



MILNGAVIE IN BLOOM ANNUAL REPORT 2024



The Heather Bed

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Scottish Charity No. SC041480

The 2023 AGM at St Joseph's Church Hall saw the departure of three valued members of the committee : Evelyn Parbrook, Helen Martin and John Davies. Evelyn had served for many years and was Convenor of the Gardening Group. Robin Orr was coopted to assist Norman as Treasurer and Janet Bowman joined the committee as Fund-raising Convenor. After the official business, Stuart McFarlane a Mugdock Park Ranger gave an interesting talk about his work.

The volunteers were busy with the autumn planting and the annual leaf clearance, when we were assisted again by the Community Service Volunteers who took the leaves to the compost areas beside the shed. Now that Jaw Brew has ceased brewing, we no longer have a supply of spent hops. The year finished with the Reindeer Parade when we were invited to take a leading part in the procession through the town.



For the first time, we had a stall outside Tesco to sell calendars. We sold almost 450 calendars this year and are grateful to the team led by Craig Kennedy.



After a generally mild winter, we met for our Winter Warmer in St Andrew's Church Hall at the end of January; a great opportunity to meet up after the winter break, and we were joined again by our MP, Amy Callaghan.

The Gardeners meeting took place in February in the United Free Church Hall to discuss the year's programme. The first meeting of In Bloom groups organised by EDC took place in November and was followed by a walkabout in February when we pointed out areas of concern to Council officers. Some action was taken very quickly, and we feel that we have a good relationship with EDC. We continue to be a member of Milngavie Umbrella Group, which comprises the main voluntary groups in the town and the Lennox Park Working Group. Our main contribution so far has been the planting of bulbs in various parts of the park in the autumn for several years. We also continue our annual Snowdrop Appeal dividing and spreading throughout town and park.

Despite the poor weather, the floral displays in the town have been outstanding with a new team responsible for the railing planters. The summer planting took place in May, assisted by the BID, which has been renewed for another four years after a successful ballot of local businesses.

This year, the Community bed outside the Fraser Centre has been the responsibility of Cancer Research who with our help laid out a "Barbies and Ken display" to represent people living with cancer. Although we have had plenty of rain, the bowser has been needed on many occasions and we are very grateful to our dedicated bowser operator, Jim Walker.



In May, we received a visit from Beautiful Scotland mentor, John McLennan, who gave useful advice, particularly with regard to Mugdock Road car park. He also visited Allander Road who are registered with Its Your Neighbourhood; he awarded the local group the top category of Outstanding and also commended the beds alongside the West Highland Way,

which have been enhanced by the local MIB/ Ramblers Group. The Carers Link Garden has been improved this year with a donation from the charity. Our station team continue to do excellent work both outside and inside the area and Scotrail hung new MIB hanging baskets to replace the old ones.



Our bonny wee station train



new planting on the West Highland way

Progress has been made on two new projects. At Mugdock Road carpark, EDC has allowed us to start work on the rear and long bed after a delay due to the installation of new electric charging points. In June and July work party volunteers from Morgan Stanley Finance and the Gardening Group cleared a large areas of vegetation. These will be treated twice over winter by EDC for removal of perennial weeds. In 2025 EDC will plant a Pictorial Meadow turf in the rear bed and MIB will plant herbs in the long bed.



At the Antonine Garden, the plan to erect a statue of a Roman Soldier received a grant from the Community Fund, which MIB has agreed to match fund. Janet Bowman and Douglas Cameron lead this project and it is hoped that the installation work will take place later this year.

At the beginning of June MIB took part in Milngavie Week again with a successful Plant Sale and Floral Walks using our Floral Trail leaflet, which is available at outlets around the town.



Our summer Afternoon Tea took place in July at the Fraser Centre to thank our volunteers for their work; the theme was Celebration and Cake. Apart from adult volunteers, we have had help from cubs, nursery children and Duke of Edinburgh Awarders.

Most of these have helped Clean Sweep, which has continued its vital work twice a month throughout the year. Sheena Maclachlan, Cleansweep Convenor has good links with EDC who uplift litter when requested. To help with the transport of heavy bags of rubbish, we have ordered some trolleys.



Big Clean Sweep April 2024

We have a new range of gift cards for sale, two of which are local views and the rest flowers from our gardens.



As we approach our next AGM on October 3rd, we are looking for more volunteers in all areas of work and especially the committee. Helping Milngavie in Bloom keep the town looking so good is very rewarding and we are very grateful for the help and encouragement which we receive from the public, local businesses and partner agencies. We also took part in Fair of Clubs events in the Town Hall in February and September to promote our work and raise our volunteering opportunities. This year we also invested in new publicity material in the form of a new banner, tablecloths, and even branded aprons! Milngavie Library also allowed us space for 2 months for a changing display of 'before and after' photographs.

