



Lauder in Bloom Portfolio August 2023 – July 2024



Introduction

Set within the beautiful rolling Scottish Borders countryside, Lauder is situated beside the river Leader on one of the oldest routes between Edinburgh and England. Our town straddles one of the main trunk roads and despite the town's expansion over recent years it still preserves its original medieval form of a single main street and two back lanes. Lauder's Common Riding is one of the original and largest Border Common Ridings, with references to the event dating back to the 1600s. The Common Riding is now a week-long festival which culminates in the Ride Out of hundreds of horses from all over the Borders on the first Saturday in August and is a highlight in our town's calendar.

Lauder in Bloom (LiB) began in 2013 partly in response to a comment that Lauder is a long grey town and nothing much could be done about it! We began by adopting the handful of existing Council beds and neglected planters in the centre of town. Since then, we have expanded outwards adopting various un-loved areas and working with many other groups in our community. We currently look after 41 hanging baskets, 107 planters and 32 flower beds. Our aim is to keep our hometown looking loved, clean, green and tidy for all of us who live and work here and for all who visit, including our wildlife!



Daffodils at Lauder entry sign, March 2024. Bee on crocus, February 2024.

Wonder Woman and friends litter picking, February 2024. Our flag, September 2023.

We have weekly work sessions nearly every month of the year along with regular monthly Team meetings. We aim to strengthen the wellbeing of our Team and our wider community whilst inspiring others to be more aware of what we can all do to help our environment. We are a relatively small group of 17 have-a-go volunteer gardeners, many of us have been involved from the beginning and we are very fortunate that we have great support from our community.

Horticultural Achievement

Over the past few years, to make our group more sustainable, we have significantly reduced our reliance on annual bedding plants with more use of permanent, predominantly wildlife-benefiting, perennials. Unfortunately, our local Council is no longer able to have any input in the funding, supply, planting or maintenance of any of the public planting displays in Lauder so it's all down to us. The total area of our baskets, street planters and flower beds are the equivalent of nearly two tennis courts, stuffed full of mainly wildlife-friendly multi-seasonal interest planting. Our local Council have also had to reduce their grass cutting schedule to once every 20 working days and they are unable to lift any cut grass. Our volunteers now rake it up and cut the grass in between the Council's once a month mow to improve the appearance around important areas such as the War Memorial. The Council spray the pavements with herbicide once a year. For the rest of the year, we hand weed the streets to keep them looking tidy. Annually we scrape the gutters to help reduce weed growth where the Council's road sweepers can't reach amongst parked vehicles.



Late summer town centre blooms, September 2024.

Late Summer / Autumn

- Annual review of planting & watering. Trialling new planting plans and a new basket and summer bedding supplier for 2024.
- Trimmed hedges at the park, Health Centre and at the southern entrance to Lauder improving visibility for traffic and pedestrians – after the end of the bird nesting season.
- Collected up fallen leaves from Health Centre entrance and car park and stored for leaf-mould.
- Scythed and removed top growth of our native mini meadow. Continued to top thistles, scarified and added additional home-grown native wildflower plug plants, over-sowing with more yellow rattle.
- Planted more narcissus, tulips and alliums to add to our displays. Re-planted the polyanthus for spring.
- Added more hellebores to the Stumpery increasing food sources for early emerging pollinators and interest at the Health Centre during the darker winter days.



Scything our mini meadow & raking up fallen leaves at the Health Centre entrance, autumn 2023.

Winter

- Created decorative home-made plant supports for one of our prominent beds (1st image below).
- Pollarded a section of the willow 'fedge' and left the remainder to flower for pollinators. We used the smaller cut rods to make nesting material holders with the Squirrel Scouts (2nd image below) and hoops for our Christmas wreath workshop. The larger branches we used to create a dead-hedge (3rd image below).
- Sought expert advice to help us correctly prune the primary school's orchard.





Spring blooms, April 2024.

Spring

- Mulched some of our beds with our matured chipped Christmas trees as well as feeding beds with alpaca droppings and well-rotted horse manure (images below).
- Coppiced cornus, donating the colourful stems to a local crafting group and a neighbouring In Bloom group.
- Re-commenced watering rotas of our planters and grass cutting.
- Following the Beautiful Scotland judges' advice last year we replaced and re-stocked our help-yourself Community Herb Garden planters (4th image below).
- Planted up the Town Hall planters with Lauder coloured (blue & yellow) blooms in time for the annual traditional Common Riding 'Picking Night'.
- Weeding, weeding and more weeding as well as re-planting following any winter losses.
- Direct sowing annuals in some of our beds for extra summer colour and allowing many self-sowers to seed about, thinning and transplanting as needed. Also sowing sweet peas and growing them on in a Team members greenhouse for our annual help-yourself display at the sheltered housing.



Summer

- Removed polyanthus from street planters, divided and heeled-in to our nursery bed for reuse next year. Lifted congested spring bulbs for drying and replanting in the autumn. Replaced spent compost with home-made version and added in locally sourced summer bedding for impact in town centre along main road. Following last year's wet summer, we are trialling slow-release feed pellets instead of liquid feed during watering.
- Our reservoir hanging baskets are sponsored by local businesses and residents to cover the cost. We carry out all the watering throughout the season.
- Planted up the War Memorial planters, where the Common Riding ends with a service, in Lauder colours.
- Strimming grass around planters and beds and cutting in fresh bed edges.
- Created a new perennial planting display thanks to the Duke of Northumberland's gift of a boat.
- Following years of debate created a new focal point at one of our town entrances with drought tolerant plant choices along with those from two of our founding members who are sadly no longer with us.
- Deadheading and cutting back perennials to encourage more blooms and fresh new growth.
- After checking for nests, clipping hedges overgrowing footpaths, around the Lauder entrance display and the box hedges at the War Memorial.
- Adding in plant supports and keeping an eye on any thuggish perennials, editing where needed.



Locally sourced hanging baskets going up, summer bedding going in & new planters, June 2024.





Summer blooms, June 2024.

Environmental Responsibility

- We make our own compost and buy only minimal amounts (5 x 50ltr bags this year) of peat-free varieties when required. Our home-made compost includes coffee grinds from the bakers along with shredded newspapers, horse manure and our garden waste. We talked to our new bedding plant supplier about their ongoing trials and transition to peat-free growing.
- We reuse, re-home and recycle all our plastic plant pots. We regularly re-use our empty compost bags whilst weeding and for transporting horse manure and our home-made compost.
- We don't use pesticides or herbicides and encourage our community to experiment with alternative, more wildlife-friendly methods of dealing with common problems.
- With a wide range of planting around our town we can provide nectar sources nearly year-round.
- We have an army of 32 Lauder's Waste Warriors, who are fed up with the litter on our streets. Each pledged to look after an area of our town, and we provide the equipment to help them. We also regularly lend litter pickers to groups such as the different sections of the Scout Group, local childminders, families and neighbouring schools along with the 15 junior-sized pickers we purchased for the primary school.
- Continue to maintain our well used dog muck bag dispensers (repurposed bird boxes), encouraging locals to leave a spare and refilling with biodegradable corn starch bags.
- Have reduced our summer bedding to street planters and just the 1 central Town Hall Bed display.



New compost bays made from reclaimed materials & Squirrel Scouts litter picking, March 2024.



Dog muck bag dispenser & Butt bin, December 2023.

Autumn / Winter

- We leave sturdy stems of herbaceous perennials in many of our beds over winter providing shelter for insects, food for birds and winter interest for us (1st & 2nd image below, November 2023).
- Annually we remove lots of old plastic tree guards from historical plantings.
- Our bunches of lamp-post Festive Foliage were dismantled with the greenery being taken away for recycling and the community-knitted bows and reusable zip ties saved for the following year.
- Purchased additional litter picking equipment enabling us to loan it out to more individuals & groups.
- Using our willow we created flowers to fill the interest gap in the Town Hall Central bed early in the year (3rd image below, January 2024).



- Working hard to improve the first impression of our town by removing several years' worth of detritus from the pavements.



Clearing pavement detritus – before & after, January 2024.

Spring

- Putting up bird boxes made by our local Men's Shed and the Cub Scouts as part of their DIY badge (images below).



- We've added more water butts to help reduce our reliance on drinking water and a local business diverts water from their tumble dryer into one of our water butts.
- Following successful trials last year, we have increased the number of terracotta olla reservoirs in some of our outlying planters to help reduce water wastage and volunteer time as well as experimenting with various home-made models with the children in the school garden.

- Re-commenced hand-weeding the pavements.
- Set up home-made footprint traps in some of our beds for our session with the Cub Scouts.
- Repurposed old, corrugated tin sheets to replace our decaying pallet compost bays.
- Created several dead-hedges to provide habitat and shelter.



Terracotta ollas & Footprint traps, April 2024.

- Publicising the Scottish Outdoor Access Code to help protect our threatened ground-nesting skylarks on our local moorland.
- Experimenting by leaving chopped dried flower stalks on some of our beds to act as a mulch, reduce inadvertent moving of wildlife off site as well as reducing volunteer workload.
- Investing in rechargeable electric light-weight strimmer and hedge cutter to replace heavy petrol-powered ones.
- Contributed to the RHS Bumbles on Blooms project by submitting photos of bumblebees throughout spring helping to improve the RHS' Plants for Pollinators list.
- Took part in the Keep Scotland Beautiful single-use packaging litter survey to provide information relating to quantities of single-use packaging.



Publicising the Scottish Outdoor Access Code & Submitting data to the RHS Bumbles on Blooms project, April 2024.

Summer

- Promoted Bee's Needs Week and continued to carry out several Flower-Insect Timed (FIT) Counts on various planting throughout the season as part of the UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme. This is the third year that we have contributed to this national dataset.
- After leaving a grass area uncut for Plantlife's No Mow May we continued to leave the grass and wildflowers throughout the summer to benefit wildlife (2nd image below).



- Experimenting with adding net bags full of our comfrey to water butts to reduce carbon footprint of fertilisers we use.
- Annual painting wooden street planters (1st image below) and public benches.
- Made several replacement planters and replaced decaying decorative wooden border edging.
- Using temporary chalk paint and our reusable stencils at litter hot spots (2nd image below).
- Re-painted faded letters on Kings Own Scottish Borderers plaque in one of our flower beds where perennial planting is based on the colours of the regiment's tartan.
- Contributed to the Natural History Museum's 'Nature Overheard Project' – collecting audio recordings and insect observations to better understand how road noise affects insects (3rd image below).
- For our new boat planter, we collected molehills to aid water retention, used recycled plastic lumber and chippings sourced from our local Council's gully cleaning. The boat is a nod to the fishing on the nearby River Leader and is placed just off the popular long distance Southern Upland Way footpath.



 Natural History Museum

Nature Overheard: Tune in to Your Streets


Nature Overheard
Tune in to your streets

At a glance

- Join us in a groundbreaking study of how noise pollution affects insects.



Community Participation

- So far, for the first 6 months of 2024 well over 1,000 volunteer hours have been given to Lauder in Bloom!
- Two more Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers have joined us this year and youngsters can gain Scottish Government 'Saltire Award' volunteering hours with us too. 10 youngsters have now given us their time through these awards so far.
- We have a very active Facebook group with over 800 members (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LauderInBloom>). We also use Instagram to help connect with a wider audience. We write regular articles in the Lauderdale News – a free biannual magazine delivered to 1,450 local households. We also maintain the two community notice boards. We designed and created Lauder postcards promoting our work which are sold at the Post Office. The only other postcard of Lauder lacked any flowers!
- Encourage locals to leave surplus or unwanted plants at our well used year-round free 'Plant Swap' area near our Community Herb planters (1st image below).
- We are part of the world-wide Geocaching community – the world's largest treasure hunt game. Our geocache in one of our flower beds has so far been found over 170 times by players from all over the world (2nd image below).



Late Summer / Autumn

- Celebrated our 10th anniversary - including encouraging all local shops to have Lauder in Bloom themed window displays, designing Lauder in Bloom flags and bunting for the Town Hall and held a free community event to show our journey so far and to thank our community for their support. Although it was a free event, we raised an unexpected £160 from donations as well as recruiting several additional volunteers.



Displaying our awards and hundreds of photos from the past decade at our open community event, September 2023.



Meringue flowers at the bakers and local shop window displays, September 2023.



- We were invited to judge the church's pollinator-friendly flowerpot competition as part of their anniversary celebrations.
- Lauder Flower Show – continued to sponsor our Lauder in Bloom Junior Grow-to-Show annual award.
- Post Covid we resurrected the school's weekly volunteer-led gardening sessions run by one of our team with additional labour and tools also provided by us. Again they reaped the rewards of their hard work (1st image below) winning several prizes at the Flower Show (2nd image below) and the school chef regularly makes use of their produce for the school canteen (3rd image below) as well as supplying the children with weekly vegetable peelings for their home-made school compost.





Making compost at school, May 2024

“Links with Lauder in Bloom have been incredibly beneficial to the children of Lauder. It helps children to recognise that they have an important role to play in their community and how lovely that they can see their efforts when they are out and about the town of Lauder. The pupils take great pride in their school grounds, and this is partly down to them investing their time and efforts in helping to make our school a beautiful place to learn. The hands-on approach of LIB provides real life experiences for the pupils and caters for all learning styles and abilities. Our gardening club teaches children about nutrition and nature, but also about the softer skills of teamwork, cooperation, responsibility and respect. Our pupils love being part of this aspect of learning and love the responsibility it gives them.

School values in action!”

Louisa Scully

Depute Headteacher, Lauder Primary School



**Watering experiments (May 2024), Harvesting produce (August 2023)
& Learning about the importance of all our wildlife (April 2024).**

- Planted out our 2,000 plus community-knitted poppies displayed in our beds and planters along the route of the Remembrance parade. Dried and stored for re-displaying the following year. We've been doing this annually since 2017.



- Donated surplus plants to neighbouring community who were installing new planters.
- Social Events for our volunteers including drinks after judging, Beautiful Scotland Awards celebrations and Christmas lunch (in January!), plus regular coffee and catch-up after weekly gardening sessions. We have also been on a couple of road trips visiting other In Bloom groups for networking and inspiration.
- Carried out a watering review, purchasing additional kit to help retain volunteers by making the watering as easy as possible.

Winter

- Ran our popular natural Christmas wreath-making workshop using our willow for hoops. To make it more accessible we charge just £10. We have run this workshop annually since 2019 (1st image below).
- We teamed up with the Lauder Christmas Lights Group and the primary school for our annual lamp-post Festive Foliage event. Created 180 bunches of evergreen foliage with community-knitted reusable scarves decorating all the lamp-posts from one end of Lauder to the other. We have done this every year since 2015 (2nd & 3rd images below).



- Cleared 3 large classroom planters of thistles, docks and couch grass so that the school children can start using them again.



School planters before & after, December 2023.

- Designed and sent out nearly 100 Christmas cards to all our volunteers and supporters to thank them for their invaluable help over the past year.
- Teamed up with a local crafting social group to decorate our living Christmas trees with reusable knitted decorations (1st image below).
- Our Community Book Swap cupboard made from reclaimed materials, initially a temporary fixture when our independent library had to close due to the pandemic, continues to thrive with a good turnover of books. The leisure centre has also created a Book Swap shelf in their cafe to accommodate the overspill along with our new Jigsaw Library (2nd image below).



- We were invited to the grand opening of the woods adjacent to the primary school after our donation last year allowed them to purchase additional fencing to enable the children to utilise a much larger area of woodland (images below).



- Launched our new 'Friends of Lauder in Bloom' supporters' scheme with shiny new pin badges.
- Advising and encouraging a neighbouring In Bloom group in their first-time entry in the Beautiful Scotland awards.
- In the run up to Christmas promoting the Shop Local campaign to support our local independent businesses.
- Attended the primary school's Christmas Fayre to promote our work.
- Worked with the Primary 1s to make biodegradable bird feeders for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch (images below).



Spring

- We encouraged our local Council to host a successful regional In Bloom networking event.
- Re-distributed our Garden Trail leaflets highlighting our pocket gardens to locals and encouraging visitors to explore beyond the high street. Printed by our Council.
- We took over an under-used notice board to display our recent awards, publicise our work and encourage additional volunteers and sponsors.
- We gave a talk to the local Historical Society on the history and evolution of Lauder in Bloom. They generously donate an ongoing share of their book sale proceeds.
- Helped the Squirrel Scouts (age 4-6) to gain their Local Superhero Badge, made a big bug hotel, bird nesting material hangers and sowed sugar snap peas for them to grow at home.



Sowing sugar snap peas with the Squirrel Scouts & Planting crab apples with Primary 4s, March 2024.

- Planted bare-root crab apple trees at the school carpark with the Primary 4s to increase biodiversity and provide multi-seasonal interest. Mulched with our aged, shredded Christmas trees.
- Donated some troughs and daffodils to the Primary 1s to brighten up their classroom windowsills.
- We supplied home-grown peat-free house plants to a new Lauder office space.
- We resumed our regular sessions at the local sheltered housing complex including sowing seeds for displays around town with plenty of tea and chat!



Sowing seeds with residents as the sheltered housing & Our display for the memorial bike ride, April 2024.

- We created a yellow & blue (Lauder colours) bike-themed display to support the annual charity bike ride. Subsequently we were fortunate to be given a donation from their Community Fund.
- To improve the safety of our Team we created Emergency Contact cards and ran an introduction to First Aid session (images below).




British Heart Foundation



Learn the steps of CPR

RevivR is the 15-minute mobile training that shows you when and how to do CPR to save someone's life. All you need to practise is a cushion.

[Start training](#)

- We helped the Cubs achieve their Community Impact badge with weeding, litter-picking and bug identification from our pitfall traps (images below).



Summer

- For our annual Good Garden Awards, we ran a competition at the school to create the certificate design and issued them to all Lauder residents who have contributed to making our streets look lovely including nominate-a-neighbour. This is our way of saying thanks to residents and businesses for their

help to make our town look more attractive. Apart from a break during Covid we have run these awards annually since 2017.

- Helped Primary 2 children to clear and re-plant their classroom planter.
- We work hard to get our town looking tidy as well as creating a themed floral display for the annual vintage car festival which attracts over 10,000 visitors in early June. The Scout group borrow our litter picking equipment to help keep the festival grounds tidy.



Repurposing old tyres and tennis racquets for our car show display, May 2024 & Jam jar posies using our blooms to decorate the church, June 2024.

- Worked with Primary 4 pupils to create jam jar posies to decorate Lauder Kirk. The congregation took home the posies with messages from the children as well as posies given to the local sheltered housing residents, the Pharmacy, Health Centre and Post Office.
- Ran our annual 'Gardener of the Year' award to the Primary 4 member of the school Gardening Group who showed the most enthusiasm and skill throughout the year. The beautiful carved trophy was donated by the Lauder Beautification Society of New Zealand.
- Worked with our local crafting groups to create Lauder's first post box topper – celebrating the RHS's 60th anniversary of Britain in Bloom representing the theme of friendship and our wonderful community of Lauder.
- We were delighted that one of our Team was awarded the inaugural Lauder Common Riding 'Community Spirit Award', acknowledging the individual's "fantastic contribution to the Lauder community".
- In time for the school summer holidays we rejuvenated our popular Woodland Sprite mini door trail with help from our local Community Shed.

- We welcomed the Antiques Roadshow to Lauder with a themed floral display.
- Created floral table displays and a willow arch backdrop for photos for the Primary 7's Leaver's event.

We were delighted to recently discover that our work has inspired 2 groups set up to help veterans both of which have been nominated for national awards. One of our supporters Kelvin, who is also a veteran, helped to create these groups and spoke to them about how gardening had helped with his own mental health issues. He was able to secure land and a greenhouse for one group who are now supplying wedding flowers at Dalmahoy. The second group are in a space with no natural light and so are growing rhubarb and mushrooms as well as learning to forage in their wider environment.

Kelvin says **"When I now go to these places the change in these people is startling. Many had fell out of the rat race. The main thing I get is they have got a sense of pride. This has all come about because of Lauder in Bloom's help in getting me into gardening and passing the groups enthusiasm on to these Veterans."**



Below - Primary 4 Gardener of the Year & Woodland Sprite door, June 2024.



Support

Local Partner Groups – Lauderdale Community Council, Lauderdale Scout Group (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts), Lauder Primary School & Summer School, South Gardens sheltered housing, Lauder Christmas Lights Group, At Birkhill House CIC, Lauder Kirk, Lauder Flower Show, Weigh Greener, Lauderdale Community Shed, Scottish Borders Council.

Donations in Kind

- The Lauderdale Hotel – access to water and no charge for use of room for our monthly team meetings or our AGM.
- Kate Farnsworth – horse manure and use of horse box to transport it.
- Hugh Henney – use of shed for storage of gardening equipment, area for our large compost bays and nursery plot for heeling-in plants.
- Emma Middlemiss – large donation of surplus plants.
- Linda Newport – use of her garden area.
- Lauder Post Office – selling our postcards.
- Firebrick Bakery – supply of coffee grinds & water access.
- The High Street Nursery – donation of surplus pebbles & grit.
- Lara, Birkhill House – alpaca poo, snowdrops, winter aconites & alpaca fleece.
- Mick Archer – donation of Perspex to repair the Book Swap cupboard door.
- Lauderdale Community Shed – re-building the damaged door of the Book Swap cupboard, making signs for our temporary themed displays, new Woodland Sprite doors and bird boxes.
- Lauder Community Leisure Centre – for hosting our ongoing community Jigsaw Swap.
- Chris Purves – donating 2 half whiskey barrel planters.
- Ross Dougal Fish Merchants – donation of fish boxes.
- Jenni Crombie-Smith – storage & water access.
- Ian Middlemiss – donation of pipes for footprint traps.
- Tom Fitzsimmons – water access.
- Wilbar's Tyres – loaning us some tyres for our bee planter project.
- Connell Farming & Contracting – donation of stones.

Hanging Basket & Planter Sponsors

Louise Mitchell Travel Counsellors. The Lauderdale Hotel. Core Body Sculp. Lauderdale Landscaping. Lauder Bowling Club. Lauder Tennis Club. WRI. Lauder Ex-Cornets Association. Lauderdale News. Border All Trades. The Purple Plum. The Flat Cat Gallery. Firebrick Bakery. Premier Store. Laura Meikle. David Erasmus. Shaws Fine Meats. Wendy & Malcolm McVittie. Lauder Post Office. Eskdale Shooting Services. AHL Scaffolding. Alec Paton. Deadcert Pest Control. Betsy Hogarth. Lauder Common Riding. Lauder & Channelkirk Kirk. Rosie's Catering. The Walk It Group. Lauder Larder. Luxury Lawns. Thirlestane Castle. Thirlestane Castle Caravan Park. The Spotty Dog. Lauderdale Limpers. Made in Grey Britain. The Black Bull Hotel. Professionals for

Health. Lauder Golf Club. Lauder Pharmacy. Lornebank Homestay. The Anderson family. Hair Razors. R. Watson & Son. Susan Miller. Lauder Community & Leisure Centre. The Threadgall Family. Meishu Salon. Borders Body & Mind. High Street Nursery.

Future Plans

- Continue to review planting and watering/maintenance methods adapting to the changing climate as well as our groups' changing needs whilst keeping our planting looking good.
- Continue to work with different community groups and broaden the sense of ownership.
- Continue to promote our efforts, grow the group and encourage additional regular volunteers to ensure sustainability of our team – keep it fun!
- Continue on-going discussions with the various authorities regarding the landscaping along Edinburgh Road including replanting suitable trees and reinstating vehicle-damaged turf next to the A68 trunk road. Also continue discussions with those involved in the listed Town Hall to improve it's aesthetics and install a new heritage board designed and created by us.
- Continue to consider financial sustainability of Lauder in Bloom. After a year off from fundraising with some big spends alongside the need to potentially find a new HQ we will look to hold more events next year to ensure our group's financial stability.



Beautiful Scotland judging day, August 2023.



Aerial view of Lauder showing location of our beds.

Finances

Lauder in Bloom Accounts August 2023 – July 2024

Balance brought forward YE 31 July 2023	£7,339.00
Income	
Planter Sponsors	£1,380.00
Donations	£526.23
Hanging Basket Sponsors	£1,377.00
Event Income	£413.96
Lauder in Bloom 'Friends of' supporters' scheme	£240.00
Total Income	£3,937.19
Expenditure	
Plants, bulbs & Compost	-£1,584.06
Equipment	-£840.71
Materials	-£661.40
Hanging Basket Contents	-£1,122.00
Printing (incl. flags, 'Friends of' badges, certificates)	-£418.64
Event Costs	-£437.42
Excess Green Waste Uplift	-£94.50
Insurance	-£330.16
Total Expenditure	-£5,488.89
Net Balance (Income – Expenditure)	-£1,551.70
Total (Net Balance + Bank BF)	£5,787.30

Our story so far...

2013 – Initial public meeting held.

2014 – Lauder in Bloom officially began.

2015 – Entered It's Your Neighbourhood for the first time and were very pleased to be awarded a 'Thriving' award. Achieved a 3rd place in the local Scottish Borders Council's Floral Gateway Awards along with the 'Border Biodiversity' award, a 'Quality of Life' award and a 'Clean & Tidy' award.

2016 – Awarded 'Outstanding' in the It's Your Neighbourhood Awards. In the Scottish Borders Council's Floral Gateway Awards, we achieved a 'Clean & Tidy' award, a 'Quality of Life' award and 3rd place in the large village category.

2017 – Entered the Beautiful Scotland Awards for the first time and we were over the moon to achieve a Gold along with the New Entrant award and the overall category winner. Achieved 2nd place in the Scottish Borders Council Floral Gateway and a 'Clean & Tidy' award.

2018 – Delighted to be awarded a Gold at the Beautiful Scotland Awards. Achieved 1st place in the large village category in the Scottish Borders Council Floral Gateway competition as well as a 'Clean & Tidy' award and a 'Quality of Life' award.

2019 – Really pleased to be awarded a Gold in the Beautiful Scotland Awards as well as the Garden for Life Biodiversity Award for our much-loved Pollinator Patches. Locally, achieved a 'highly commended' in the Scottish Borders Council Floral Gateway 'Champion of Champions' and a 'Quality of Life' award.

2020 – RHS Award acknowledging our continuation throughout the pandemic.

2021 - Delighted to be awarded a Gold at the Beautiful Scotland Awards. Joint winners of the RHS Wild About Gardens and the winners of the Jim Murdie Trophy for Sustainability.

2022 – For the new Scottish Borders Council's Greener Gateway awards we successfully won the Sustainability Award, the Border Biodiversity Award and was overall winner of the Large Village category. Delighted to be awarded a Gold again at the Beautiful Scotland Awards as well as the overall award for Best Large Village.

2023 - We are 10! Awarded a Gold at the Beautiful Scotland Awards and was the overall winner of the Large Village category. We were overjoyed to also be awarded the *Keep Scotland Beautiful Award* and *The David Welch Memorial Award for Something Special* for our Good Garden Awards scheme.

2024 – We were delighted (& a bit apprehensive!) to be nominated to represent Scotland for the first time in the RHS Britain in Bloom Finals...!

