



## Spring Newsletter 2022

At last it is Spring in Milngavie and we have been enjoying some fine weather.



Work began on the West Highland Way on the 17<sup>th</sup> February with the Ramblers and the Spring flowers have been very welcome.



The daffodils in Lennox Park are now flowering but they don't appear to be the variety as sold! However they will bulk up and we hope to expand our bulb plantings as part of a wider development to upgrade the park with the Milngavie Community Development Trust and other interested local groups.

## Italian Garden

The Italian Garden benefited from the Beautiful Scotland It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme mentorship since 2018 achieving a Level 5 Award for Outstanding and Certificate of Distinction . After all that hard work The Allander Road Residents are now moving to an ongoing maintenance programme.



## Spring Get Together



We held a **Spring Get Together** on February 24<sup>th</sup> in the United Free Church with delicious home baking and updated everyone about our work and future plans. We are in the non-judged category with Beautiful Scotland with an emphasis on maintaining all our areas to a high standard. Plans are already progressing working with our community partners. Craighdu Primary School will be assisted to plant up the Community Bed with a Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee theme. We have been asked to help the Beavers at the Scout Hall with easy

planting and Evelyn Parbrook, Gardening Group Convenor has visited the Burnbank Sheltered Housing Complex at the request of the warden to assist tidying up their area. Colours suggested for this year include purple/platinum or red, white and blue for the Jubilee. Yellow and blue in support of Ukraine. Sunflowers which are always popular and are Ukraine's national flower are being grown to plant in the village and will also be handed out to children as part of **our stall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June** when the BID is again running the **Classic Car Show**. If you can sow and grow any plants these will be most welcome. We have been fortunate in receiving donations of plants from our local supermarkets and are also nurturing them on for our areas - but they sometimes need a bit of extra TLC! We also

welcomed many Spring bulb donations which have been brightening up our areas and cleared rubble left by the workmen around the Fraser Centre beds.

We took part in the Reindeer Parade in late November and had a visit to Jaw Brew in February to learn about their brewing process. Milngavie in Bloom use their spent hops in our compost bins which means we can use this to make leafmould. This provides our gardeners with material which we can then use as a mulch and soil conditioner.



Composted leaf mould we started in 2020 will save us money this year and will be used to top up our beds and barrels and Hugh and the team have been tidying and reorganising the Tool Shed. We put out our usual Snowdrop Appeal and **an appeal for new volunteers to expand our watering team** who do such a valuable role keeping our areas watered in the summer using our new electric bowser. If

you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the team contact Chair Tim Rhead.

*Photo: Mark Hazell, owner of Jaw Brew, demonstrating spent hops to Tim and Sandra.*

## Volunteer Convenor

We welcome Heather Lindsay to the role of Volunteer Convenor. She builds on the excellent work of Tam Spaeth in this post and is the contact for all new volunteers to both Gardening and Clean Sweep. In 2021 we upgraded our health & safety information and it has been added to our website. New volunteers will be provided with tabards and a new set of gardening gloves and directed to new safety spectacles housed in the shed for their individual use. Heather will soon be taking new volunteers on a walk round all our areas and will have a coffee break at Gavin's Mill. Signs have been updated in all our areas but some do get vandalised so please report any needing replaced to Sandra Wilson. We have a **What's App group for the Gardeners** where we share plant photos and can quickly address any issues that might arise. If you wish to join this group contact Sheila Cook who is the administrator. Formal suggestions for improvements are welcomed by contacting the Chair Tim Rhead or any of the committee.



*Tam Spaeth with new volunteers at Gavin's Mill Spring 2021*

## Railing Planters



Diane Black and her team now look after an amazing 50 railing planters and she brings on plug plants early for us in her greenhouse. Gavin's Mill asked her to add some new ones in the autumn into their new courtyard area to the rear of the building. They have now asked her to do a **demo of planting up a hanging basket and a trough on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.**

## Easter and Arts and Crafts

Diane has created a lovely Easter display in the telephone box and Ina Cameron and a small team have created crafted floral pots which have been placed outside some of the shops. Diane continues to gather arts and craft materials for our varied stalls throughout the year and has a knitting pattern available for any crafters who would like to assist her. She welcomes help with any ideas for children for these stalls, either with planting or crafting.

## Milngavie in Bloom Gift Cards & Calendar

We sold our new range of gift cards at the Spring Get Together taken with photographs of our blooms by Ian Mitchell who also takes our calendar photographs. If you wish to purchase any they are £2.50 each from Sandra Wilson. We are still looking for a **volunteer to be our Calendar Production Manager and work with our already established sales team.** Please contact Chair Tim Rhead if this is something you might be interested in helping with. The calendar is our major fundraiser and is very popular and sells out fast!

## Gift Cards For Sale



## Spring Big Clean Sweep – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 10am Gavin's Mill

It's been two years since we held our **Big Clean Sweep** and we want to make it a big success this year.



Our Clean Sweep Convenor Sheena Maclachlan will have everything organised. She has been heartened by the continuing support from old and new volunteers. The Rangers Academy Boys did their first litter pick on 9<sup>th</sup> March and the head teacher at Douglas Academy has organised a team to tackle litter on the path leading to the school. Trainees working on the Caledonia Water contract helped us remove rubble from the Fraser Centre beds recently too.

*Our best wishes from all the committee and happy sowing and growing and litter picking in the next few months.....*