HOW TO CREATE A WEBSITE

Before you create a website, you need 3 important things

1. A Domain name i.e. abacusflowerclub.com
2. A Web Host – The area to where you publish your site.
3. A Website builder/

Choose Your Way to Build
Your choice of tool depends on your technical skill and what kind of site you want to make:

- **All-in-One Website Builders** (*Wix, Squarespace*): Best for beginners and small businesses. They include hosting, templates, and drag-and-drop editors with zero coding required. [1, 2, 3]
- **Content Management Systems** (*WordPress.org*): Best for flexibility, blogs, and growing businesses. It powers a massive share of the internet and lets you customize deeply using themes and plugins. [1, 2]
- **E-Commerce Platforms** (*Shopify*): Best if you are selling physical or digital products online. [1, 2]
- **Hand-Coding** (*HTML, CSS, JavaScript*): Best for complete custom control, though it requires heavy programming knowledge and manual setup for security and performance. [1]

Step-by-Step Launch Checklist

1. **Define your purpose:** Decide if your site is a portfolio, a blog, a local business page, or an online store.
2. **Secure your domain and hosting:** Purchase your web address and set up your hosting plan (some hosts bundle a free domain for the first year).
3. **Select and customize a template:** Pick a mobile-responsive design that matches your brand colors, fonts, and style.
4. **Create essential pages:** Build a Home page, About page, Services/Products page, and a Contact page with a clear call-to-action.
5. **Test and publish:** Check how your site looks on both desktop and mobile devices, make sure links work, and click publish. [1, 2, 3, 4]

When you chose your web host and there are lots out there, check their packages offered. Most these days will allow you to search for a domain name that suite you and you can choose the prefix .com, .co.uk, .org or .net. Be aware that some prefixes cost more than others. Then chose the package that suits your needs and your club's wallet

There is a cost for the hosting, some offer special introductory offers such as WIX whereby you can get the hosting for 3 years and a free domain name for a year.

Most Flower Clubs would only need the 'lite' option, but check the amount of storage you get with this. It may mean you cannot upload loads and loads of photos but you can manage by ensuring your information and data is kept up to date.