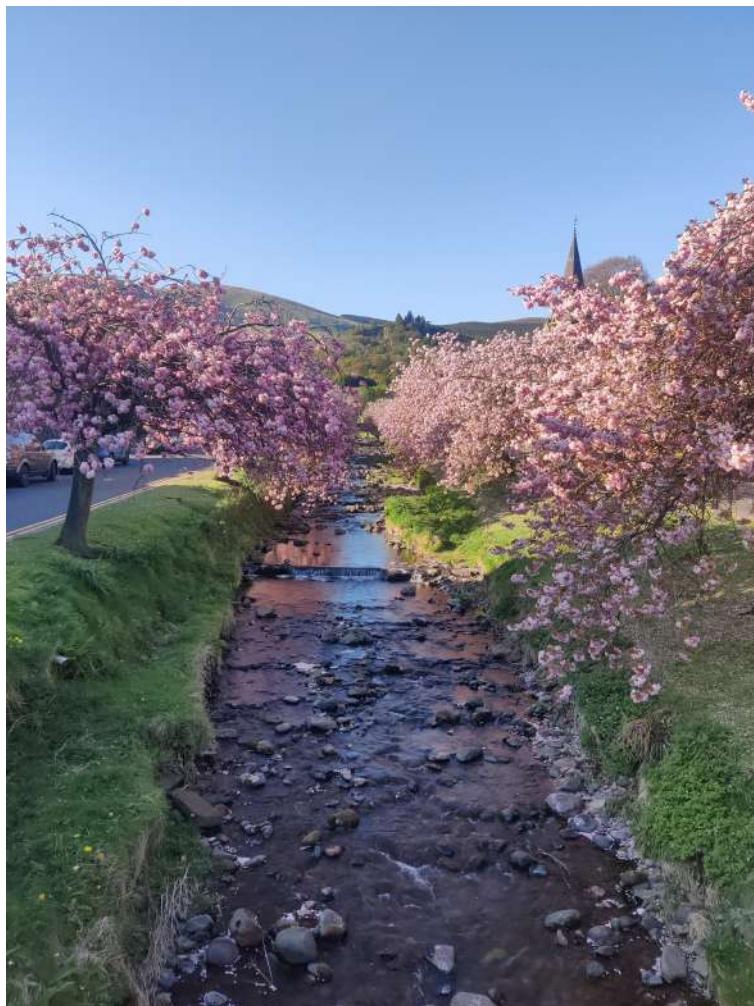


# Dollar Portfolio

## Small Town

### Beautiful Scotland 2025





## **Introduction to Dollar**

Dollar is a small town situated at the foot of the Ochil Hills in Clackmannanshire. It is a lively community with many clubs and activities for both young and old. Bridge Street has thriving small independent shops, multiple cafes, pubs, and restaurants which attract many visitors in the summer months.

Dollar Glen and The Ochils are popular with hill walkers and there is also Castle Campbell for visitors to explore. The Japanese Gardens nearby also offer visitors a wonderful horticultural day out.

Dollar Burn is a focal point for the village and runs down from the hills through the centre of the town. It is bordered by cherry trees which create a stunning display in May.

Since 2020, with the help of a small grant, the community took over responsibility for the care of some local sites from Clackmannanshire Council. We started with planting a large and prominent flower bed at the edge of town. From a modest start, we have since progressed with many initiatives which have greatly improved the local environment. This portfolio details some of our activities and illustrates the working of the local community in keeping Dollar Beautiful.

## Horticulture

Over the last seven years, volunteers have renovated a number of neglected sites in the town. We now work hard to maintain these sites for the local community.

Clackmannanshire Council also provide support by cutting the grass in communal areas such as the Memorial Garden and Strachan Crescent, trimming hedges in the Memorial Garden and collecting the brown wheelie bins for central composting.

### Memorial Garden

The garden sits in a central part of the town and had previously been neglected and largely abandoned. We completed our project to bring the area back to life in September 2023. We maintain the large main bed, two rose beds, two raised beds and the flower bed in front of the memorial itself.

The garden is now well used by residents and visitors and is a haven of peace in the busy town.



Over the past year we have:

- Divided a number of the perennials in the main bed and moved them into free spaces.



- Added herbaceous perennials (donated by our volunteers) such as *Primula Vulgaris*, *Myosotis*, *Helianthus 'Lemon Queen'*, *Lysimachia 'Firecracker'*, *Geranium 'Wargrave Pink'* to the main bed to fill spaces. A few small shrubs that had failed over the last one or two years have been replaced.
- Planted Tulips left over from our bulb sale.
- Planted Muscari under the two trees at the entrances of the garden and throughout the large bed.
- Underplanted the rose beds with more *Geranium Rozanne* and *Nepeta 'Walker's Low'* with the aim of creating a summer flowering weed suppressing perennial layer.
- Planted Geranium (plants divided and moved from the High Street plot) to fill the empty areas next to the raised beds.
- Mulched the Roses with a thick layer of well rotted manure in Winter (donated by a local stables).
- Mulched the Rose bed with a thick layer of specialist rose mulch in Spring.
- Pruned the Roses over Winter.
- Weeded all the beds as needed during the growing season.
- Dead headed the Tulips and flowering perennials.
- Regularly removed litter from the hedges.

The planting in the Memorial Garden has been designed to attract a variety of wildlife (including birds, insects and small mammals) as well as to provide a long season of interest for human visitors.

In addition, we have been working to improve the planting in the flower bed that sits directly in front of the War Memorial. This has included removing some of the *Geranium x macrorhizum* plants which were taking over the space and adding other plants (again donated by the local community) to extend the season of interest. This has included *Bergenia*, *Sedum*, *Primula vulgaris* and *Anemone Japonica*. *Allium 'Purple Sensation'* will be added in the Autumn for additional early Summer colour and structure.

Plant waste from the garden is collected by Clackmannanshire Council via the brown bin scheme.

## High Street Plot



This area was planted in 2019 and continues to flourish. Over the last year the fence at the back of the plot has been replaced and new wood chip has been added to the path. In the Autumn we divided some of the larger Geraniums and moved the extra plants to the Memorial Garden.

Other tasks have included dead-heading, weeding and cutting back the herbaceous perennials and watering during the May dry spell.

## Strachan Crescent

This bed is filled with herbaceous perennials and grasses to provide year long interest. Over the year it is weeded, spent bulb heads are cut down, frosted perennial foliage is cut back and removed and the grasses are tidied up before the bulbs appear in Spring.

For the past two years, one corner of the bed has been drying out more quickly than the rest of the border and the plants in this area have been struggling a little. To mitigate this we have added some additional plants here that are better suited to the conditions. We are also encouraging self seeded perennials to establish. In the Autumn we also added tulips and some Allium 'Purple Sensation'



## Tubs and hanging baskets

We have over 20 large tubs positioned around the Town. These were originally paid for by the local community through a crowd funding campaign and are now sponsored by local businesses in the Summer. In Autumn we planted these tubs with an array of Tulips. These produced a wonderful display in Spring this year. The bulbs were funded by our annual bulb sale.



At the end of May we lifted the Tulips (some of these will be planted in the Memorial Garden and others will be sold for a small donation at our bulb sale later in the year). We then planted the tubs with brightly coloured annuals.



As well as the tubs, in June we added 40 hanging baskets along the main street. These were funded by the local shops and businesses.



The tubs and hanging baskets are watered throughout the season by a team of volunteers. This year we have secured sponsorship from a local business for our dedicated watering buggy. This will help us cover the cost of fuel and maintenance of the buggy.

## Railway Platform

In 2024 we refurbished and renovated the old station platform in Dollar. We added the raised beds and bench and cleared the platform itself. This area has now become very popular with walkers and cyclists using the Devon Path and the bench is often used as a picnic spot. The history boards have also proved very popular.

The flower beds were planted in July 2024 with a range of insect friendly plants and are going from strength to strength. In the Autumn we planted Narcissus Tete a Tete bulbs to provide some Spring colour. We also added a few more perennials to these beds this Spring, including Japanese Anemone and Nepeta.

The beds are weeded in Spring and Autumn.



## Dollar Health Centre



These beds were built by the Horticultural Club in 2021 with financial help from Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environmental Trust. They bring some much needed colour to the local health centre and car park, and also offer a place to sit for those using the health centre. They are planted with small trees (*Sorbus vilmorinii*), herbaceous perennials and bulbs. The beds are weeded in Spring and Autumn and the perennials are cut back in early Winter. In the Summer, the plants are deadheaded as needed. We also weed the surrounding wood chip to remove the self seeding perennials.

## Burnside Hall

Since 2021 Dollar Parish Church and The Young Church have been renovating the area of land beside the Burnside Hall. It had been neglected for many years and was overgrown and blighted by litter. The project started as a means to allow the community to meet outside safely during Covid and has continued with the aim of providing colour, vibrancy and a space for people and wildlife to enjoy.

Before



After



The garden is still a work in progress. This year further planting has been undertaken in the middle bank and weed control is ongoing.

The Young Church, have planted sunflowers in the sunflower bed and these are growing well.





The wildlife bed in the garden has also done well this year and has been particularly popular with the bees!

This year, with the help of the Clackmannanshire Community Payback Team, the two benches in the garden have also been refurbished and can now be used by the community.

**Before**



**After**



## Dollar Academy Vegetable Beds

The vegetable beds have been very successful over the last year. Pupils have grown a wide range of vegetables from seed, including carrots, beans, leeks, kale, peas and sweetcorn.

Produce has been staggered and succession sown so that the children can harvest produce both before and after the school summer holidays. The produce from the beds is used in Home Economics classes or by pupils and teachers.

The children also entered vegetables into the Dollar Horticultural and Craft Show and their courgettes and beans were particularly successful.



To encourage more interaction in the garden some of the older pupils were encouraged to spend time there after exams to help water, weed and harvest produce.



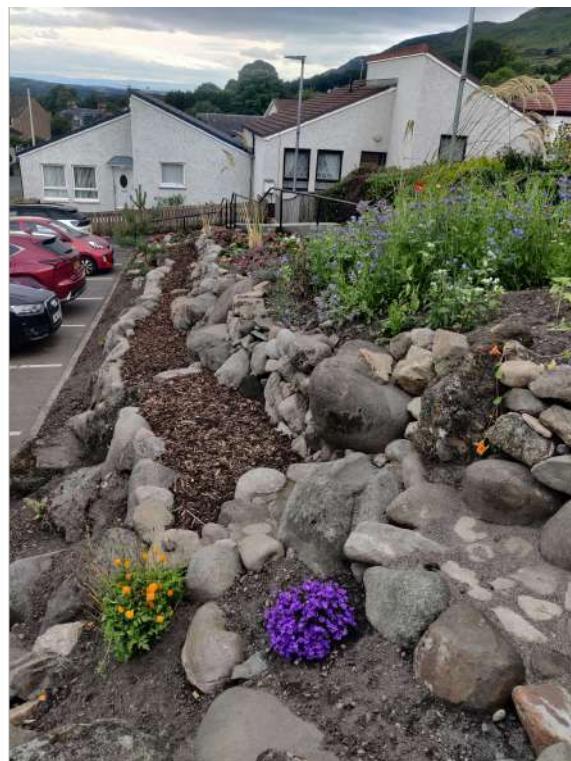
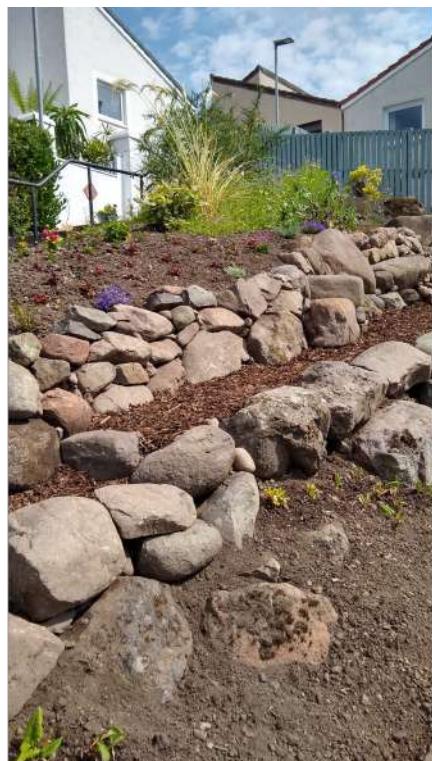
Over the last year the Academy have also been running a gardening club for the Prep children. This has resulted in them being awarded a Level 1 RHS School Gardening Award. They were delighted to receive this award and the seeds and gardening book that came with it!

### Moss Court Flower Bed

This bed sits on the High Street in Dollar. Over the last five years it had become neglected with minimal municipal maintenance carried out. The large sloping bed was filled with overgrown shrubs, brambles and weeds.

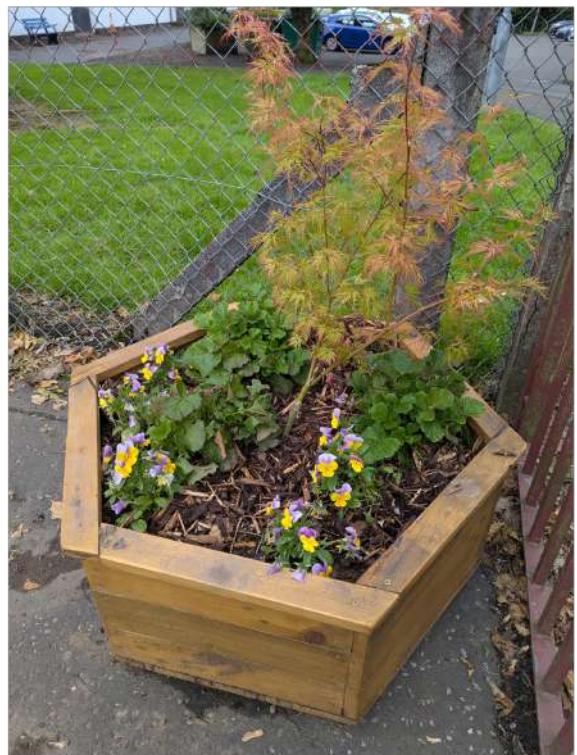


At the beginning of 2025 the residents of Moss Court decided to renovate the bed themselves. They removed the overgrown shrubs and weeds, added boundary stones to help prevent run off. They levelled the middle section of the bed to create a wood chip path that makes it easier to access the bed. One section of the bed has been planted with wildflower seeds and the other has now been planted with annuals to give some colour. Plants left over from the Horticultural club plant sale will also be planted in the beds.



## Strathdevon Primary School Planters

This year we have started working with Dollar's other school, Strathdevon Primary, to improve the appearance of the school's surroundings and encourage children to get involved in taking care of their environment. The school's PTA have secured a new sign board and have worked with the local Men's Shed to create some new planters for the playground. In June the Horticultural Club worked with the teachers and pupils from year six and seven to fill the planters with soil and plant them up with a mix of annuals and perennials. We will help maintain these whilst the children are on Summer holidays and once they return they will be responsible for them.



We hope that we can continue to grow the relationship with the school over the coming months.

# Environment

## Pollinator Beds



The pollinator beds at Strachan Crescent have been very successful this year. In the Autumn TCV helped us clear last year's bed and plant yellow rattle seeds in the area to suppress the grasses. This has resulted in a much stronger display of flowers. We are also hoping to add some small native perennial plug plants in the coming months to extend the season and increase biodiversity.

## Community Garden Meadow

Work continues on the proposed community garden in Dollar. This year the focus has been on the establishment of a meadow. In Spring a section of the site was cleared and volunteers have undertaken a couple of planting sessions. A further session was done with the local cub group.



We hope that over the next few years we will be able to establish a successful and biodiverse meadow on the site.

## **Nature walks and talks**

Over the last year Dollar Community Development Trust (DCDT) have run three nature walks and talks around the town. These have been very well attended and have given the community a greater insight into the wildlife living on our doorstep.

In June Keith Broomfield, a local author and wildlife expert, led a tour of the Dollar Burn and surrounding area. The group were able to see orchids growing amongst the grass, see the sand martins swooping overhead and hear the song of the Grasshopper Warbler. Keith also took some samples in the Burn and we saw just a snapshot of the plethora of invertebrates living in it.



## **Litter**

Litter is a persistent issue in Dollar, particularly along the verges entering and leaving the town. Regular town wide litter picks are undertaken by members of the community. We are also fortunate to have a volunteer that conducts litter picks around town on a weekly basis. As well as the verges, we also do regular litter picks along the Burn.

## Maintaining the Burnside

The Burnside in Dollar is a focal point for both tourists and locals alike and is used year-round. In Spring, the cherry blossoms attract a large number of visitors. In Summer, it is the perfect spot for a picnic and a paddle in the burn. As Winter approaches, lights festoon the trees and straddle the burn providing a touch of magic.



The area is managed by a dedicated group of local volunteers. They mow the top area of grass on a weekly/fortnightly basis throughout the spring and summer. The lower section of the bank is left unmown to encourage wildlife and native plants such as Meadowsweet. The group also keep the Burn clear of litter and in Autumn they prune the cherry trees and remove basal shoots.



## Dollar Benches, Signs and Pathways – Mill Green/Parish Church

Many of the public benches in Dollar have fallen into disrepair in recent years and were, in many cases, unsafe to use. In December 2024, the local community organised a Hogmanay event in the Burnside Hall to raise funds to help refurbish the benches and for other local causes. The event was very successful and has funded the Community Payback Team to repair 12 benches and signs within Dollar over the last year. This has included benches in the Parish Church, Burnside Hall, Mill Green (public park) and Burnside.



In addition, the Community Payback Team has cleaned and painted the railings at the Parish Church and a number of information signs around the town. The Team have spent over 170 hours on these projects to date over the past year.

Before



After



## Other Environmental and Sustainability Projects in Dollar

### Repair Café

On the third Saturday of every month, The DCDT run a Repair Café at The Hive (Dollar's Community Centre) where for a nominal donation local people can bring items to be repaired. There are volunteers that can help fix everything from small electricals to musical instruments, laptops, furniture, and clothes. It is a wonderful way to help stop items that can be repaired ending up in land fill.

## Community

### Dollar Horticultural and Craft Show

In September the Horticultural Club ran its annual Horticultural and Craft Show. The Show is a celebration of growing, crafting and baking. We have included new categories such as the Great Dollar Sewing Bee to encourage more participants. We also promoted the show through our Facebook page, new website and to the local schools and allotment associations. This was very successful and, with the recent addition of a raffle, the Show now breaks even financially, ensuring long term viability.



### Bulb Sale

At the beginning of October 2024, we held our bulb sale. We offered both mixed colour and individual colour Tulip mixes, Alliums and Narcissus Tete a Tete bulbs. We also had bags of bulbs that had been removed from the tubs in Summer available for a small donation. The sale was very successful and we raised over £1,200 which covered the cost of the Tulip bulbs we planted in the tubs on the main street.



### Winter Festival

The Memorial Garden is the focal point for Dollar's Winter Festival as it is the location of the Dollar Community Christmas Tree. In 2024 in a bid to be more sustainable the

traditional Christmas Tree was replaced by a contemporary light structure which can be re-used annually.

In early December Father Christmas led a procession to turn on the new lights and this was followed by carol singing in the garden.



### **Wreath Making**

Our wreath making workshop proved very popular again this year. We changed the venue so that more people could attend and some 30 people enjoyed a lovely afternoon filled with chat, festive music, mulled wine and home baking and even fairy lights. All the foliage, seed heads and dried flowers used in the wreaths were sourced from local gardens and two of our experienced volunteers were on hand to give advice and tutorials on how to make the beautiful hand ties wreaths. The event was very profitable, raising over £500.



## Plant Sale

Our annual plant sale in May is our main fundraising event of the year. We are fortunate that one of our volunteers is dedicated to growing plants for the sale. This year he donated over 500 plants ranging from Meconopsis China Blue, Candelabra Primula, Lupins, and Hostas to Blackcurrants, Rhubarb and Sunflowers. These were supplemented by plants grown by other Horticultural Club members.



The sale was very successful raising over £1,500. A portion of this will be donated to Strathcarron Hospice, a local charity with personal significance to our volunteers. Leftover plants were sold at the gala or will be planted in the sites we manage over the next couple of months. We have also donated plants to other local community groups. Plastic pots from the sale are cleaned and reused wherever possible.

## Dollar Gala

Dollar Gala in June is one of the highlights of the summer season, bringing together the Dollar Community. It is opened with a procession along the main street by Dollar Academy Pipe Band and includes a funfair, games, a craft tent, food stalls and lots more. This year the plastic bunting that decorates the town has been replaced with hand sewn bunting made from scraps of material by local volunteers. This will be reused at future Galas.



This year the Horticultural Group had a table in the craft tent to promote the Dollar Horticultural and Craft Show and encourage people to enter their produce. We had examples of certain categories on display, for example the Great Knitting Bee teddy, strawberry jam, courgettes, rhubarb, gin, floral art and roses. We continue to strive to make the show even more accessible each year and attract a wider range of participants.

## Volunteer Hours

Below is an estimate of volunteering hours across the last year.

	Litter	Admin	Planting	Maintenance	Bulb sale	Plant sale	Wreath making	Community Pay Back team	Show	Burnside group	<b>Total</b>
Hours	220	65	17	275	14	103	18	170	342	143	<b>1,367</b>

## Income

This year we have raised the following after costs.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Plant sale	£1,528
Bulb Sale	£633
Wreath Making	£555
Tubs and baskets	£1,101
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3817</b>

## Before and After Photos

Health Centre - Before



After



After



High Street - Before



During



After



Strachan Crescent - Before



During



After



## Before and After Photos (continued)

Memorial Garden - Before



During



After



Railway Platform - Before



During



After



# Maintenance Schedule

## Dollar Horticultural & Garden Club Maintenance Schedule

Area	Plant Type	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Watering Schedule	Notes
Strachan Crescent Border	Grasses	Cut back/tidy up late winter		Dead head Luzula to reduce seeding		N/A	Scatter pelleted chicken manure in early spring  Top up composted bark mulch over winter, if needed  Remove weeds over winter/early spring & spot weed during summer months
	Perennials		Split large clumps & move plants to fill gaps, as needed	Dead head to encourage repeat flowering	Cut back/tidy up as needed	N/A	
	Bulbs		Remove spent foliage 6 weeks after flowering finishes		Add more bulbs, when needed	N/A	
Dollar Health Centre Beds	Trees	Check stakes & prune trees if needed to improve shape				N/A	
	Shrubs	Cut back/tidy up late winter, as needed				N/A	
	Perennials		Split large clumps & move plants to fill gaps, as needed	Dead head to encourage repeat flowering & cut back once finished flowering	Cut back/tidy up as needed	N/A	Scatter pelleted chicken manure in early spring  Remove weeds over winter/early spring & spot weed during summer months
	Bulbs		Remove spent foliage 6 weeks after flowering finishes		Add more bulbs, when needed	N/A	
Railway Station Beds	Grasses	Grasses	Cut back/tidy up late winter				
	Perennials		Split large clumps & move plants to fill gaps, as needed	Dead head to encourage repeat flowering	Cut back/tidy up as needed	Water 1-2 times a week as needed during first season	Scatter pelleted chicken manure in early spring  Remove weeds over winter/early spring & spot weed during summer months
	Bulbs		Remove spent foliage 6 weeks after flowering finishes		Add more bulbs, when needed	N/A	
Memorial Gardens	Trees	Check stakes & prune trees if needed to improve shape				N/A	
	Shrubs	Cut back/tidy up late winter, as needed				N/A	
	Perennials		Split large clumps & move plants to fill gaps, as needed	Dead head to encourage repeat flowering & cut back once finished flowering	Cut back/tidy up as needed	N/A	Scatter pelleted chicken manure in early spring  Rake up leaves to reduce transmission of black spot  Remove weeds over winter/early spring & spot weed during summer months
	Roses	Prune lightly late winter	Watch out for aphids/black fly & remove manually	Dead head to encourage repeat flowering	Mulch around roses with composted horse manure	N/A	
	Bulbs		Remove spent foliage 6 weeks after flowering finishes		Add more bulbs, when needed	N/A	
High Street Bed	Perennials		Split large clumps & move plants to fill gaps, as needed	Dead head to encourage repeat flowering & reduce seeding (especially A. Mollis)	Cut back/tidy up as needed	N/A	
	Bulbs		Remove spent foliage 6 weeks after flowering finishes		Add more bulbs, when needed	N/A	Remove weeds over winter/early spring & spot weed during summer months
Street Tubs	Annuals		Lift bulbs once finished flowering	Refresh compost & plant annuals	Empty tubs & plant bulbs	Water weekly	Lifted bulbs can be planted in Memorial Gardens & other areas
Hanging Baskets	Annuals			Collect freshly planted baskets from nursery	Take down baskets & return to nursery	Water every 3 days	
Burnside	Trees				Prune & remove basal shoots	N/A	Organised by the Burnside Group
	Grass		Mow every 1-2 weeks, as needed			N/A	