

Grow Uddingston

2024



grow
uddingston

Contents

Introduction	3
Horticultural achievement	4
Gateway	4
Train Station	5
Village	6
Environmental responsibility	8
Landscape tree planting	8
Litter Pickers Group	9
Reducing waste & helping wildlife	10
Built landscape	11
Community participation	12
Working with children	13
Christmas Fayre	14
Plant Sales	15
Partnerships	16
Finance	17
Future Plans	17
Appendix	19

Introduction

About

Uddingston has a long and interesting history, from early origins as an Iron Age Settlement to its various roles in early Scottish history and the activities of the Murrays and the Douglasses. As a town, it really began to develop in the 18th Century with the local invention of the Wilkie Plough which revolutionised agriculture. Glasgow merchants began building imposing town houses here, and cotton weaving and coalmining provided employment for many. The building of the railways made Uddingston much more accessible, just as today easy access to Glasgow and motorways make it an attractive place to live and work.

Formed in 2000 in response to the deterioration in public spaces and the challenges faced by local authorities in relation to cleansing, roads, lighting and landscaping, Uddingston Pride made a huge difference to the appearance of the village, and the sense of pride felt by local residents. In early 2023 our new name was born and is now recognized about the village and beyond.

Grow Uddingston is a registered charity with a written constitution.

The Portfolio which follows showcases how we have worked to promote KSB's Three Pillars of Horticultural Achievement, Environmental Responsibility and Community Participation. It also allows us to reflect on areas for improvement and next steps for the coming year and beyond.

Office bearers



Anona Fraser
Chair



Alison Cameron
Vice-Chair



Donald Burt
Secretary



Martin Murray
Treasurer

Where we are

Uddingston extends from the boundary with Glasgow to the north-west and straddles North and South Lanarkshire Councils, blending seamlessly with the village of Bothwell to the South East. The River Clyde forms its southern boundary



Horticultural achievement

Our main areas of focus over the growing season are Uddingston Train Station, the Gateway Sign and the Village Area

Gateway

In early 2020 the group started looking after this area following cut backs by North Lanarkshire Council, which meant the council were unable to maintain the Gateway area.

New flowerbeds were created and planted with a mixture of perennials and shrubs. During the summer months, summer bedding is planted giving instant colour to the area as one drives past on entrance to the village.



Daffodil bulbs have been planted in the grass to give spring colours to the area. At the end of 2022, work of cleaning, stabilising and repointing the structure was completed. This work was funded by finance from The Land Trust, Patersons of Greenoakhill and North Lanarkshire Council. The grass is cut by the group and a grant was received from NLC to purchase a lawn mower and other tools.

Train Station



As part of Scotrail's Adopt a Station scheme, the group adopted Uddingston station in 2005. Throughout the years the group have worked tirelessly to improve the grounds at the station and over the past few years have started planting more shrubs and perennials.

In August 2023 two large Sycamore trees were felled on the Glasgow side by Network Rail.

At the end of last year work began at the station to install a new bridge and lift. This work will be completed by end of July 2024.

In preparation for the extensive work to be undertaken at the station over the winter months the group lifted both the climbers and perennials. The perennials were stored at the end of the Glasgow platform and the climbers in Terry's tree nursery.

Up until September last year the group looked after 16 mangers and 9 hanging baskets at the station. At the end of the season the steep embankment was enriched by recycled compost from these mangers and baskets.

Work has continued on improving the Edinburgh side, by maintaining the hebes and climbers, and continuing to dig out and plant new beds.

Most of the plants that came from the street containers have continued to survive in their new home at the station.

Bedding plants have been planted on the Edinburgh side for instant colour. The bird and bat boxes at the station have been removed and new ones will be installed on completion of the work.



Village

In March this year the Land Services section of South Lanarkshire Council announced cutbacks that were to take place in the village. This would mean no hanging baskets, bedding areas to be grassed over and some of the shrub beds to be removed. This did not leave the group a lot of time to work out the best way they could keep the village looking colourful and well maintained for the year. Rosebank Garden Centre, who work jointly with the group, agreed that they could water 16 hanging baskets in addition to the watering they already undertook for the group.

By spreading the word on social media and contacting supporters of the group, sponsorship for 16 hanging baskets was obtained.

The Council were asked not to grass over the bed at the entrance to Kylepark from Blantyre Farm Road and a bed has been planted with bedding plants for the summer with a view to introduce more permanent planting in the autumn. The watering for this area is undertaken by group members.

The large black planters about the Main Street have been planted with a mixture of small trees, perennials and bedding plants. Some of the planters have also been planted with spring bulbs.





At Crofthead Park the planters have been painted in bright colours and planted with herbs and strawberries. The runners from the strawberry plants were looked after over the winter and then distributed to the local school nurseries.

At the entrance to the park, planters have been sited to improve the look of the area. Three of our planters have been made by one of our members and the other three by The Men's Shed.

The planters at The David Milne Centre are painted, planted up with a mixture of perennials and bedding and looked after by the group.

The grounds at the Old Parish Church are planted and maintained by group members and friends of the group.

The planting at the entrance to the Golf Club is still carried out and maintained by South Lanarkshire Council in agreement with the group. This forms a striking entrance to the village along Bothwell Road.

The War Memorial grounds are planted and maintained by South Lanarkshire Council.

Grow Uddingston have sold planters and² hanging baskets to local shops adding to the colour on the Main Street and to the group's funds.



Environmental responsibility

We're lucky to have the Clyde Walkway on our doorstep. This runs along the River Clyde and through the grounds of Bothwell Castle. The woods provide a haven for wildlife with carpets of snowdrops, bluebells, wild garlic, sedge and comfrey unfolding as the seasons progress. The National Cycle Route runs past Uddingston Grammar School and crosses the Green Bridge adjacent to Uddingston Viaduct, built in 1848. Both the walkway and the cycle route feature in Village clean-up days.

Landscape tree planting

The landscape tree planting around the village, led by one of our members with a passion for trees, is extensive and ongoing. Currently 2000+ native saplings have been planted out, with every tree recorded, monitored and maintained. At Greyfriars Pond, trees planted initially in 2019 have been steadily augmented with new transplants, lovingly looked after, protected from deer and mulched with grass clippings from the Gateway.

Small copses of native species including Hornbeam, Hazel, Field Maple, Grey Willows, Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Rowan and Aspen are now in evidence around the pond.



Greyfriars Pond is a haven for nature, with a visiting heron and sightings of badgers, foxes and deer. This year the group have decided to grow some fruit trees and as well as purchasing four trees the group were gifted four by our local Tesco store. At the moment the trees are being looked after in Terrys nursery and will then be planted out locally. Staff from the Tesco store will help us plant the trees.

Bees from an apiary nearby take advantage of the swathes of wild flowers blooming there

Litter Pickers Group



The Uddingston Litter Pickers Facebook group has been set up under the auspices of Grow Uddingston and led by our members, and is very active. As well as organising regular litter picks in the area, one member of the group looks after adopted roads and community bags that she has placed in certain troublesome areas.

At the beginning of the year we took part in the Upstream Battle organised by Keep Scotland Beautiful, looking at and analysing litter on a small part of the banks of the Clyde.

During the year there have been litter picks with the Scouts, Girl Guides, local primary schools and the Green Team from local business Angels.

The group are working tirelessly to combat fly tipping in the area and are in contact with both North and South Lanarkshire councillors and councils on this matter.



In June we were once again involved in the joint litter pick with Brighter Bothwell and Uddingston Grammar School. The community champion from Tesco helped and donated prizes. We were assisted also by an employee of South Lanarkshire Council Environmental Services.

In the year to the 30 April 2024 we removed 350 bags of litter from both North and South Lanarkshire and gave 158 volunteering hours litter picking.

Reducing waste and helping wildlife

The group continue to look at ways in which they can be more environmentally friendly and reduce waste. Our current initiatives and goals include:

- Many of our trees and plants have been brought on at home from seedlings, cuttings and divisions.
- Pots are recycled or used at the bottom of large barrels to save soil.
- Pots sold to the shops are taken in at the end of the season, compost is reused, pot washed and refilled for sale to the shops the following year.
- We are in the process of putting identification stickers on pots to help publicise the group.
- Along with using peat reduced compost, we reuse compost from baskets and mangers, mainly to improve the soil at the station.
- Trees are mulched with non-chemical grass cuttings or raked leaves.
- Objects obtained from litter picks are used again where appropriate. For instance red cable conduit is used to protect climbers at the station.
- We are looking at different types of plants to encourage wildlife and use organic fertiliser etc in planting areas.
- To deter slugs, we collect coffee grounds from a local business for dispersal around suitable plants.
- To reduce watering, we are investing in Amberol baskets and mangers.



Built landscape



Over the years we have commissioned several commemorative seats and litter bins at the Cross, War Memorial area and Crofthead Park. Discussions are still ongoing with South Lanarkshire Council about upgrading the litter bins. To date one new bin has been placed in the car park behind the Post office.

Last year the signs placed at both entrances to the village have been updated to include reference to Uddingston being the home of the Wilkie plough.

Discussions take place with both councils to have the likes of old and damaged poles and signs replaced. With the current Council cutbacks the group are striving to keep the likes of bollards, signs clean and areas weeded.

Some members of the group are actively trying to keep areas of hard landscaping tidy, clean and safe.



Graffiti removal

Constant vigilance is the name of the game where graffiti and stickers on walls, bus shelters etc are concerned.

Quick action is taken by two of our team to remove.

Community Participation

A big part of our mission as Grow Uddingston is to 'grow' our community. We are already raising our profile through increased use of social media, our attractive new signage, and major events such as our hugely popular Christmas Fayre and our Spring Plant Sale. We are very conscious of the need to find new ways of engaging with our community, and the next generation.

Here are some of the ways we've reached out this year.



Working with children



Over the year we have increased our involvement with both of the school nurseries and have donated them both a see-saw made by the Community Pay Back Team.

Our involvement with both Treehouse Nursery and Woodland Beginnings have continued throughout the year. All of the nurseries have been donated strawberry plants and sunflower seeds for the children to grow.

We have jointly worked with the Eco committee at St John's school and the Green Team of our local employer Angels.

It is great that we have now started to work again with Aitkenhead primary and just at the end of term we were invited to help plant flowers at Muiredge school.

We held another successful day at the joint Muiredge and St John's fete selling plants and holding activities for the children. The art department at the grammar school are still working on updating the hippo.

We are continuing to work with local uniformed organisations and this year the local Scouts group have come on board.

At the moment we have some help from four local girls who are working for their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award.

Christmas Fayre

The annual Christmas fayre was held on the first Sunday of December. Despite the snowy day the day, before the weather did improve and the fayre was well attended.

A choir made up of pupils from both Muiredge and St John's schools sang in Park Church. The Salvation Army, a local children's choir and a local dance group all took part too.

This year, representatives from the local hockey and rugby clubs attended to encourage people to try their sports.

There were several stalls in attendance, however we took care to ensure that the stalls were not in competition with our local shopkeepers.

Santa himself was in attendance, taking in the beautiful sights of Uddingston in a vintage Tunnock's vehicle. Sweets for Santa to give to the children were donated by local shops.

Competitions took place for the best dressed shop window display and for the children Find Santa and Friends in the shop windows.

Local businesses were very generous with prizes and supplies for the day.



Plant sales



The plant sale held at the beginning of May was very well supported. We were lucky that again this year it was a beautiful sunny day. Plants were supplied by Rosebank Garden Centre and we sold cuttings and divisions brought on by one of our members. The ladies from Park Church sold teas and coffees and the money raised was kindly donated to the group funds.

In June we were invited to sell plants at a picnic in the grounds of the local chapel. We were lucky with the weather once more and it was great to be out in the community letting people know about the work of the group.



Local partnerships



The local Tesco champion is a great asset to the group and regularly helps us with donations, planting and litter picking. Just before the Christmas fayre she held a craft day and some of the group made reindeers to be donated to the members of the school choir at the Fayre.

Scotmid and The Co-op are also valued supporters of the group.

We are actively involved with the Green Team at Angels restaurant, who help with litter picks and we work in conjunction with them at St Johns school.

The local rugby and cricket club provide us with meeting facilities in exchange for the group putting plants in their planters.

Some of the local shops purchase planters and tubs from the group which help brighten up the village. There is a competition for the best planter at the end of the season.



Other partnerships



We are in contact with both our friends/colleagues at Brighter Bothwell and Bonnie Blantyry.

We are part of the Bothwell Green Canopy Group, which at the beginning of the year planted in excess of 1000 trees as part of the Raith Interchange tree planting project over a weekend in March.

Finance

This year our two main fund raising activities were the Christmas fayre and the plant sales, raising about £4,000 between the two events. During the year we have sold baskets and planters to the local shops and businesses.

Following the announcement of the South Lanarkshire Council cut backs, we have approached local supporters of the group and raised awareness via social media to obtain sponsorship for 16 hanging baskets.



We have received donations from the winding up of The Community Centre and the settling of the estate of an original member of the group. Discussions are taking place on how this money will be spent to best enhance the village.

Future plans

In the coming year we will be working on the station after the new lift/ bridge has been installed. There will be a lot of work to be done to the new flower beds being created.

We aim to continue and extend our work with the local nurseries, primary schools and secondary school.

We will be looking at ways to get more involved in helping the uniformed organisations.

Continuing our tree planting in the area and starting our orchard will be a priority.

We will continue our work on the heritage trail about the village.

Further engaging sponsors both new and existing will be paramount, to fund baskets, flower beds etc in wake of the council cut backs.

We intend to identify areas for the growing of wild flowers.

Thank you

We hope this portfolio has given you a sense of how committed we are to making sure Uddingston remains a beautiful place to live and work.

A village with a sense of community, that people can take pride in.

If you'd like to find out more about our work and impact, please look at our Facebook Page or contact us at the email address below



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fb.com/growuddingston



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Appendix

- 1 The moment we were recognised with a Gold award at the Keep Scotland Beautiful Awards 2023



- 2 ...and lifted the trophy for Best Urban Community!

- 3 To top it off, we had the winning table decoration entry at the awards presentation.



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We were honoured to receive this letter from Lady Susan Haughey, Lord-Lieutenant of Lanarkshire, when we were awarded Gold in the KSB 2023 Awards. We were doubly honoured to be presented this letter by Mary Herson, Deputy-Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire, pictured below.



5

Receiving our Keep Scotland Beautiful certificate in Cumbernauld in March 2024.



6

From Muiredge Primary School:

The Primary 7 children of Muiredge Primary School were delighted to work in partnership with Grow Uddingston recently. The children wanted to raise funds for the school whilst supporting the local community. The idea of a sponsored litter pick was then born. The children linked with Grow Uddingston and together one Saturday morning they got their hi viz vests on and tidied up the local area. The partnership was hugely successful and we hope to work with Grow Uddingston in the coming session.

The children had money left after their celebrations and donated £200 to a local family whose house was destroyed with fire and £100 to the group.

A meeting will be arranged with the pupils for ideas on how the money should be spent.



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