



MILNGAVIE IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026

Welcome to the MiB Spring Newsletter. We hope you'll enjoy reading about what's been happening since October's AGM and the plans we have for the coming months to keep Milngavie a clean and green place.

What's Been Happening

Autumn Gardening Tasks

As usual, the gardening year came to an end with the clearing of the various planters in the town centre and restocking them with plants for the Winter and early Spring. The benefits were evident in the WHW railing planters this March.



This was followed by more bulb planting in Lennox Park, this time of crocuses along the path from Tesco's and on the slope below the swings.

And then of course there was the annual leaf clearing on the Station steps. Assisted by EDC and the Community Payback guys, two truckloads were shifted to the leaf mould containers at the Shed. If nothing else, it gave Douglas the chance to play with the leaf-blower!



Clean Sweep

For our litter pickers, Winter doesn't bring much respite beyond a short shutdown over the festive season. And, of course it's the same old, same old because the litterers don't stop either. While gardeners can admire the fruits of their labours for months, Clean Sweepers get 24 hours if they're lucky.



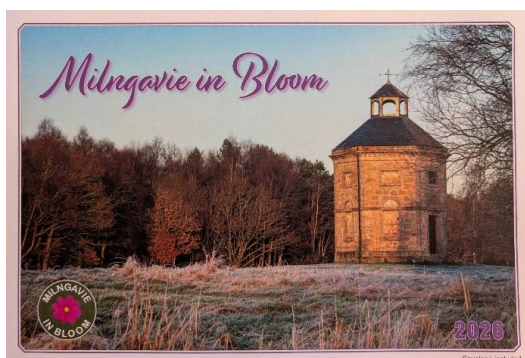
Reindeer Parade

As ever, November's festive parade brought huge numbers of people into Milngavie. MiB was well represented complete with banner and festive attire walking through the packed precinct just ahead of Santa's sleigh.



MiB Calendar

The team of Moira Clark, Helen Martin and Avril Salt did a brilliant job on the 2026 MiB Calendar. The 450 copies sold like hot cakes raising over £2300 net of expenses and not counting 'keep the change' donations. An impressive 11 members volunteered to man the stall on the sale day at Tesco in November aided by the use of a card payment machine for the first time.



Poppy Display

November also saw MiB dress the Fraser Centre bed with its customary display of knitted poppies for Remembrance Day.



Although it still looked good, it was apparent that much of the display needed replacing. Joanne Caldwell is now heading a refreshment project in time for next November. This will include replacing the matting and repairing the wreaths. Joan Crawford is overseeing the creation of 2000 new poppies by local knitters. If anyone would like to get involved contact joanne.e.caldwell@btinternet.com

Winter Warmer

On 24 January, we held a soup-and-savouries lunch to thank all our volunteers for their hard work over the previous year. Over 50 members attended and we were pleased to welcome Marie McNair MSP and two visitors who are setting up a litter-picking group in Clydebank.

Thanks are due to all those (around 30 people!) who helped organise and run the event.



Volunteers' Meeting

Over 30 members, including some new to MiB and Milngavie's Community Wardens, came to this annual get-together on 26 February. It was members' chance to hear about past achievements and future plans and to have their say about MiB activities.

Douglas gave a Health & Safety presentation and reported on a session led by Milngavie First Responders on CPR and the use of defibrillators which several MiB members attended (*pictured below*).



The Boring Bit – SCIO Status

As the reader may recall, we set up MiB as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation last July but it was largely dormant and MiB carried on with its activities as an unincorporated association. That changed on 9 March 2026 with the notice to members that all the assets and liabilities of the old MiB had been transferred to the SCIO and that the old MiB had been wound up and dissolved. That means that MiB now operates entirely as a SCIO. Application has been made to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator to have the old MiB removed from the charities register.

Members won't notice much difference on the ground but they will see changes to the MiB website and Facebook and the Committee is reviewing all MiB policies to ensure compliance with its new status. New Health & Safety and Safeguarding policies are already in place and can be found on the MiB website at www.milngavieinbloom.org/useful-links-2

The current MiB Committee comprises: Janet Bowman (Chair), Robin Orr (Treasurer), Ian Mitchell (Secretary), Moira Clark (Minutes Secretary and Calendar Convenor), Joanne Caldwell (Social Media), Ina Cameron (Gardening Convenor), Sheena MacLachlan (Clean Sweep Convenor), Douglas Cameron (Volunteer Convenor), Sylvia Tate (Gardening Talks).



Telephone Box

MiB's phone box in the precinct has had a makeover in recent months. Branches overhanging it have been cut back and an electricity supply established so that it shows to much greater effect. Bearsden Men's Shed have repainted the box and are currently working on fixing loose panels and sorting a damp problem.

The box is decorated with seasonal displays throughout the year and is a great advert for MiB and a delight for young and old. None of this would happen without the sterling efforts of Ina Cameron, Thelma Will and others and we owe a debt of gratitude to Ina for saving it for the town.

East Dunbarton Council Walkround

Another February event was the tour of MiB's main work areas with EDC's Stephen Egan and Jane McArdle. MiB has a very good working relationship with EDC. They value the work we do highly and have already started to action some of the points raised on the walkround. The shrubbery at Enterprise House has been reduced, repairs to the wall at Kirk Wynd are to be ordered, abandoned umbrella holders in the precinct have been removed and the empty tree pits there should be replanted in the autumn. We await progress on repairing the edging of the circular beds at the South Mains Road shops and the entrance to Lennox Park opposite before MiB takes them over.

The MiB Shed

As many readers will know, the former Youth Centre at the Mugdock Road Car Park has a new tenant. This has implications for the MiB shed behind the YC building. Initially, EDC wanted to relocate the shed entirely but after discussions with us they have agreed to leave the shed where it is.

However, the tenancy agreement required that the water and electricity supply to the MiB shed be turned off. The Committee is talking to the new tenant who is amenable to restoring the services for us.

The YC building requires substantial repairs and the new business – a gym – is unlikely to open before June 2026. Until then access to the shed will be possible but somewhat restricted and the services will remain switched off for the time being.



The Antonine Garden

Despite having had a hectic time of it last Summer with the installation of the Roman Centurion, the Antonine Garden have been hard at it again this Spring. Besides normal maintenance, they have done a thorough overhaul of the bog garden and constructed new compost bins from pallets.



BSI Litter Pick

A team from BSI Group offered their services to MiB as part of its community involvement work. They were provided with litter picks and bags and cleaned up the path from the Tennis Club to the Rangers ground and along the Allander Walkway (*pictured right*). They collected 6 bags of rubbish and finished off their morning with lunch at Dobbies



Sometimes (*left*) the litter is too much even for MiB Clean Sweepers to deal with!

What's Coming Up

New Greenhouse

The MiB Committee has given the go-ahead for replacement of the greenhouse behind the shed at the former Youth Centre. This will be a 'proper' greenhouse and its larger size and extra shelving will enable more plants to be brought on. It will be available to all gardening volunteers and Karen Flynn will manage its use.

Unfortunately, as the picture below shows, access to the whole shed area is limited. That means it's not going to be possible – or wise given the chances of damage – to install the new greenhouse while the YC repair works are going on.



Gardening Talks and Workshops

This year we're trying something new for our members. We're organising what we hope will be a series of gardening talks and workshops. The first is likely to be a workshop conducted by Caulders of Kirkintilloch. Details are yet to be finalised but it will probably be on the subject of hanging baskets in St Andrew's Church Hall in May. Members will be given full details nearer the time.



Community Bed 2026

Once again, MiB is registered with Keep Scotland Beautiful in the Non-judged Category. The theme for what is KSB's diamond jubilee year, is People Power, a Sustainable Future for Volunteering. The bed will be re-planted in May with Milngavie Pipe Band as this year's partner organisation.



Working with Young People

MiB often receives requests from children's organisations to help with its work. Just now, we're in the process of arranging sessions for bulb planting, litter picking etc. with Lullaby Lane Nursery, Milngavie Beavers and Lochiel Cubs. Also, the customary approaches by students within the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme have started to come in. All our contact with children will be carried out in strict accordance with our safeguarding policy.

Milngavie Week 2026

As usual, MiB will be supporting Milngavie Week (*pictured left*) by running a plant stall on 6 June. Donations of plants will be most welcome. We'll also be organising Floral Walks and offering litter-picking and gardening opportunities on 10 June. Look out for the full Milngavie Week programme in May. Let's hope we get the lovely sunny weather for the opening day that we've become accustomed to.