

## What we can offer

We provide a pleasant working setting with woodland and lawns on our property.

Within the context of the business we can provide a variety of opportunities for members. Our activities are flexible enough to build a package to meet individual needs.

We may be able to provide bespoke activities if necessary for specific areas of work.



For one, moving on to employment could be a major goal. For another it may be building confidence and social skills or simply growing a few vegetables. Others find horticulture very therapeutic with real health benefits. Most find the close knit team and friendly, sociable atmosphere very rewarding.

In Blooming Marvels, members need to be able to work without immediate close supervision unless they are bringing additional support staff with them. They can attend from ½ day per week upwards.



A meal and refreshments are available from the adjacent centre if required.



## Our Values

Blooming Marvels believes that everyone should be treated with courtesy, dignity and respect.

We encourage suggestions, ideas and contributions from the whole group. All members are given choice and control over the running of the project and their role within it and this is formally encompassed in a written constitution. They are urged to express opinions, exercise initiative, challenge constructively and learn from mistakes.

We constantly strive to enhance, improve and develop the project using our own funds.

For further general information or to arrange an informal visit, please contact us on  
**01629 532404**



For specific information on charges and eligibility, please contact a manager at Newhall Centre on  
**01629 532400**

## BLOOMING MARVELS

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Part of the  
Community  
~  
Serving the  
Community

# BLOOMING MARVELS



**DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
ADULTS WITH  
LEARNING DISABILITIES  
IN A GARDEN CENTRE SETTING**

## What is Blooming Marvels?

Blooming Marvels is a small business project run as a co-operative by around 30 members who are supported by Derbyshire County Council Adult Care services. They run a small garden centre and café, which are open to the general public.

They are not paid but do share a dividend payment at the end of each year, which is agreed by the group. They all decide how money is spent in the project

and actively participate in business decisions.

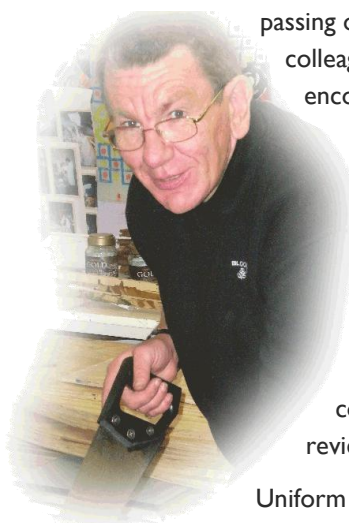
Workers can learn about all aspects of running the business including customer care, horticulture, gardening, woodwork, shop work, catering, money, measuring, craft and computer skills. They participate in activities according to their interests and abilities. The variety on offer means that there is usually something to suit everybody.

As it is a working environment, everyone is encouraged to acquire and use basic generic work skills such as timekeeping, booking holidays and time off, team working and courtesy to customers and colleagues.



## Our Workers

Our workers are all adults and span a wide range of abilities and needs. Some are here on long-term placement whilst others are here for a shorter time with specific goals. The more experienced workers enjoy passing on their various skills to colleagues and this mentoring is encouraged.



Each individual keeps a training portfolio in whatever format suits them with assistance as required. This enables us to focus training and experience towards specific outcomes and is useful in the review process.

Uniform is provided to encourage a sense of belonging and to give a professional image to the business. At work everyone is referred to as a member of staff as they are all working together to run the business.

## Employment

Some people have the potential and desire to ultimately do some paid employment. We can help people to learn the necessary skills and gain experience and confidence in a supported workplace. Some workers go out on voluntary placements locally.

We regularly review progress and when appropriate, we can refer on to partner organisations to provide specialist employment advice and training together with related benefits assistance.

## Valued by the Community

Blooming Marvels is very much a local project located in a residential area. Customers, regular and newcomers, support us, both for our quality products and friendly service in the shop and café. They get to know the members and appreciate the work that they do. Some people just drop in for a coffee, a chat or to use our Community Book Exchange. Much of our voluntary work also takes place in the local community. Serving the public helps build confidence, assertiveness and self-esteem within our group.



## Reusing and Recycling

The group has always been keen on sustainable activities. All packaging and rubbish is recycled whenever possible and we compost our own green waste. Our café takeaway packaging is also all compostable. Craft groups turn old jeans into bags and old jewellery into new. We use scrap wood to make garden products and firewood kindling. We recycle paper waste into paper briquettes to use as fuel.

This philosophy enables the group to engage in numerous additional activities. It also introduces workers to important issues in the world today.