



Newsletter – Summer 2020

A Very Big Thank You

In spite of the biggest lockdown in our history and during a pandemic, our wonderful volunteers, who were not shielding, rose to the challenge. Keeping to our core principles of keeping Milngavie 'green and clean' we cannot thank them enough for gardening and cleaning during such difficult times. Using our daily exercise and self-distancing we were able to enjoy maintaining all our areas except inside the station where access was off limits. We



were blessed with a beautiful warm, sunny, dry spring and able to transition to summer planting after all as lockdown eased. Caulders and the BID improved the fish pass together with MiB, and provided plants for the floral fountains. In all other areas our volunteers sowed seeds and acquired plants. Even some in flats brought on sunflowers on window sills! The community bed celebrates the 50th anniversary of

Allander Rotary and we have tried to create a floral rainbow in support of the NHS and key workers. Of course we were disappointed to have to cancel social events and especially entering the RHS Britain in Bloom competition, but hopefully this can take place in 2021. We can now return to our monthly work session dates from July onwards and look forward to welcoming some new volunteers including those who have come on board during lockdown.

Lockdown Clean Sweep

Thanks to all our volunteers for their continued efforts in keeping the village and surrounding areas clean during lockdown. It has been a big challenge with takeaway litter and we draw your attention to new Beautiful Scotland guidelines available on our website. Volunteers had to use their own bags but green bags from the council are now kindly being held for us at Baxters Newsagents as the Fraser Centre is closed. We are indebted to Calum Macneill who single handedly cleared along the Allander Water and the council for taking away this debris. This was mentioned in the Beautiful Scotland newsletter as a 'lockdown inspirational story'.



Photograph Appeal



If there has been one benefit during lockdown it has been the marvellous spring sunshine and many of the areas in the village have been spectacular. The deer ate a lot of the tulips but the ones in the Graeme Bed and the planters were still a success.

We welcome **landscape photographs** so that we can use them on the website and in the fundraising calendar for later in the year as summer progresses into autumn.

New Leaflet

We had copies of our new leaflet printed during lockdown. They are currently in storage but will be distributed to areas of the village as more places open up to the public. In the meantime you can view it on the website and we are going to use the telephone box to display a copy, as well as highlight all our areas, not just those in the precinct.



Keeping up to date



Keep in touch by regularly checking our website and Facebook pages. News and events are being updated by Fiona Lawrie. The committee are now meeting online using ZOOM which is a new challenge! Our **minutes**, a new **donations page** and a copy of our **new leaflet** are available to view. www.milngavieinbloom.org

Happy Birthday!



Many of our volunteers who had birthdays or anniversaries during lockdown were unable to celebrate as normal. Two of our volunteers, however, celebrated big birthdays and the committee sent a bouquet of flowers to them both. Jenny, our founder, who was 90 on the 9th May, also received a cake. A self-distanced group of volunteers and neighbours sang Happy Birthday that helped to lift all our spirits. It was nice to see everyone smartly dressed for the occasion and not in gardening clothes for a change!! Margaret MacBain who was the former Clean Sweep convener also celebrated a milestone birthday. The celebrations will be held next year.

Virtual Gardens



Gardens have started to open again and with travel restrictions easing we hope to get out and get some inspiration and help their funds. One of the benefits of lockdown was the opportunity to visit gardens virtually including the Chelsea Flower Show.

Here are some suggestions for you.

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (including Benmore, Logan and Dawyck)

<https://www.rbge.org.uk/visit/virtual-summer/virtual-summer-at-edinburgh/>

Scotland's Gardens Scheme

https://scotlandsgardens.org/whats-new/?tag_id=213

Discover Scottish Gardens Summer Festival

<https://www.discoverscottishgardens.org/summergardenfestival/>

National Garden Scheme <https://ngs.org.uk/virtual-garden-visits/>

Moving Forward



We took the decision to cancel our July coffee morning, plant sale and small exhibition and we are awaiting further guidance before planning our AGM. We will keep you informed and hope we can meet up in person soon.

In the meantime keep gardening and litter picking safely during the summer.