



Newsletter – Winter 2021

We hope you are coping with the winter lockdown and planning ahead for warmer days and a bit of freedom when we get our vaccines. The snow was brief but beautiful, and our photographers were busy as we always need photographs for the next calendar. Here's a lovely photograph of the snow on Dougalston Golf Course taken by John Davies, our new Grant Fundraiser.



Leaf Clearing



We held 2 leaf clearing sessions in November and Hugh Campbell is turning them into leaf mould for us to spread on our borders in future. Here you can see him in action with Ina!

Clean Sweep

Due to Covid regulations we are currently litter picking in our own time and reporting back to Sheena Maclachlan, our new Clean Sweep Convenor. She wishes to thank all the volunteers who are dealing with a lot of litter and drinking dens, and if you require more green bags she can provide them for you.

Telephone Box

A big thankyou to Diane who decorated the telephone box for Christmas and made it look very festive.

Calendar Sales

We were not able to hold any social events or a plant stall in 2020 but we managed to sell 400 calendars through our volunteers and local shops. A big thank you to everyone who helped raise funds at this difficult time.

Mugdock Road Planter



Our new planter was planted up before Christmas with a range of shrubs and some polyanthus donated by the council. Thank you to our volunteers for their assistance. These were also gifted to some of our other areas in the town and should be growing well by the Spring.

Moving Forward in 2021

Sadly we cannot hold our usual Winter Warmer or our annual Gardening Meeting Update in February this year. However, both the Gardening Group and the committee are meeting by Zoom and making plans to 'sow and grow' to fill our areas as we did last year. Volunteers are very welcome to help us in these endeavours and we know from last year that we can keep the village looking beautiful in 2021. Get in touch with any of the Gardening Group if you have green fingers or suggestions.

Snowdrop Appeal – over the years we have added snowdrops to the town, especially along the West Highland Way. If you are lifting and dividing snowdrops after flowering please drop them behind the Tool Shed in a box and we'll find a good home for them. They really help to brighten the village and are best planted 'in the green.'



'Milling about Milngavie'

In the autumn we welcomed new committee members and as a form of induction took them on a socially distanced tour of all our areas. We updated the ***'Milling about Milngavie'*** document which has now been added to our website. Started by Douglas Cameron, our former Chair for our 10th anniversary in 2018, it makes an excellent guided walk with local history information. It would make good daily exercise as the Spring planting pushes through.

A Warm Welcome

We thought it would be a good time to introduce you to the committee and especially our new Chair Tim Rhead.

Tim Rhead, Chair (Management & Facilities)

I was born in Cheshire but have spent most of my adult life in Scotland; over 40 years in Dumbarton before moving to Milngavie in 2015 to help care for my grandson. I am married to Margot and have three children. I worked in Local Government Housing and unusually was able to walk to work most of my life. Since early retiral, I have been involved with voluntary work and am still on three committees in Dumbarton. In Milngavie, I belong to St Andrews Church, East Dunbartonshire Action for Refugees and help the Milngavie Heritage Centre. I am keen on walking, bird watching and railways and many other things. I have been impressed with Milngavie's vibrant centre and the superb floral displays but never imagined that I would become involved with a gardening organisation. I was recruited when a meeting was arranged to try to set up a gardening group at Allander Road. I enjoyed looking after my garden in Dumbarton, which was mostly trees and fruit but have no detailed knowledge about growing flowers; I am now learning from more knowledgeable gardeners! It has been a good experience helping to keep Milngavie looking so good, including litter picking. Since the pandemic started last March, outdoor activity has continued and this has been a great blessing to our volunteers and the community. I will put my best efforts into continuing the wonderful work carried out by Milngavie in Bloom.



Sandra Wilson Vice-Chair (Admin/Publicity)



I joined the committee having been on the Board of Carers Link and taken part in their 10th anniversary celebration at the Community Bed. The Gardening Group gave us lots of help and support and it was a lot of fun and led to the permanent garden which has been much enjoyed by carers, volunteers, staff and locals last year. I live in Bardowie but my children attended Douglas Academy. I began as minute secretary with hospitality and now find myself a Vice Chair with responsibilities for administration and publicity. It's been a pleasure to continue the work of previous committees in keeping Milngavie 'clean and green'. I enjoy gardening at home, my allotment and at the Carers Link Garden where our team also worked with Young

Carers teaching them how to sow seeds and make bird feeders. I really want to encourage others to volunteer, keep fit and healthy and make friends. During the pandemic our greenspaces have never been more important and our mental health is improved by working outdoors. I am keen on gardening organically, encouraging wildlife, removing litter, and also interested in improving active travel across East Dunbartonshire.

Norman Macleod (Treasurer)



I came to live in Milngavie in 1980 and I retired from my career as an accountant in 2003. As a retired accountant, I suppose it was to be expected that I would be approached by various organisations to be asked to produce or examine their annual accounts and within 12 months I was acting for 4 or 5 organisations in those roles.

Whilst I greatly admired and appreciated the efforts of Milngavie in Bloom (MIB) to enhance the appearance of the precinct and other local areas around Milngavie, I am not a gardener. However, my wife Rona, who is a keen gardener and former Clean Sweep Convenor, joined MIB soon after its inception and quickly became a member of the committee. So, when Andy Muir, my predecessor, left Milngavie in 2018 to move south, I was approached and agreed to become his replacement. It was only then that I fully appreciated the level of commitment shown by all the volunteers and I extend my grateful thanks to them for their efforts.

Evelyn Parbrook (Gardening Group Convenor/OSCR Secretary)

I'm a retired GP and have lived in Milngavie for over 50 years. I became an active member of Milngavie in Bloom in 2014 after being widowed in 2012 and downsizing from a house with a fairly large garden to a flat. Through MiB I have been able to continue my interest in gardening, to learn more, to make new friends and to help the Community in a small way. As Gardening Convenor I meet regularly with a small group of the gardeners within MiB to plan the workdays, arrange extra sessions as necessary, discuss problems, choose colour schemes for the Summer and Winter planting for precinct planters, the floral fountains, the barrels and the railing planters and arrange the sourcing of the plants. I also liaise with the organisers of special areas such as the Italian Garden, the West Highland Way and the Station Group and report on all these aspects monthly to the Committee.



Sheena Maclachlan Clean Sweep Convenor

I retired in 2011 and joined up to do Meals on Wheels for RVS where I met Diane Black who was a driver. Diane told me all about Milngavie in Bloom and when Meals stopped I decided to join. I was asked to be in the 'train station' gardening team which I enjoyed but with Covid-19 gardening was out of bounds there. I helped with Clean Sweep as often as I could and Rona asked me if I would like to take over. I'm going to do my best for Milngavie and looking forward to my new role and getting to know everyone in 2021.



Diane Black (Noticeboard Convenor)



I'm back on the committee as Noticeboard Convenor and have added the telephone box to my duties including decorating it over the festive season! I grow on a lot of plug plants for Milngavie in Bloom at home and maintain all the railings as well as masterminding the Remembrance Day at the Community Bed and fundraising efforts. It's a pleasure to continue supporting Milngavie in Bloom, albeit with social distancing at present. The support of the volunteers and committee have been very positive during this difficult time and I wish to thank them all.

Anne Crow (Community Fundraiser & Membership Secretary)

I chose to move to Milngavie over 30 years ago because of its attractive centre and village community. In the present climate I am keener than ever to support Milngavie in Bloom in its efforts to enhance our environment. Since joining the committee my main role has been to raise funds in the local community. To this end I have produced and sold greetings and Christmas cards and recruited residents to subscribe to the organisation. The regular donations through direct debits have been particularly valuable as, even in lockdown, we need to continue to purchase plants and compost to maintain our planters and flower beds. Two years ago I took over management of a subgroup of the committee to produce calendars to raise funds for the organisation. Thanks to their tremendous efforts we were able to sell all 2021 calendars before the latest lockdown at Christmas. Since early last year I have also been responsible for maintaining our membership list and circulating newsletters.



Fiona Lawrie (IT, Minute Secretary, Photographer)



pleasant place to live.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year on the committee and I now appreciate how much work goes on behind the scenes. As I am interested in all things relating to IT, I have taken on the role of Webmaster and am always looking into ways of improving the content on our website to make it more interesting and informative for both volunteers and the public. I also regularly update our Facebook page with photos of our work and information about forthcoming events. As well as my fellow committee members, I have got to know many more of our volunteers who work tirelessly to keep Milngavie a

Tam Spaeth (Volunteering Convenor)



I joined Milngavie in Bloom in 2013 after retiring from the NHS as an occupational therapist in Older Adults Mental Health. I'm passionate about litter so have embraced Clean Sweep as a great way of tackling litter in Milngavie, especially near the river and Allander pond. For the past 6 years, I've maintained the two raised beds and area around the community centre attached to Park Road Sheltered Housing. This has involved contact with local residents as well as the Day Centre which, until recently, was run by Alzheimer Scotland. I've chosen plants with bright colours, e.g. red and yellow, as they are more easily identified by people with dementia. The scent of plants has also been important, e.g. lavender. As a member of the committee, I look forward to a newly-created role as welcoming person for new and very valued volunteers. This will involve being

a point of contact, providing information about different aspects of the organisation and helping to establish links between new and experienced volunteers.

John Davies (Grant Fundraiser)

I have lived in Milngavie since 1987 and worked at the University of Glasgow until I retired as a Professor of Engineering in summer 2020. I enjoy hillwalking and cycledtouring. My interest in the environment goes back to student days, when I worked on nature reserves with the local conservation volunteers. I restarted this activity by joining the Mugdock Conservation Volunteers, just in time for Covid-19 to bring their activities to a halt. In the past I helped to run the Bearsden and Milngavie Youth Orchestra for several years.



Helen Martin (Archivist)



I grew up in rural Ayrshire, where my mother looked after a traditional garden with a vegetable plot, drying green, rose beds, and borders with a few fruit bushes, while my father grew tomatoes in the greenhouse. To my regret, I paid very little attention to their efforts and am learning from Milngavie in Bloom! I have lived in Milngavie for over 30 years and greatly appreciated the efforts of MiB to improve the environment around the town centre. I joined MiB as a volunteer several years ago and am now a committee member. I help with both gardening and litter-picking, and now look after the MiB archive, as well as compiling the annual scrapbook. I also liaise between the West Highland Way gardening group and the committee, and am a member of the MiB calendar sub-group.

Moira Clark (Committee member)



I have just joined the Milngavie in Bloom committee and have lived here for almost 30 years, with my husband Ian and daughter Catherine. I retired from my job as a town planner with West Dunbartonshire two years ago. I love to spend time outdoors – often either working in, or just sitting and enjoying my garden, which is designed to be as wildlife friendly as possible (ie a bit untidy)! I am a keen birdwatcher, and monitor the birds that visit the garden every week for the British Trust for Ornithology. I walk every day, and in this strange restricted year I am still discovering new paths in this wonderful area that we are so lucky to live in. Having been involved in beach cleans all over Scotland, we decided a little while ago to litter pick closer to home and joined Milngavie in Bloom's Clean Sweep. We now clear the whole length of Auchenhowie Road every fortnight, as well as our local streets. One of my main concerns about litter

is the effect it has on wildlife and the wider environment. Last year I helped a small team of volunteers to monitor the litter in and around the Allander Water for Keep Scotland Beautiful's Upstream Battle campaign, which aims to stop plastic waste reaching the sea from our rivers. Clean Sweep will remain my priority, but as well as serving on the committee I have also started to look after the garden at the Lillie Art Gallery.

Ian Mitchell (Committee Member)



I live with my wife Moira (who has also joined the committee). Although new to the Milngavie in Bloom committee, I have been active in the Clean Sweep arm of MiB for some time now and was part of the team that took part in the Upstream Battle survey work on the River Allander. In another life, I was a Tax Inspector for 34 years, latterly specialising in the taxation of multinationals. Since I retired in 2015, I have done a fair bit of travelling including Japan, the USA and several times to SE Asia as well as to numerous parts of Europe. I enjoy photography, gardening, philately and birdwatching and volunteer with the RSPB at the Lochwinnoch reserve.

Communications

Finally if you are feeling a bit isolated don't forget to visit our website and Facebook pages which Fiona Lawrie is keeping up to date. We must also thank Pam Gosal for her Christmas video message. We have updated our Application Form and added a Privacy Policy so we would ask you to read it. We need to use photographs to promote and raise awareness of our charity and to seek funding, but if you do not wish to appear in them in future please let us know by email at milngavie-in-bloom@hotmail.com

Best wishes for Spring 2021 and keep safe