planting, adding colour, fragrance and interest.

The journey concludes in the herb garden, which borders a cosy seating area. A wishing well planter, handcrafted by Graham, provides a charming focal point. This peaceful corner is especially meaningful, offering a place where Graham and his mother can sit together, relax and enjoy the beauty of the garden they have created.

Graham has transformed this space into a truly imaginative and welcoming garden. His creativity, craftsmanship and dedication are evident throughout, resulting in a beautiful environment that not only brings enjoyment to him and his family but is also admired by everyone who passes by. It is a wonderful example of how passion and perseverance can create a garden full of character, colour and community pride.



## CATEGORY Garden

Laura has created a delightful garden that takes visitors on a journey through two distinct planting styles. The front garden provides a wonderful first impression with its colourful cottage garden theme, where an attractive mix of flowering plants surrounds a small pond that is home to a resident frog, adding both charm and wildlife interest.

Moving through to the rear garden, the atmosphere changes to a more tropical feel, with bold foliage and architectural planting including yuccas, large ornamental grasses, a potted acer, red hot pokers, elephant ears, and other exotic-looking plants creating a lush, vibrant display. The garden also includes strawberries and a healthy fig tree, adding an edible element that sits comfortably alongside the ornamental planting.

A relaxing seating area, complete with portable furniture made from creatively recycled painted pallets, provides the perfect place to enjoy the colourful surroundings. A bird bath and bird box encourage wildlife to visit, further enhancing the garden's appeal and demonstrating Laura's consideration for nature.

With its paved layout and gravelled areas providing a practical framework for the planting, Laura has successfully created a garden that combines creativity, colour, and contrasting styles. The result is an inviting and imaginative outdoor space that leaves a lasting impression.



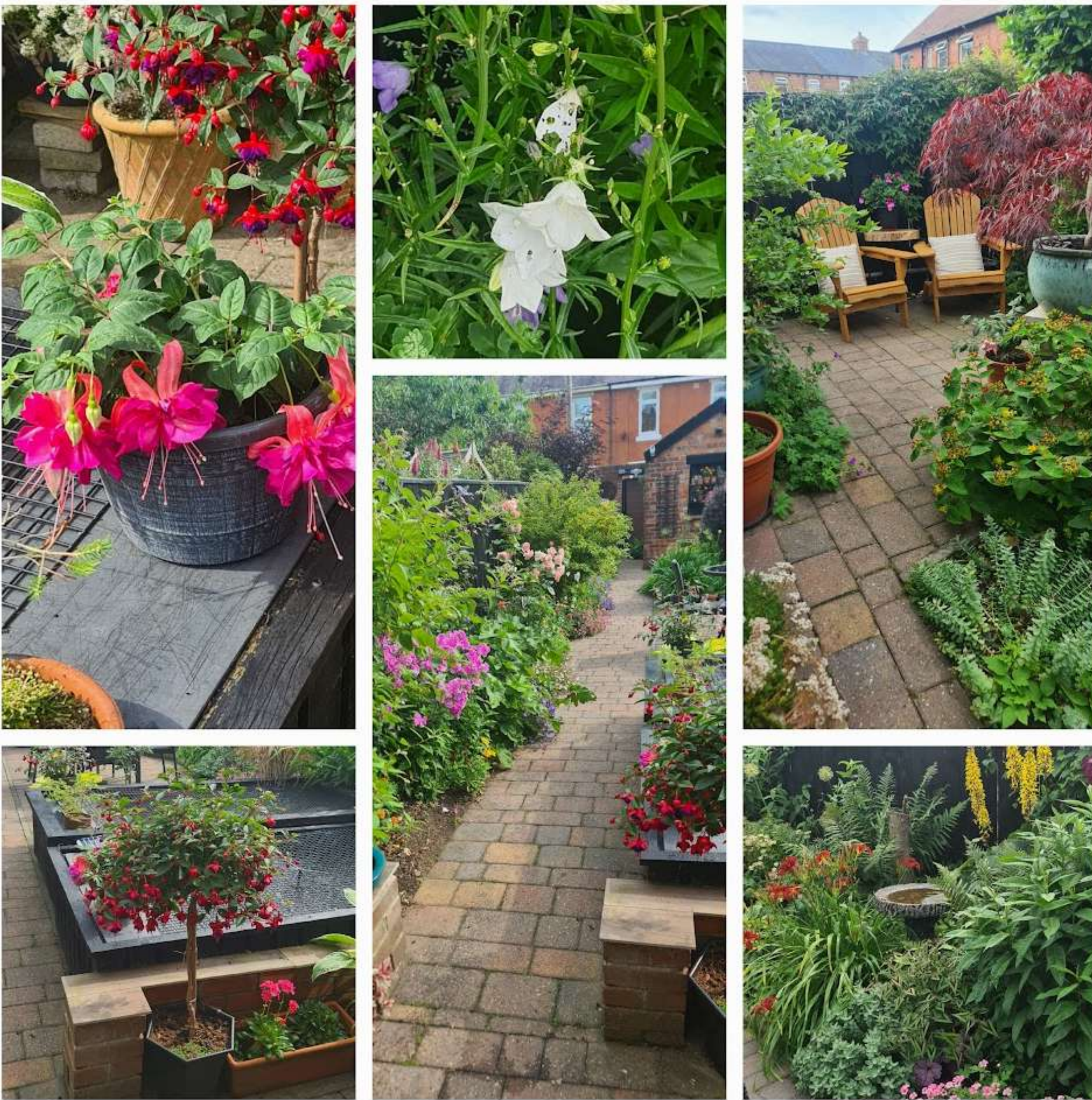
## CATEGORY Garden

Julie has created a colourful and tranquil garden that reflects both her enthusiasm for gardening and her willingness to adapt to the challenges of her site. Faced with frequent waterlogging, she has shown great initiative by creating attractive borders using potted plants, allowing her to achieve vibrant displays while working with the conditions rather than against them.

The garden offers a peaceful retreat, with a calming water feature and a pleasant seating area where the surroundings can be fully appreciated. It is also designed with wildlife in mind, featuring bird feeders, a bird bath, and a small pond, while an array of quirky ornaments tucked amongst the trees and planting adds personality and charm.

To make the garden accessible throughout the year, Julie has incorporated a small area of artificial lawn. This has been sensitively integrated into the overall design and allows the space to be enjoyed despite the challenging ground conditions.

It is clear that a great deal of time, care, and dedication has gone into creating this lovely garden. Julie's passion for gardening shines through, and her eagerness to continue learning about planting, propagation, and plant care is evident in the thoughtful and well-maintained space she has developed.

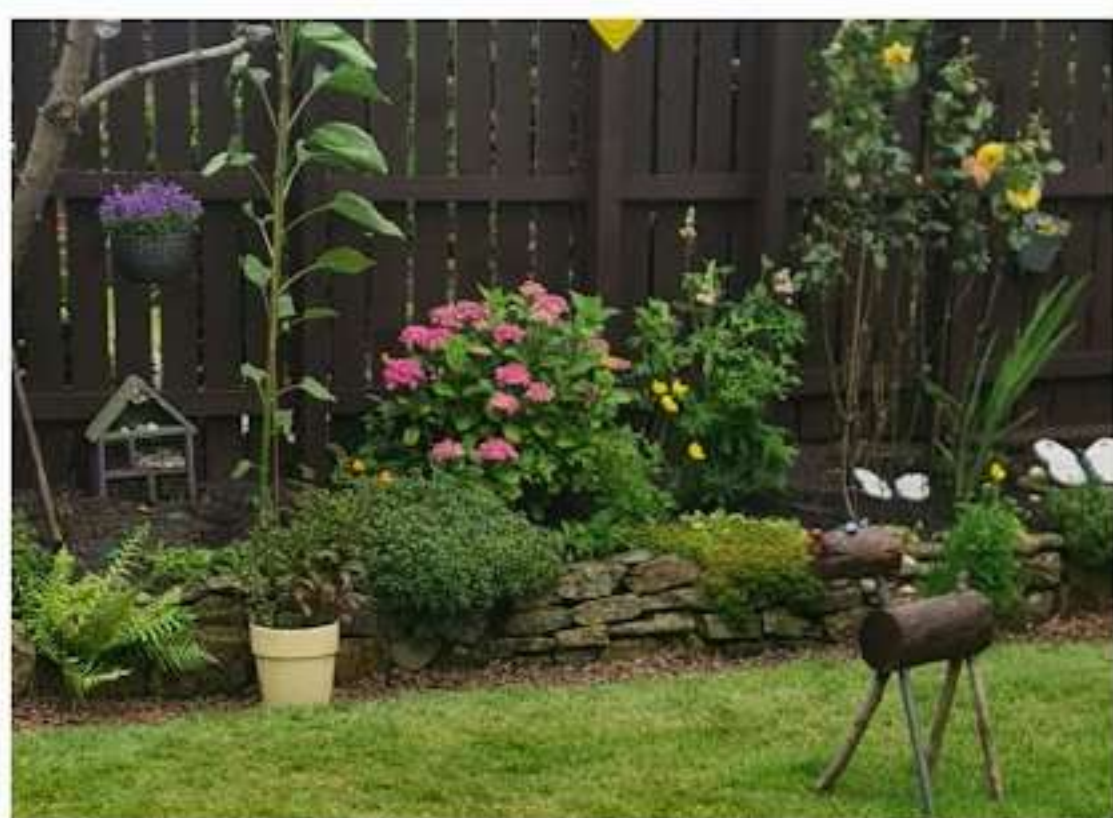


## CATEGORY Garden

**Maureen's garden is bursting with life, colour, and variety, with an impressive collection of flowers, trees, shrubs, fruit trees, and berry bushes packed into the space. Every available corner has been thoughtfully utilised, creating a garden that feels abundant and full of interest—it would be difficult to find room for anything more.**

**Wildlife has also been carefully considered, with a bee house, bird bath, and a pond home to beautiful koi carp, all helping to create a welcoming habitat for nature. A cosy seating area provides the perfect place to sit and enjoy the colourful surroundings and the peaceful atmosphere.**

**The planting is clearly the result of great care and passion, with a wonderful mix of textures, colours, and seasonal interest throughout. Maureen has created a thriving garden that demonstrates how even a modest space can be transformed into a rich and rewarding haven for both people and wildlife. It is a true reflection of her love of gardening and her dedication to making the very most of every inch of her garden.**



## CATEGORY Garden

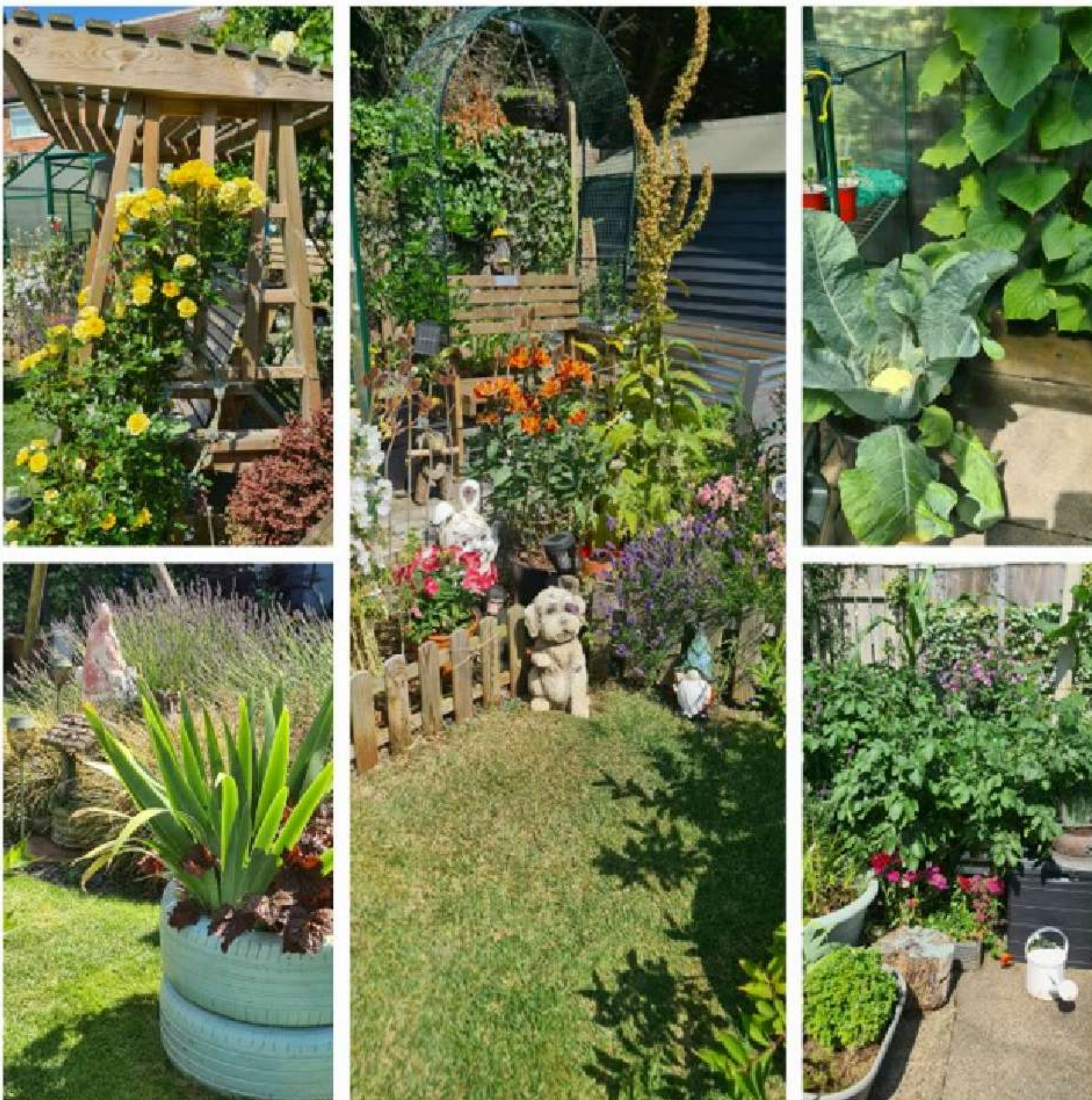
Michael and his wife have created a charming and well-maintained garden that reflects the pride and enjoyment they take in their outdoor space. From the moment you enter, it is clear that this is a garden that has been lovingly cared for and enjoyed throughout the seasons.

A neatly kept lawn forms the centre of the garden, framed by attractive borders filled with colourful flowers and healthy shrubs that provide structure, texture and seasonal interest. The planting is of a high standard, with a pleasing combination of colour and form that enhances the overall appearance of the garden.

Adding a unique and personal touch are several handcrafted wooden features, including quirky reindeer and personalised wooden bunting made by Michael himself. These bespoke creations give the garden real character and demonstrate his creativity and craftsmanship, making the space feel distinctive and welcoming.

A block-paved patio leads to a delightful seating area that invites visitors to sit and appreciate the surroundings. It is easy to see that this is a space designed not only to be admired but also to be lived in and enjoyed with family and friends.

The care and commitment invested in this garden are evident throughout. Michael and his wife have clearly dedicated many hours to maintaining and enhancing their outdoor space, resulting in a garden that is attractive, personal and full of character. Their enthusiasm for gardening and their creative flair have combined to produce a delightful garden that is a pleasure to visit



## CATEGORY Garden

**Lillian has created a vibrant, wildlife-friendly garden that reflects her love of nature and sustainable gardening. Rather than a formal planted layout, she prefers a more natural style, growing everything from seeds or cuttings and, as she says, "just loves to scatter." Every available space has been put to good use, with even loofahs thriving in her greenhouse.**

**Her productive garden is well on its way to providing a complete Sunday dinner, with healthy cauliflowers already developing and a variety of other vegetables maturing nicely. Lillian also demonstrates a strong commitment to supporting wildlife through the use of bird feeders and makes excellent use of recycled items throughout the garden. Her enthusiasm, resourcefulness, and environmentally conscious approach make this a delightful and inspiring garden.**



## CATEGORY Garden

Beverley and Simon have created a wonderful multi-purpose garden that successfully balances practicality with beauty. It is a space designed to be enjoyed in many ways – perfect for socialising with family and friends, providing a safe place for their grandchildren to play (who are always first to enjoy the strawberries!), offering a peaceful retreat to relax, and, of course, accommodating their much-loved dog.

The garden is surrounded by attractive trees, including fruiting varieties, alongside colourful flowers, lush greenery, and a selection of vegetables thoughtfully tucked amongst the borders. To cope with the demands of such a well-used space, they have incorporated an area of artificial grass, while ensuring it is complemented by an abundance of living borders, shrubs, trees, and planting that soften the landscape and maintain its natural appeal.

Their consideration for wildlife is evident in the careful positioning of bird feeders to help protect visiting birds from neighbourhood cats. Their enthusiasm for gardening also extends to the front garden, where an inviting seating area, an attractive feature ornament, and a colourful display of plants create an equally warm welcome.

It is clear that this garden is the result of a genuine shared passion. Beverley and Simon have worked together to create a welcoming, attractive, and practical outdoor space that is enjoyed by both their family and local wildlife.



## CATEGORY Garden

**Poppy has created a delightful family garden that successfully combines attractive planting with practical features, resulting in a welcoming outdoor space that can be enjoyed by both people and wildlife.**

**The front garden provides an excellent first impression, with a neatly maintained lawn framed by colourful borders of flowering plants, shrubs and striking cordylines. The combination of textures, foliage and seasonal colour creates an attractive and inviting entrance to the property.**

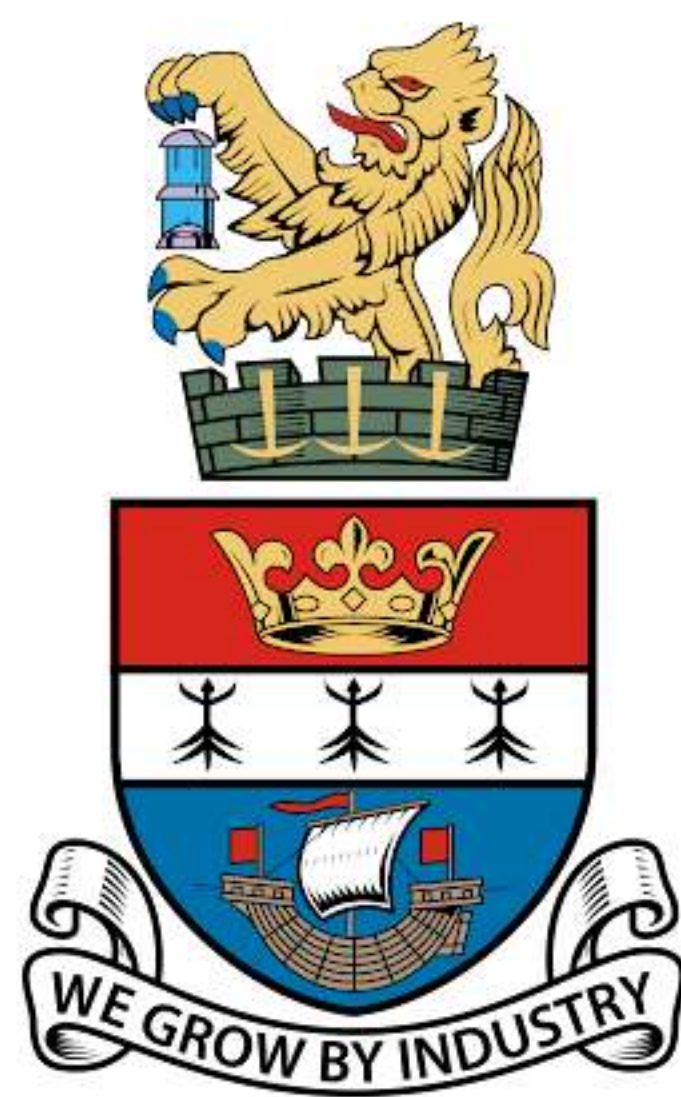
**The rear garden opens into a spacious area that has been thoughtfully designed to meet the needs of family life. Recognising their son's love of football, the family has chosen to install an artificial lawn, providing a durable and practical space for recreation while ensuring the garden remains tidy and usable throughout the year. This sensible approach demonstrates how a garden can successfully balance the needs of an active family with an attractive overall appearance.**

**Borders of established trees and shrubs soften the space, adding structure, greenery and seasonal interest, while a pleasant seating area provides the perfect place to relax and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. Wildlife has also been thoughtfully considered, with a bird house and bird bath encouraging birds to visit by providing both shelter and a reliable source of fresh water.**

**Overall, Poppy has created a well-balanced garden that is both practical and visually appealing. It is a space that reflects the needs of modern family life while still providing opportunities to enjoy nature and support local wildlife. The result is a pleasant, welcoming and well-maintained garden that is clearly enjoyed by the whole family.**

To all participants, judges and supporters  
thank you for helping Blyth bloom!

Your efforts have brought colour, beauty  
and pride to our town, demonstrating the  
power of community spirit and helping  
make Blyth an even better place  
to live, work and visit!



Blyth Town Council