

# Working behind anemone lines



**FORKING OUT:** Janet Reynolds celebrates striking a decisive blow against the forces of neglect and scrubbiness

John Allen EAA26360\_JSA\_002

**A** RUN-DOWN public space has been transformed into a thriving flowerbed overnight – thanks to the nocturnal efforts of a green army.

A craze sweeping the world landed in Plymouth when green-fingered members of the Guerrilla Gardening group descended on a patch of land next to Stoke car park.

Under the night sky, around 15 volunteer gardeners planted

by Tristan Nichols

species including Japanese anemones, sage, lavender, berberis, bamboo and evening primrose to bring life back to the neglected green space.

The idea was put forward by Janet Reynolds, from Stoke, whose London-based son Richard, 29, was the founder of the Guerrilla Gardening group in 2004.

Guerrilla Gardening aims to spruce up public areas, striking at night, with the gardeners contributing to the cost of the revamp.

“I love gardening and I hate to see good public space just sitting there in a state going to waste,” said Richard, who started the group after growing tired of seeing run-down public spaces.

“Mum rang me knowing that I travel round London doing this sort of thing and suggested this space in Plymouth.

“We’ve spruced up 17 different locations and this is the first one I’ve co-ordinated outside of London,” he said.

“I thought it would be a bit different and a good chance to visit Mum. It has to be one of the best ones we’ve done, with a lot

more variety than other gardens we’ve put together.”

Richard described the random acts of kindness as being more fun than radical. “It’s difficult to do it legitimately because of the health and safety issues,” he added.

“But if we can pay for improvements ourselves, and spend our time doing it, then why shouldn’t we improve things?

“I was nervous at first; that’s why we do it at night. This isn’t a radical movement; it’s a bit of fun. We should all take responsibility in our own environments.”

Visit [www.guerrillagardening.org](http://www.guerrillagardening.org) for further information.