

Beautiful Scotland 2024



BLOOMING
HADDINGTON



Haddington is an historic market town in the heart of the county of East Lothian. The county has traditionally been known as the Garden of Scotland with fertile soil along the banks of the River Tyne having been cultivated for centuries.

Blooming Haddington was created in 2013 and since then we have continued to develop different areas in the town and to developing our group.

The group's strength lies in effective partnership working, bringing together a network of businesses, community organisations and the Council, all sharing the Blooming Haddington vision for the town. We enjoys support from a number of other organisations including Amisfield Preservation Trust, St Mary's Pleasance, St Mary's Kirk, Friends of the River Tyne (FORT), Haddington History Society, Haddington Rotary, Haddington Community Council, and individuals from the community, all supported by East Lothian Council.

They all have the common aim of improving and conserving Haddington.

We look forward to welcoming the Beautiful Scotland judges to our town.

Contents

- Review of Year
 - o Summer 23
 - o Autumn/Winter 23/24
 - o Spring 24
 - Horticulture
 - Environmental
 - Community
 - Funding & Support
 - Plans for the Future
- Appendices
 - A. Press Cuttings & Social Media
 - B. Amisfield Walled Garden
 - C. St Mary's Pleasance Garden
 - D. Oriental Garden NEW
 - E. Curling Pond NEW
 - F. Community Wheelbarrow competition
 - G. Autumn colours
 - H. Spring colours



June 24

Dates of photographs on Front Page:
Aug & Sept 23, May 24

Review of the Year

Summer 2023

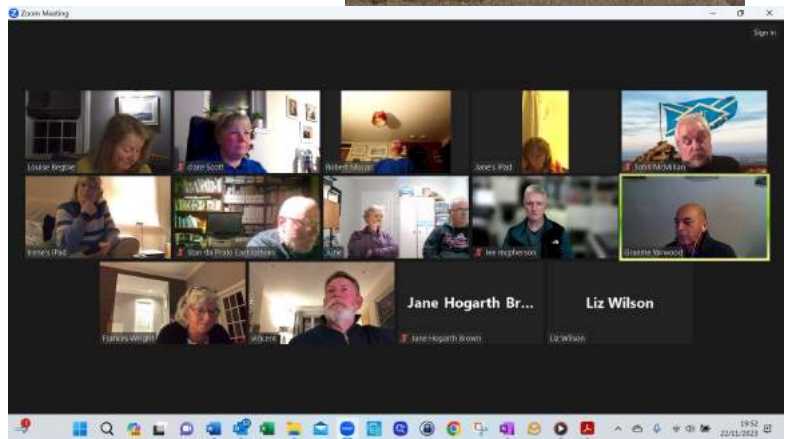
- Volunteers water baskets, planters and boxes on a rota-basis.
- Regular volunteering sessions.
- Beautiful Scotland judging day.
- Blooming Haddington Wheelbarrow competition, map of the wheelbarrows produced, judging and award presentations. (See Appendix).
- Joint show for National Vegetable Society joins with East Lothian Horticultural Society.



July, Aug & Sept 23

Autumn 2023

- Hanging baskets were taken down. Volunteers emptied the planters and added winter/spring bedding including wallflowers.
- Celebration of Bloom success in Beautiful Scotland.
- Apple picking and pressing day at Amisfield.
- On-line Blooming Haddington AGM in November. Plans for the coming year discussed and a plan for replacement of the 3-tier planters agreed.
- Bulb planting in tattie boxes.
- Keep Scotland Beautiful awards in Edinburgh.



Sept, Oct & Nov 23

Winter 2023/24

- Tour of town to highlight areas for development. Council given 'wish-list' for ongoing work.
- Haddington Rotary and other groups started clearing the Curling Pond (Appendix E).
- Maintenance sessions at Oriental garden, Lady Kitty's garden and Monument Park.
- Bulbs planted at different locations around town by Blooming Haddington and the Council.
- Finance for new planters agreed, order placed and ideas for sustainable planting debated.



Jan & Feb 24

Spring 2024

- New planters received and planted.
- Frequency of volunteering sessions stepped up. We introduced regular coffee breaks and occasional home-baking from members of our committee.
- Ongoing clearance of the old curling pond and new planting.

- FORT litter pick and Himalayan balsam removal day.
- Yarn bombing ideas and patterns shared with local groups.
- Promotion of Blooming Haddington with stalls at Amisfield's Easter egg hunt and in the town coinciding with the April Framers Market.
- New signage and planters added to mark the tree at the birthplace of John Knox.
- Amisfield plant sale with teas raised over £3,000.
- Blooming Haddington walking tours during festival week and for a group from the Scottish Wildlife Trust.



A. Horticultural

Town Centre

150 hanging baskets planted up by East Lothian Council, maintained by Blooming Haddington and composted at the end of summer.

14 three-tier planters and 6 'tattie' boxes around the town for year-round display and low-level planters around the Mercat Cross. The 3-tier planters were replaced in the spring of 2024 by 1 metre squared boxes to allow more sustainable planting and to reduce watering.

Blooming Haddington volunteers water baskets and planters throughout the summer and autumn.

Majority of shops and businesses participate by purchasing baskets or sponsoring planters. Rotary also sponsor planters.

The new plant boxes are planted with for more sustainable planting *Sarcococca confusa*, *Mahonia Soft Caress*, *Choisya Aztec Pearl*, *Choisya White Dazzler*, *Vinca minor alba*, *Anenome Andrea Atkinson*, *Anenome Honorable Jobert*, *Heuchera Electra*, *Heuchera Lime Marmalade*, *Drimys lanceolata Red Spice*, *Salvia Wendy's Wish*, *Verbena Santos* and *Gernaum Rozanne*. They are interspersed with annuals to add additional colour. Bulbs and winter bedding plants will be added to the new planters in the autumn.



Aug & Sept 23

Amisfield Walled Garden, one of the largest in Scotland, being restored by volunteers for the community. (www.amisfield.org.uk). The eight-acre garden has continued to benefit the health, well-being and education of the local community. The garden is maintained well by volunteers and has continued to develop this year with recent projects to install a new greenhouse with teaching space, redesign of the centre circle as a potager garden and fruit cages. (See Appendix B).



Oct & Dec 23, May 24

St Mary's Pleasance Garden (www.haddingtongarden.com/) Maintained for the public by Haddington Garden Trust, between St. Mary's Churchyard, Lady Kitty's Garden and Haddington House. Some of the garden's boundary walls were built by Napoleonic prisoners of war. The design reflects the features of a 17th century Scottish garden. There is a mount, a sunken garden, boxed hornbeam walk, cottage garden, orchard and meadow, period rose border and raised herb beds. The pleached allee of laburnum is its most spectacular feature in May and June. Recent developments include redesign and planting of the cottage garden, installation of new sun-dial and stone plinth in the sunken garden (made locally), and a tree planted in commemoration of the coronation of King Charles III.



Feb, May & Jun 24

Oriental Garden Small garden restored by Blooming Haddington – sloped access installed, bridge over the lade restored, beautiful wooden sign for the entrance. Bench designed and donated by a local company. This year work has focused on pruning and reshaping the willow tree, pruning the upright shoots on the cherry tree, further planting under the lime trees (alliums and hardy geraniums) and reshaped the overgrown banking in the lade. See Appendix D.



Apr & May 23

Lady Kitty's Garden, a public space, between the Nungate Bridge and St Mary's Church, with an area used to play petanque, particularly by the Twinning Association when the town hosts visitors from our twinned town Aubigny-sur-Nere. Blooming Haddington added a range of lavenders to the garden, with a French theme (albeit the lavenders are all English varieties!). Lavender varieties planted are augustifolia, Hidcote and rosea. Aubigny Auld Alliance Iris are planted close to the entrance.



Jun 23

In 2023, we worked with the Siege of Haddington Research Group to add gabion baskets to commemorate of Scotland's longest siege in the 16th century where thousands of women and men from across Europe perished. The baskets were built locally and were funded partly by the Local Area Partnership and the design incorporates wicker baskets of earth, decking and planking, behind which artillery pieces were positioned. In the summer, students from St Mary's Primary School helped the Provost lay the wreath. Representatives from Blooming Haddington, Haddington's History Society, Friends of the John Grey Centre, Haddington Pipe Band and the Scottish Battlefields Trust were all there to pay tribute to the soldiers and civilians who were killed during the siege.



July 2023

Monument Park The monument and the Giant Redwood tree dominate the garden and is quite dark in place. Thousands of bulbs (daffodils, crocus and bees mix) are planted in the lawns; seats have been added and paths upgraded. Shade-loving plants in the beds including heucherella Dayglow Pink, Brunnera macrophylla Jack Frost, Hosta France Williams, Persicaria amplexicaulis, Astilbe Bressingham Beauty and Purpurlanze, and Matteuccia struthiopteris. Heathers are planted around the monument.



Mar, Apr & Jun 23

Other Areas of Interest

Neilson Park is the central public park with perennial beds, supplemented by annual planting, maintained by East Lothian Council, with rugby, cricket and tennis pitches and children's play area.

The Council also develops and maintains numerous other prominent borders throughout the town at major junctions. The bed on the West Road, at the old railway station, was restored with wildlife friendly and sustainable planting. An Indian Bean tree marks the 50th anniversary of town's twinning with Aubigny-sur-Nere. Fencing around the bed with an innovative railway theme was installed.

Spring bulbs and annuals at the entrances to the town. This year, bulbs were added to a stretch of over 300 metres along the river bank.



Jul & Aug 23



May & Jun 24



An oak tree marks the place where John Knox reportedly was born. It was damaged very badly during Storm Arwen and the Council significantly pruned it and managed to save it. Railings around the tree have been renovated and this year, a plaque and a re-cycled planter from the town centre now mark the spot.

The bed at the old railway station is a major feature and was restored by the council with wildlife friendly and sustainable planting. Recently added fences have an innovative railway theme. Blooming Haddington added an Indian Bean to mark the 50th anniversary of town's twinning with Aubigny-sur-Nere and another tree commemorates the 100th anniversary of the return from the war of the Royal Scots regiment.

B. Environmental Responsibility

- Ponds at Oriental garden, Amisfield garden and the golf course.
- Bug hotel at the town car park.
- Sustainable planting in potato boxes and in the new planters. The 3-tier planters were donated to bloom groups around the county and to the council for a cemetery. (See photo from Aberlady below).
- Council makes significant efforts to replace annual planting with sustainable planting and to use renewable energy.
- Golf course is managed with environmental principles in mind. Fertiliser and pesticide uses are kept to a minimum and the rough areas provide habitat for wild flowers and insects including many types of bees and butterflies.
- Bat and bird boxes are in position along the river, in the woods outside Amisfield and around St Mary's Pleasance. Wild flower meadows in Amisfield Walled Garden and St Mary's Pleasance.
- Biodiversity hedge with range of native trees, shrubs, berry-bearing trees and shrubs for birds at Amisfield, planted by pupils of a local primary school.

The golf course, owned by the Council, and leased to the golf club, is managed with environmental principles in mind. Fertiliser and pesticide uses are kept to a minimum and the rough areas provide habitat for wild flowers and insects including many types of bees and butterflies. There are two large ponds. East Lothian Countryside Ranges assist in the management of the landscape by helping visitors to enjoy the countryside and ensuring effective management of council sites, which have a potential for leisure, informal recreation or nature conservation purposes. ELCRS works with a number of schools and other community groups to learn about environmental responsibility, including supporting youngsters aiming for the John Muir award.

The Council makes significant efforts to replace annual planting with sustainable planting and to use renewable energy.

Friends of the River Tyne (FoRT) The River Tyne runs through the heart of the town. Thanks to FoRT, the river is home to a range of wildlife. Moorhens, mute swans, mallard ducks, goslings and herons are often seen on the river. You may even spot a kingfisher or an otter. The edges of the river are not mowed to encourage wildlife. Annual purge on Himalayan balsam. Benches, with ornate swan legs, were restored by FoRT and Blooming Haddington.



Mar, Apr, May & Jun 24

C. Community Participation

Blooming Haddington brings together a network of community organisations, businesses and the Council, all sharing a vision for the town. It is underpinned by a strong core group of volunteers. We have fixed volunteering sessions to encourage regular attendance and our Blooming Haddington bibs give identity and promote teamwork. We also like to have a social aspect: chat over coffee during volunteering sessions, home baking, lunches, nights out.

Our **Community Wheelbarrow Trail**, now a regular annual event to bring everyone together. 2023 theme was "Health & Wellbeing". A trail map was produced pinpointing wheelbarrow locations, shared on social media. Judging took place in August including a public vote on social media or email. To support the

environment and encourage biodiversity the certificates presented were printed on wildflower seeded paper. (See Appendix F).

For 2024, we have extended the trail to allow entry of planters of equivalent size to a wheelbarrow and the theme is “Celebration & Cake”. We are also organising yarn-bombing in the same theme for the summer.



Jun 24

During Haddington Festival in May, Blooming Haddington and Amisfield both held guided tours throughout the week. Neilson Park, Monument Park and St Mary's Pleasance were used as locations for various events. A litter pick was combined with a silent disco!

Similar tours were also held by Blooming Haddington and Amisfield for history societies, U3A groups, gardening clubs and Scottish Wildlife Trust through the year.

We have been working with a group of guides, sharing with them our work, they helped us out on one of our sessions and they are going to maintain the bug hotel after their summer holidays.

A group of nursery children helped us plant and water annuals in the 'tattie box' outside their premises.

Blooming Haddington success is celebrated on the signs at the entrances to the town.

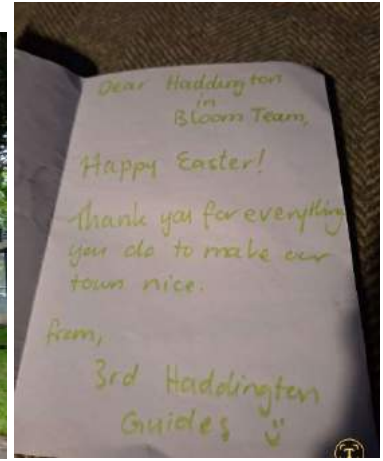
We have a social media presence on Facebook, a dedicated email address and receive regular press coverage (see Appendix A).

St Mary's Pleasance attracts individuals, groups, schools, photographic opportunities for weddings and special occasions.

A new wellbeing and outreach worker has enabled Amisfield to make more connections with the local community and has extended capacity to support volunteers and visitors with additional support needs and other barriers. More information about Amisfield's extensive community involvement is in Appendix B.



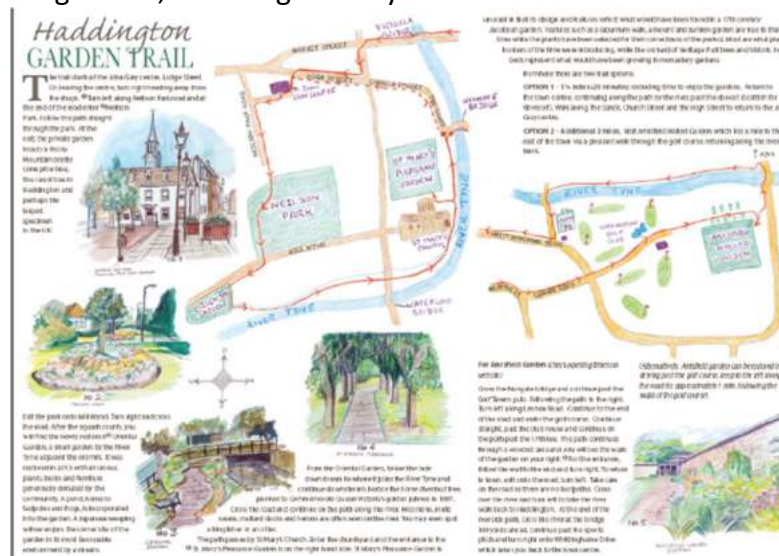
Jul 23 & Feb 24



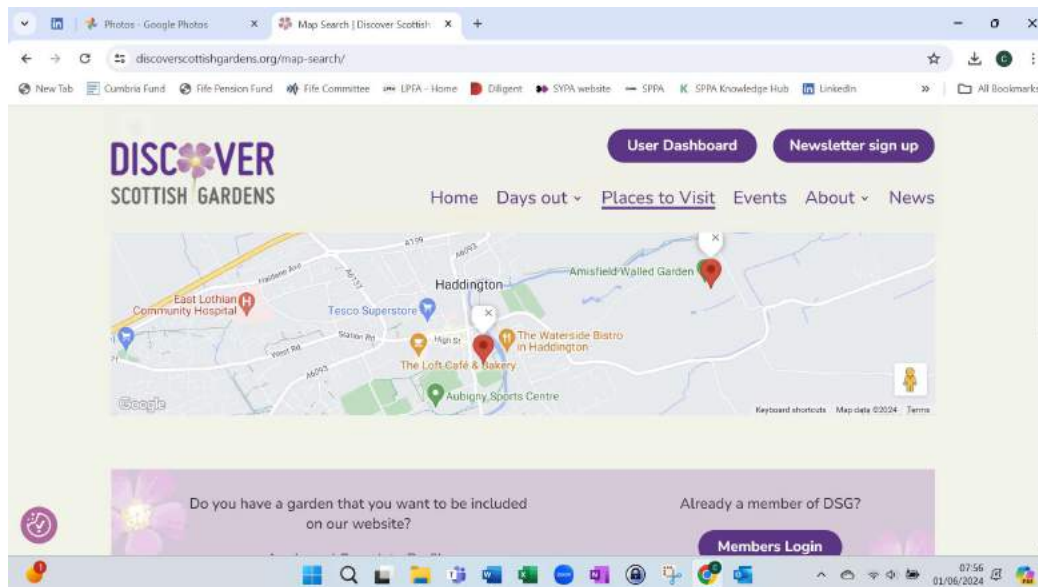
Sep 23, Apr, May & Jun 24

Regular guidance from Stan de Prato, Beautiful Scotland judge. In turn, we regularly share our bloom experiences as other towns.

Haddington Garden Trail based on the tour we use for the Beautiful Scotland judges. It takes in the town centre and the best of our gardens, including St Mary's Pleasance and Amisfield Walled Garden.



We also organised for Amisfield Walled Garden and St Mary's Pleasance Garden to be listed on <http://discoverscottishgardens.org/>



Funding and Support

The hanging baskets and planters are financially sustainable. The total cost of the baskets and planters in a typical year is approximately £8,000 per annum, financed by sponsorship from business and individuals. Costs for businesses are kept low at £45 per basket and £120 per planter.

This year the 14 new planters, compost and plants cost approximately £9,000. This was part financed by grant funding from Area Partnership funding.

We applied for and received approximately £900 from the Community Council for replacement batteries for our bowers and to pay for the baskets to be installed and removed.

We have also received £1,000 from Tesco's Blue Badge Scheme for plants for Monument Park and £150 from donation boxes in the high-street shops.

These finances exclude those for the community groups involved with Blooming Haddington.

Non-financial support from businesses includes:

- Significant contribution from East Lothian Council's parks team, planting up the baskets, assistance with the new planters (including advice on plants, storage, sourcing soil and compost), transporting goods around the town and other ad-hoc support;
- Donations of plants from local pub Waterside Bistro for use in the planter at the Knox Tree;
- Lots of support and encouragement from local councillors including their involvement in judging day and nominations for volunteering awards.

Plans for the Future include:

- Another 'brain storming' session to discuss ideas for improvements in the town in the coming year(s).
- Our AGM will be held in the autumn.
- Ongoing initiatives to expand and develop our volunteer base;
- Ongoing work with the guides;
- Refreshed planting of the Monument Park beds and monument in the autumn.
- Thinning out/moving the Auld Alliance iris rhizomes – details still to be discussed!
- Friends of the River Tyne will continue to focus on conservation of habitat, diversity and flood management. The annual summer river clean-up is scheduled for 20 July.
- Amisfield are open as part of Scottish Gardens Scheme in August.
- Continued development of the Curling Pond with Rotary.

APPENDIX A– Press Cuttings & Social Media

Examples of coverage of Blooming Haddington in the local press:

July 2023 <https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/23626397.tims-tales-sombre-siege-reflections/>

August 2023 <https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/23732547.haddington-volunteers-work-blooms-judges-tour-town/>

September 2023 <https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/23790107.haddington-wheelbarrow-winners-crowned-annual-trail/>

April 2024 <https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/24230945.blooming-haddington-hope-mark-10th-anniversary-celebration/>

May 2024

<https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/24295012.blooming-haddingtons-wheelbarrow-competition-returns-summer/>

<https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/24343531.haddington-festival-2024-full-listings-events/>

June 2024

<https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/24380685.blooming-haddington-welcome-new-planters-town-centre/>

<https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/24388635.blooming-haddington-needs-volunteers-ahead-beautiful-scotland-visit/>

Facebook



APPENDIX B – Amisfield Walled Garden

The eight-acre Amisfield Walled Garden (www.amisfield.org.uk) is being restored and developed by volunteers of the Amisfield Preservation Trust for the enjoyment and benefit of the public and, in particular, the health, well-being and education of the local community. Over the past twenty five years, the garden has been transformed from a neglected and overgrown wilderness into a beautiful garden space and thriving community facility. The garden is leased by the Trust from East Lothian Council for a peppercorn rent and is open to the public free of charge.

Planting, design, maintenance, and management

Amisfield Walled Garden is being developed with the dual aim of creating a garden with year round interest for the enjoyment of visitors as well as providing a facility that will allow volunteer gardeners of all ages and abilities to learn a wide range of horticultural skills.

Care has been taken to design planting to be in character with the historic 18th century walls and garden buildings and to be in scale with the 8 acre garden space. Although there are no historical records of the original planting design, footpaths have been laid out on the 18th century layout. These paths divide the garden into a number of spaces, which have been designed to have individual characters, including mixed shrub and herbaceous borders, vegetable beds, espaliered apple walks, a maze, a wildflower meadow, sensory gardens and a winter garden. Hedges of beech, hornbeam and yew are used to divide spaces and provide enclosure. Trained fruit trees, including apples, plums, figs, cherries and apricots are grown against the high stone walls.

The scale of the garden lends itself to planting of large swathes of herbaceous plants. Many of these are propagated by division from donated plants or are grown from seed. A nursery bed has been established to bring on young plants and to produce plants for sale to raise funds. When budgets allow, plants are purchased from local nurseries to create variety in the planting of new beds and to provide stock plants for future use.

Plants have been chosen to grow well in the site conditions and to be easy to maintain by a (generally) low-skilled workforce. As an example, four rectangular beds of mixed grasses and perennials next to a main footpath have been planted up with the plants laid out in diagonal rows of each species. From the path, the beds appear as a solid block of planting, but the beds are straightforward to maintain as planting in rows allows weeds to be easily identified and simply hoed out.

High standards of maintenance are achieved by having a large volunteer group available to work in the garden, under the supervision of a full-time volunteer coordinator. Many tasks are carried out by hand, such as hand weeding, hoeing, raking, edging grass and barrowing compost. Training is given for more specialised tasks such as fruit tree pruning and plant propagation prior to such work being undertaken.

As the garden had been left uncultivated for many years, soil improvement has been important in creating good growing conditions. Large quantities of mushroom compost or green waste are incorporated prior to planting, and beds are mulched with compost after planting. Waste bark chippings donated by local tree surgeons is used as a mulch on access paths at the back of planting beds, or is left to partially decompose, then used as a weed-suppressing mulch on hedges and trees.

The unusually large size of the walled garden, the ornamental garden buildings, and the variety of different garden areas create a lasting impression for garden visitors. The garden is now a well-loved local attraction, and through publicity on the 'Discover Scotland's Gardens' website and opening under Doors Open Day, it is becoming known to a national and even international audience.

Outside the walled garden, the woodland area and meadow are managed primarily with wildlife in mind while maintaining access for the public. A number of native trees have been planted to replace the aging field maples and the majority of the invasive rhododendron has been removed. The focus is now on controlling the snowberry to encourage native flora and fauna. Regular articles on biodiversity are published on the garden's website.

Community benefit

The restoration and development of Amisfield Walled Garden has been led by the local community from the outset in response to a desire to see a neglected historic walled garden brought back into community use. Following a public meeting to gauge support, local volunteers set up a charity and company, obtained a lease from East Lothian Council, planned the development of the project and have successfully accessed the necessary funding.

A board of trustees sets the general direction of the project and deals with financial and legal matters. However garden volunteers are involved in the design, development work and also contribute to future project planning. Volunteers who wish to become more closely are encouraged to join steering groups for particular areas of the garden. This approach helps to foster a sense of achievement and increased self-esteem as new garden projects are undertaken and completed.

Similarly, some of the groups involved at the garden have helped to design and develop particular areas. For instance, one of the school groups designed, built and planted up two large raised beds outside our education building. The beds have attracted many positive comments from garden visitors and this feedback was reported back to the pupils involved.

There are currently 65 regular volunteers take part in the five half-day sessions held each week throughout the year (weather dependent), accumulating over 6,500 man hours worked. The community education building was erected in 2016 and provides a space to run training courses, hold meetings and provides an exhibition and sales area. Workshops are held throughout the year and included vegetable growing, propagation, pruning, wreath making, basket weaving and mindfulness.

In 2019, the garden received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest honour given to volunteer groups in the UK.

The garden has two star status as a Visit Scotland visitor attraction. The garden and its activities are promoted on its website and on regular updates on social media. Funding from the Local Area Partnership funded tourist signs on nearby road junctions to increase visitor numbers.

Heritage and pride of place

Amisfield Walled Garden was built between 1782 and 1788 by Francis Charteris, who later became the 7th Earl of Wemyss. Its 16-foot high stone walls, ornamental pavilions in each corner and derelict bothies outside the walls are A listed for their historical importance. As one of the largest walled gardens in Scotland it is an important local heritage feature. The walled garden was part of the policies of Amisfield House, a Palladian mansion demolished in the 1920's. The parkland setting for the house remains, and the lease of the walled garden includes part of the surrounding woodland and meadow.

The restoration and development of the walled garden is the first stage in a development plan agreed with East Lothian Council. Whilst the aim of the garden project is not to recreate an 18th century garden, the footpath layout has been restored and care is taken in the design of planting and hard landscaping to use appropriate materials, with the scale and design to be in character with the original garden.

Garden furniture includes a number of hardwood benches donated by supporters of the project. The design of these is approved by the Trust before acceptance, in order that they are of suitable quality and sympathetic style. In addition, the Trust commissioned two seats from local craftsmen for specific areas, including a drystone wall and seat in the winter garden and a new bench in the 'smell' sensory garden.

Outside the garden, much work has been carried out in the surrounding woodland following an agreed management plan to remove invasive and non-native species and to encourage biodiversity. Replacement planting of native trees is ongoing as open space becomes cleared.

Amisfield Walled Garden has become a well-loved part of Haddington's community life, providing opportunities for learning, recreation and wellbeing. It is an example of how a community can come together and work to improve their local area.

A range of activities, projects and opportunities have taken place over the past 12 months including:

- Regular volunteering sessions Monday – Saturday contributing to over 7,000 volunteer hours this year.
- Volunteering opportunities for pupils from local secondary schools contributing to their bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh awards. Four S3 pupils from Knox Academy completed their week-long work experience.
- Rural Skills students from a range of East Lothian secondary schools met in the garden twice a week during February and March and took part in a range of activities helping to maintain the garden and develop their rural skills.
- Tours of the garden and talks were given to several groups in the community including history societies, U3A groups and gardening clubs. Daily guided tours were well received during Haddington Festival Week in May.
- Funding was secured to employ a second member of staff. The part-time wellbeing and outreach worker has enabled Amisfield to make more connections with the local community and has extended our capacity to support volunteers and visitors with additional support needs and other barriers.
- Amisfield held four events to welcome the community, including an Easter Egg Hunt, Plant Sale and Apple Picking/Pressing day. These events are particularly popular with families.
- Workshops for volunteers have provided training in pruning fruit trees, scything and wreath making.
- Projects within the garden this year include erecting fruit cages, propagating a huge number of plants (from seed, cuttings and division), moving our produce stand and main entrance to be more accessible.





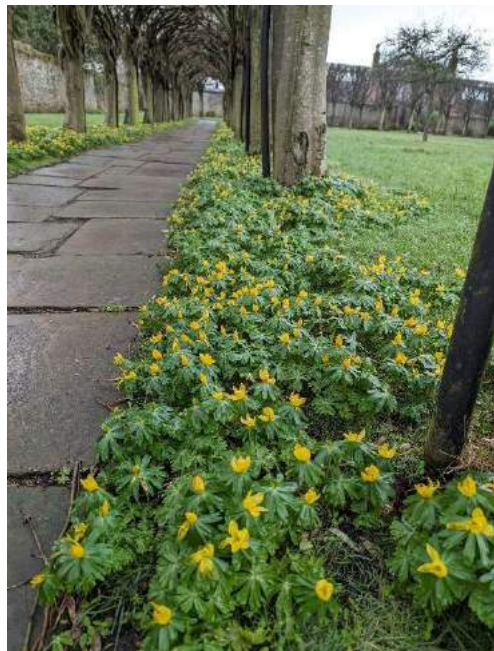
APPENDIX B - St Mary's Pleasance Garden

St. Mary's Pleasance Garden (www.haddingtongarden.com) is maintained for the public by the charity Haddington Garden Trust. The garden occupies 1.6 acres adjacent to the churchyard. Some of the garden's boundary walls were built by Napoleonic prisoners of war. The design reflects the features of a 17th century Scottish garden. There is a mount, a sunken garden, boxed hornbeam walk, cottage garden, orchard and meadow, period rose border and raised herb beds.

The pleached allee of laburnum is its most spectacular feature in May and June. The trees in the orchard represent varieties from the 17th to the early 20th century, including white Melrose, Galloway pippin, Stobo Castle and Stirling Castle.

The meadow is planted with spring bulbs and wild flowers to provide a display of snowdrops early in the year to oxlips in April. Summer wild flowers then take over after a mid-summer mowing. This year work has focussed on replanting of the area which was a derelict rose hedge between the sunken garden and the main lawn that was cleared in 2017. After consultation it was agreed that what was missing from the garden was topiary- a popular feature of the period but, for whatever reason, one missing from the Pleasance.

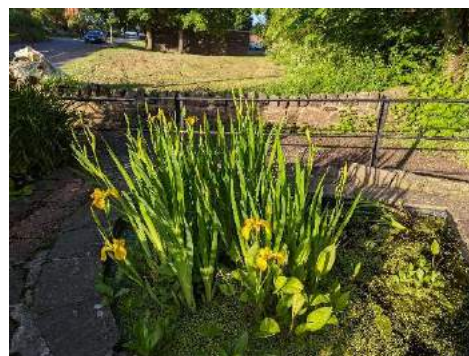
The garden is a haven for wildlife. The range of plants grown attracts a wide variety of fauna. Hedgehog, field mouse, toad, and many varieties of birds have been recorded. Mallard, wood pigeon, collared dove and several species of smaller birds regularly nest in the garden. To augment the natural habitats bird and bat boxes have been introduced. The wild flower meadow and the cottage garden attract bees, wasps, butterflies, beetles and other insects





APPENDIX D – Oriental Garden

This small garden was restored by Blooming Haddington ten years ago with all materials, plants and labour donated virtually free of cost. Local people stop by regularly to admire and enjoy the garden and it is increasingly used by the residents and staff of the nearby care home. A sloped access was installed to improve access, the bridge over the lade was restored and a local businessman made, and maintains, a beautiful wooden sign for the entrance. The bench was designed and donated by a local engineering company and the sign by a local joiner. Over the last couple of years, as plants have matured we have re-positioned some and added new ones with an oriental theme, including hostas, azaleas, camelias, lilies and rhododendrons. Stan da Prato has provided valuable advice on planting.



APPENDIX E – Curling Pond – An update from Rotary Haddington

Rotary Haddington have secured a 25-year lease on a piece of unmanaged ground between the Acredales estate at the southwest of Haddington and the River Tyne. This 10-acre area will be transformed over time into an attractive, accessible and biologically diverse space for all to enjoy. Paths are popular with walkers, but the area has been left to become overgrown and unsightly. There is so much potential here and people will be able to spend more time exploring this local environment.

Earlier this year we were awarded funding by Nature Hubs (in association with Starbucks) which will allow creation of improved habitat for the insects and creatures, along with planting new trees and wildflowers for the pollinators. The area needs to be managed in a sympathetic way to improve biodiversity with targeted work. The focal point is the old curling pond which has become very overgrown.

We have already started to restore this feature and improve the availability for amphibians and invertebrates. The restoration will involve removing trees, scrub, vegetation and silt to create open water with shallow margins planted with reeds and wildflowers that will prolong the life of the pond for wildlife. There is no intention to have curling there - it will be a wild space.

This work and continuing maintenance will do a lot to enhance this corner of Haddington. It will be a new resource used by both primary and secondary schools for their education and it will be a wonderful place to see local wildlife in all its forms.

Several local groups are involved, led by Rotary Haddington. These groups including Friends of The River Tyne and Blooming Haddington. We are liaising with the East Lothian Countryside Ranger Service who have been giving advice and have brought school groups to the area to help with things such as creating a "dead hedge" for wildlife to use as shelter and to observe the creatures in the pond and wider area. Access to the area - particularly the pond - will be improved and will bring people together for a shared experience of the area.



Feb, Apr & May 24

APPENDIX F - Community Wheelbarrow competition - 31 entries in 2023 (All photos in July/August)



APPENDIX G - Autumn & Winter 2023/24 colours



APPENDIX H – 2024 Spring colours

