



Milngavie in Bloom Newsletter

Spring 2025

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about what Milngavie in Bloom has been doing since last October and our plans for the coming months. We hope you will agree that Milngavie in Bloom continues to make a significant contribution to making Milngavie a pleasant place to live and to visit.

What's been happening



Planting for Spring in Lennox Park

Last autumn we planted more crocuses in Lennox Park near the slide and daffodils on the bank beside the path in Lennox Park helped by volunteers from Morgan Stanley.

While the Gardeners rest from November until February, the Clean Sweepers carry on as usual.

A typical report on a work session for Clean Sweep

No of volunteers: 27

No of bags of litter: 38

Areas covered: Precinct, children's playground, car parks, RBS, BoS, Garvies, Mugdock, Library, Ellengowan, station, Town Hall, Lillie Art Gallery, Clober Rd, Balvie Road, Stewart St, Main Rd, Strathblane Rd, Douglas Academy paths, Tesco paths, recycling area, Antonine Gdn, Craighton Rd, Hunter Rd, Southmains area, Prestonfield, Castlemains area, Lennox Park, Craigielea park, West Highland Way, Gymboree car park, Craigdhu Rd, Nuffield centre, Lynn Dr, St Paul's church, Carbeth Rd. Auchenhowie Rd.

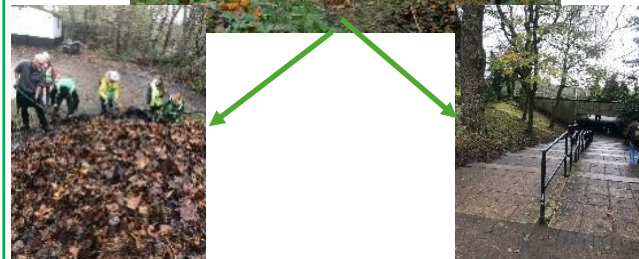
Litter collected: The usual litter mostly, cans, bottles, pot noodle tubs, vapes, sweetie papers. Car parks continuing to be the worst. Heavy litter near RBS. Again, some clothing found at the library car park with labels on.

Comments: Our wee trolleys seem to be helpful. Drinking den found off Hunter Road 30 odd cans and rubbish left lying about. Stray trolleys rounded up around the area.



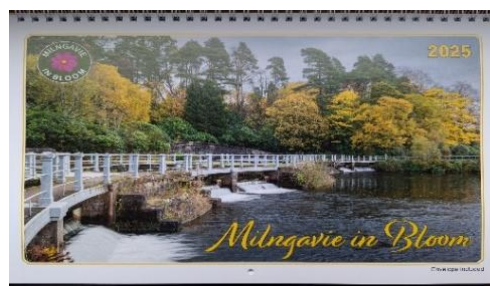
Big Leaf Clear – Nov 2024

Clearing the leaves at the steps down to the station marked the end of the Gardeners' year. This year the leaves were cleared to our own leaf pile beside the hut. We appreciated the help of Duke of Edinburgh volunteers and Community Payback participants.



MIB Calendars

425 MIB Calendars for 2025 were sold, raising £2000. Particularly successful was the stall at Tesco in November. Thanks to the Calendar Team for all their hard work in producing such an excellent photographic record of blooming Milngavie.



Reindeer Parade – Nov 2024

This was well supported by both participants and spectators despite the poor weather and icy conditions. Milngavie in Bloom had the honour of leading off the parade with the reindeer, always favourites, bringing up the rear. Some giant-sized visitors added colour and fun to the event.



Promoting MIB

Douglas and Ina Cameron have given talks to local groups St Paul's Men's Group, Gartocharn Gardening Club and Bearsden Cross Church Guild. This all helps to promote Milngavie in Bloom and, perhaps, gets people to think about volunteering. The best way to recruit is by word of mouth and everyone is encouraged to take every opportunity to do this.

Big Clean Sweep 15th March

Milngavie in Bloom supported Keep Scotland Beautiful's nationwide Big Clean Sweep a little early. We were delighted to be joined by Duke of Edinburgh participants. There was a good turn out on a beautiful day with approx. 37 bags of litter lifted. Refreshments at the Fraser Centre were enjoyed afterwards.



Phone box

Meet Esther the Easter Bunny who has taken up residence in the phone box. Thanks to Ina Cameron and Thelma Will for creating such a cheery seasonal display before the phone box undergoes renovation by Bearsden & Milngavie's Mens' Shed.



Winter Warmer - Feb 2025

About 60 volunteers and invited guests attended this Soup & Savouries lunch in St Andrew's Church Hall. There was lots of chat, a free tombola, a quiz, plants to take away, cards for sale and even more chat.

There was a large team of helpers making it all happen, six of whom modelled our green aprons



Volunteers' Meeting – Feb 2025

The Volunteers' Meeting replaced the Gardeners' Meeting to give all volunteers, Gardeners and Clean Sweepers, a forum for sharing ideas and concerns as well as finding out about issues that affect us all.

Douglas Cameron donned his hard hat and took us through Health & Safety issues. If you weren't able to attend, you will find our Health & Safety Policy on the website www.milngavieinbloom.org.

Goodbyes

Sadly, Norman Macleod died in December and Diane Black died in February. Both have contributed an exceptional amount of time and energy to Milngavie in Bloom and will be greatly missed.



Working with EDC

EDC are supportive of the work of Milngavie in Bloom and have helped us with the following:

- The supply of green bin bags for Clean Sweep
- Spraying of Mugdock Rd Car Park border
- Repair of paving slabs at Antonine Gdn
- Supplying primulae for the beds outside the Fraser Centre
- Bringing together the In Bloom groups in East Dunbartonshire
- A walk round with members of the Streetscene team to identify areas of concern (see below).

Walkround – March 2025

Stephen Egan and Jane McArdle from EDC joined Tim Rhead, Ina Cameron, Sandra Wilson and Janet Bowman for a 2 hour walk around Milngavie to look at what Milngavie in Bloom does, concentrating on areas where we need the help of EDC. Stops were made at



- the Station bed to see the poor drainage and problem of people trampling the corners
- Kirk Wynd bed to see the broken wall
- Mugdock Rd Car Park to discuss the Council laying wildflower matting at the north end and Milngavie in Bloom planting a herb border on the east side
- the Community Centre to see the excellent work of the Community Development Trust in developing the pond and emphasise the importance of this Milngavie asset
- the Italian Garden & the West Highland Way to admire what has been achieved and explain how this has been done
- the Precinct & the Community Bed to explain how the displays are created and maintained and to talk about the work of Clean Sweep. (A green bin bag of litter was conveniently on display beside a litter bin). The possibility of a more permanent edge to the Community Bed was discussed
- the bed opposite the ex-Post Office to discuss moving planters and building a wall to create a raised bed
- the Antonine Garden to point out broken slabs, explain the Centurion Statue project and ask about creating compost heaps

We all felt the walk round was very worthwhile and thank Steven Egan and Jane McArdle for their willingness to help MIB whether it is in giving us permission to do things, advising us or accessing Council resources on our behalf.

What's coming up

Italian Garden

The Italian Garden/Allander Rd sub-group have plans to make the circular bed at the foot of the stairs to the flats into a heather bed re-using plants which are in the barrels at present and also to plant sunflower seeds at the back wall there. They also hope to send a newsletter round the houses in the estate to let them know what they do, and asking if people would like to join them. They have renewed their involvement in the It's Your Neighbourhood Campaign, through Beautiful Scotland for 2025. In 2024, the group achieved Level 5 Outstanding and Certificate of Distinction.



Milngavie Library

Staff in the Library want to start a gardening group there and have asked for advice from Milngavie in Bloom. This has been given. While we will not be involved in this project, we will liaise with them and offer any further advice.

Working with other groups

We meet regularly with representatives from local groups as part of the Milngavie Umbrella Group. We coordinate and cooperate with the Lennox Park Working Group, Milngavie Community Development Trust, Milngavie Heritage Centre, the Business Improvement District.

Community Bed 2025

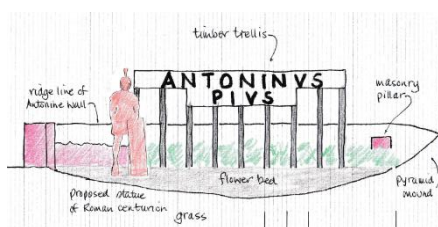
We are registered with Keep Scotland Beautiful (non-judged category). Their theme for 2025 is 'Nature & Biodiversity'. We are delighted to be partnering the Fraser Centre to produce a centrepiece in the village which celebrates this theme. The design is well under way. Planting will take place in May.

Antonine Garden

We are delighted to announce that contracts have been signed for the fabrication and installation of a 2m tall statue of a Roman Centurion beside the trellis in the Antonine Garden. It will be made of corten steel and be similar in style to the Walking Man. It has been a long haul to get to this stage. Thanks go to Douglas Cameron who has masterfully, master-minded the project and to Ina for not complaining about the many hours this is taking. The foundations should be started in early April with an unveiling ceremony being planned for mid-June.

We have moved plants temporarily to allow installation but hope to have the garden looking good again by the summer.

Replanting is also planned for the bog garden where yellow flag iris and marsh marigolds had taken over. Most of these have been cleared and a variety of plants introduced to the margins. The centre will be planted once the ground is less pond like.



The vision



First step - clear the bed

Plant sale in Milngavie Week

We will be having a **Plant Stall at the Classic Car Show in the precinct on Saturday 7th June** as part of Milngavie Week. This is a great way of raising awareness of our work. If you can help by sowing annual plants, or dividing perennials or want to volunteer to man the stall then contact any of the Gardening Group champions – Ina, Evelyn, Hugh, Thelma, Helen, Karen, Anne or Sandra on a work day.



If you are a new volunteer we also have a **Gardeners' WhatsApp Group** – contact Sheila Cook to join and keep up to date as the year progresses.

Precinct Planters

The planters are looking good with pansies cheerily blooming. All plants will be looking for a new home in May when the planters are replanted.

Floral Walks

Leaflets are available from our website, at the station, the library and from Sylvia Tate. Take your friends or family on the walk and be surprised at how many areas Milngavie in Bloom tends. We'll be leading some walks during Milngavie Week. If you want to volunteer to help lead the walks contact Chair Tim Rhead.



**** Urgent - Snowdrop Appeal 2025 ****

Help us by lifting and dividing your snowdrops after flowering.

Please leave bags of snowdrops behind the old Youth Centre in Mugdock Rd Car Park. If you would like us to collect, email us at milngavie-in-bloom@hotmail.co.uk

Thank You!



Your Committee until Oct 2025

Chair: Tim Rhead
Vice-chair: Janet Bowman
Treasurer: Robin Orr
Secretary: Ian Mitchell
Minutes Secretary: Moira Clark
Social Media: Joanne Caldwell
Volunteer Convenor: Douglas Cameron
Gardening Convenor: Ina Cameron
Clean Sweep Convenor: Sheena MacLachlan
Committee member: Sylvia Tate

Thanks to all the above for taking on this extra role to keep Milngavie in Bloom running and developing.

We hope you have enjoyed finding out what Milngavie in Bloom has been doing recently and is planning for the near future. Thanks to all volunteers for keeping Milngavie clean and in bloom.