

# Grow Uddingston

2025



grow  
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# Introduction

## About

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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

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**Anona Fraser**  
Chair



**Alison Cameron**  
Vice-Chair



**Donald Burt**  
Secretary



**Ryan Davey**  
Treasurer

## Where we are

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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

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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.

Two of the trees planted in this area Acer Saccharinum and Prunus Padus were brought on from cuttings by one of our members.



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 Greenockhill and North Lanarkshire Council.



The grass is cut by the group and the grass cuttings are used as mulch round the trees in Greyfriars Pond.

North Lanarkshire Council awarded the group a grant to purchase a petrol lawn mower and other tools. The lawn mower is stored in one of our member's garages and he walks with the mower to the Gateway.



# Train Station

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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 July 2024 the work to install the new lift and take away the old bridge was finished and in August the new lifts were officially opened.

There has been a lot of work to be done at the station as we now have new areas on the Glasgow side that require extensive work.

Meetings have been held with Scotrail about work necessary at the station and to ascertain our budget for this calendar year.

Last August we started putting in some perennials, some of which have survived the winter.

In the autumn the compost from the 16 mangers and one hanging basket was used to help improve the soil on the embankment.

This year 14 mangers have been sited at the station.

Where appropriate, spent coffee granules obtained from Angels Hotel are spread at the station.

In excess of 20 bags of soil improver have been obtained over the winter and dug into the existing soil.





The Conservation Volunteers have built a compost bin at the end of the Glasgow platform and they have also planted some Scottish native wildflower species and tidied up the large shrub bed.

With a grant obtained from the Community Council, 5 large grey planters have been purchased and initially planted with bedding for this summer.

Two planters have been sited on the Glasgow side with the remaining three on the Edinburgh side.



Crocus bulbs have been planted on the Glasgow embankment.

The climbers removed from the Edinburgh side before the work at the station began have now been replanted and are making great progress. Perennial geraniums have been planted between the climbers.

Work has continued on improving the Edinburgh side by maintaining the hebes and plants replanted there from their original homes in the containers on the Main Street.

A new bed has been formed at the Edinburgh side of the car park and planted up with a mixture of shrubs, perennials and annual.

Bedding plants have been planted on the Edinburgh side for instant colour.





# Village

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Following the cut backs by the Land Services section of South Lanarkshire Council last year the group have managed to obtain sponsors for hanging baskets and this year we have managed to put up 24 baskets on 12 lamp posts. That is the maximum number that could be watered by Rosebank Garden Centre. We were able to increase the number of baskets about the village with no additional cost for the baskets as following the reconstruction work at the station we have been unable to erect the 8 baskets that were originally sited at the station.

Another aspect of the Council cut backs is that the group are looking at ways of keeping the streets weed free.

The group have continued to look after the bed at the entrance to Kylepark from Blantyre Farm Road and it has been planted up with bedding plants for the summer with a view to introduce a mixture of bedding and more permanent in the future. 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.





One of our local primary schools has planted up the planter outside Smiths restaurant in their school colours.

At Crofthead Park the planters have been painted in bright colours and planted with herbs and strawberries.

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. Following a request by the group the new occupants of the David Milne Centre have put in an outside tap to help with the watering in this area.

The group have sold planters and hanging baskets to shops in the village adding colour on the Main Street and to the group's funds.



A certificate is issued to the shop with the best kept planter. This year, some shops had looked after their planters extremely well and were issued with certificates.



Earlier this year some of our members, along with the Tesco Champion, tidied up and replanted The Well on the grounds of the Tesco store.

This summer there are 51 hanging baskets, 8 barrier baskets, 20 mangers and 10 barrels on display about the village.



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

Last winter we retained the two barrels at the War Memorial and planted them up with pansies and bulbs bringing colour to the area over the winter months.





# 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

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



The group are still trying to obtain a suitable place for an orchard and are in correspondence with South Lanarkshire Council on the matter. In the meantime the fruit trees obtained last year are being looked after in Terry's nursery. We are hoping that a suitable place will be found soon.

# Litter Pickers Group

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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 regular planned litter picks in the area, there have been numerous very regular ad hoc picks by certain extremely active individuals.

One member of the group looks after adopted roads and community bags that have been placed in certain troublesome areas.

Working jointly with the Council new litter bins have been erected outside the Grammar school and near a bus stop beside the Golf course entrance. In relation to the bin at the bus stop it has been found that peoples habits have changed and amount of litter in that area has decreased.

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.

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







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.

For the month of May this year pupils from first and second years of the Grammar school have been out litter picking every day for the first period after lunch to try and help the litter problem in the school area and trying to encourage the pupils not to drop litter.

In conjunction with their Duke of Edinburgh award, 4 boys have been helping in the planned litter picks.

To help with the litter picking the group have acquired equipment such as a couple of trolleys, cart for transporting the rubbish, hoops for putting on the sacks.

There is an excellent service from both Councils for picking up the bags of rubbish.

This year in connection with the Spring Clean Scotland event we had a very successful day and during the period local businesses also arranged their own events.

In the year to 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025, 1366 bags of rubbish were removed from both North and South Lanarkshire Council and 746 man hours were volunteered litter picking.

# Reducing waste and helping wildlife

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

- Some 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.
- 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.
- We are looking at ways of making our own compost.





## Built landscape

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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. Over the year two new litter bins have been placed near the school and one beside the bus stop at the entrance to golf club.

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 cut backs 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

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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

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Over the year we are continuing to work with and where appropriate increase our involvement with the local schools, nurseries and uniformed organisations, as they are our future members.

This year one of our local primary schools, Tannochside, invited us to help with their school garden but as there would be no watering facilities during the school holidays it was decided that we would work together with the local home Highgate. Children from the school helped the residents plant flowers in pots and in the main the pots would be looked after by the residents.

Along with the school we are looking at ways this relationship could be strengthened next term.



We are continuing to work with the Eco committee of St John's and the Green Team of Angels on joint litter picks.

The pupils in the Eco team at St John's have adopted the planter outside Smiths restaurant and have planted it up in their school colours. They have also planted up vegetables in boxes in the school grounds with help from some of the PTA members.

Muiredge primary school have invited us in to help with the garden club on a Friday afternoon and we are helping them establish a garden in the school grounds. It is hoped that this work will continue next term.

We are continuing to work with the local uniformed organisations and this year we had a successful litter pick in Crofthead Park with the Beavers. In the autumn we planted bulbs with the Guides and the Boys' Brigade.

We have continued to work with Woodlands Beginnings, recently holding a litter pick around their area.

The litter pickers have had help from 4 boys working towards their Duke of Edinburgh award and two girls who also are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh bronze award have helped with the annual litter pick and watering.

This year the primary schools did not hold a joint school fete however we were invited to attend the St John's fete and we had activities of planting strawberries and flowers for the children.

During the Christmas fayre we have activities for the children, like finding Santa and Friends in the shop windows.

The senior pupils of the local secondary school hold the annual joint litter pick with ourselves and Brighter Bothwell in June.

This year a band from the secondary school played at the Christmas fayre.





# Christmas Fayre

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The annual Christmas fayre was held on the first Sunday in December and was well attended.

This year the entertainment was supplied by a local dance group, a band from Uddington Grammar school and The Salvation Army.

A choir made up of pupils from both Muiredge and St John's schools sang in Park Church.

There were several stalls in attendance, however care is taken to ensure that the stalls were not in competition with the local shopkeepers. We are lucky that a lot of the local shops open that day and people are encouraged to shop locally by some of the shops offering discounts for the day of the fayre.

Representatives from the local hockey club attended to encourage people to try the sport.

The group itself have three main stalls, one tombola, one selling raffles and the other selling in the main crafts and mulled wine.

The local community café sells soup and two of the other churches provide tea, coffee ,hot chocolate and home baking.

Santa is in attendance giving out sweets to the children.

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

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Once again a plant sale was held at the beginning of May and again we had beautiful sunny weather.

The plants were supplied by Rosebank Garden Centre on a sale or return basis and orders were taken for the likes of hanging baskets which were delivered the following week. Cuttings and divisions brought on by one of our members were also sold. This year we used a SumUp machine as well for sales but most of our takings were in cash.

The plant sale is held on the large pavement outside Park Church and the ladies of the church sold teas and coffees.

The plant sale is our best fundraiser and each year is getting more popular with the public and a great way to publicise the work of the group.

This year we also obtained a couple of sponsors for our baskets and tubs at the sale.





At the beginning of June we had a couple of tables at St John's school fete selling plants, and activities for the children. This year the weather was very stormy and most of the activities were inside apart from the likes of the plant sale.



One Sunday in June we were asked to sell plants at a picnic in the local Chapel grounds. Despite the terrible weather we did manage to sell some plants.

It is great to be out in the community letting people know about the work of the group.

## Local partnerships

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There are various ways that the group works with local businesses.

The local Tesco champion and staff at both Scotmid and the Coop stores are valued supporters of the group.

Some of the ways Tesco has helped this year are by donating goods for the Christmas fayre and prizes for the joint litter pick with the Grammar school. The Tesco champion and her daughter helped at the Christmas fayre. Scotmid donated refreshments for the litter pick.



The Green Team at Angels work regularly with the group for example by helping with litter picks, working together with us at the eco group at St Johns school and staff helping at the Christmas fayre.

Uddingston Cricket and Sports club provide the group with meeting facilities in exchange for the group putting plants in their planters.

The local Men's shed help us with different jobs like making signs and 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

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We are in contact with both our friends/colleagues at Brighter Bothwell and Bonnie Blantyre, and we are part of the Bothwell Green Canopy Group.

We also purchase some plants / herbs from the Bothwell Organic Gardens.



# Finance

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Our two main fund raising activities were the Christmas fayre and the plant sale raising about £5,000 from the two events.

The group were represented at both St John's school fete and the picnic at St John's Chapel and between the two raising about £400.

During the year we have sold baskets and planters to the local shops and businesses. Following the cut backs by South Lanarkshire Council we have obtained sponsorship for 18 hanging baskets, 2 barrels and one shop planter.



This year the group has been set up for online banking. We have purchased a SumUp machine although most of our sales are still in cash.

The year 2025 is the group's twenty fifth birthday and we are looking at ways to acknowledge this fact with new additions to the village like seats, tree etc.

## Future plans

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In the coming year we will continue to work at the station following the installation of the new lift/bridge.

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

We will continue to work with the uniformed organisations.

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

We will continue with our tree planting in the area and continue with our work for setting up an orchard.

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

We will continue to look at ways of helping the environment.

# 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.





# Appendix

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- 1 The moment we were recognised with a Gold award at the Keep Scotland Beautiful Awards 2024



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



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To top it off, we were honoured with the Jim Murdie Trophy for Sustainability...



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...thanks to our tree planting project, spearheaded by volunteer Terry!



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Adverts for our annual Christmas Fayre....



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...and our ever-popular plant sale!



One of our volunteers and keen litter picker, Karen Wardlaw, featured in Keep Scotland Beautiful's Spring Newsletter.

#### Why litter pick?

This is what one of Grow Uddingston's fantastic litter pickers, Karen Wardlaw wrote about litter picking:

Why do I litter pick? I call it my Environmental hobby! I enjoy it but also love the feeling of accomplishment when you see an area tidied up and litter free. I started in a small way about 9 years ago. 5 bits of litter on my walk down from Spindiehowe to catch the train to work. Then when I started walking a couple of dogs it gave their walks more purpose.

I have now adopted a 200 metre stretch of road near my house and I keep it as clear of litter as I can. I take civic pride in doing this for the community. I do though struggle to understand when and why it became acceptable to throw your rubbish etc. out the window of your car instead of taking it home 🤔?

I pick litter anywhere I see it - one of my sayings is "litter doesn't have a postcode", and, in the words of Strictly - Keeeep Picking!

And here's a wee bit more info about Karen: she has cleared, along with a few of her dedicated litter pickers, many local areas in and around Uddingston of historic litter, and they now maintain these areas. Last year she contacted the local Community Champion at Tesco and successfully negotiated for the store to provide vape bins. Where no council bins are provided, Karen has placed community bags which she checks and regularly replaces. At present, she looks after five community bags. Previously one of the community bags was replaced by the Council with one of their own bins. Last year, Karen was awarded a Community Volunteer award by North Lanarkshire Council - The Provost's Awards 2024.

Another of Grow Uddingston's volunteers, Jacqui Modove wrote this about her litter picking experiences too: "Volunteering, and in particular, litter picking gives me a sense of accomplishment as I can immediately see the difference I've made. I hate to see litter lying around, so clearing it up makes me feel better, and it's good to be able to give something back to the community in which I live. I enjoy keeping the village tidy so everyone can enjoy it. I'm out in the fresh air and getting exercise, but a surprise bonus of joining other volunteers is meeting new people, and I now have a new group of similarly minded friends."

A massive thank you, and well done to Karen, Jacqui and all the litter pickers in Uddingston and across the country for all your efforts.





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Karen Wardlaw, Volunteer of the Year 2024 at the North Lanarkshire Council Provost's Awards.



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"I want to share my thoughts on the benefit of volunteering with Grow Uddingston. Living with Parkinson's means each day brings its own challenges. However volunteering allows me to contribute as much or as little as I can handle at any moment. Through volunteering I can acquire new skills, especially in understanding plants and their care—an area that interests me. Moreover, it offers a chance to meet new people and build connections in the community. Furthermore, volunteering offers me a sense of purpose and fulfilment while contributing to a stronger community overall."

**Kevin Gough**, Volunteer

"I love living in Uddingston and enjoy being able to help maintain its appearance. Grow Uddingston gets me out in the fresh air, meeting new and enthusiastic people who care about our environment and making new friends. Volunteering benefits both myself and the local community."

**Linda Kerr**, Volunteer

"Being part of this team is great and brings me a lot of joy. I found the team over a year ago when I was driving past where they were working. Me and my partner were looking for something new to do that got us out into the community and Grow Uddingston was perfect.

The team are so welcoming and Anona is great and setting every week up. I feel truly blessed to have this opportunity right on our doorsteps and can't wait to see what is planned for this year."

**Adele Drummond**, Volunteer

"Volunteering with Grow Uddingston has been an incredibly rewarding experience, offering the perfect blend of fresh air, teamwork and hands on effort. Getting involved in community planting and maintaining green spaces has not only been a great way to stay active but also an opportunity to meet new people and build new connections. There is something truly satisfying about putting in the hard work seeing the transformation take shape and witnessing the community come together to appreciate the results. The pride and joy of winning awards for our efforts make all the graft worth it."

**Ryan Davey**, Volunteer



“Volunteering is a valuable part of my life. I am able to do new things and meet a variety of people. This is both enjoyable and beneficial for my mental health. I enjoy the group Grow Uddingston as it improves the appearance of the Main Street and provides social interaction with the rest of the group.”

**Alison Whitelaw**, Volunteer

“Volunteering, and in particular, litter picking gives me a sense of accomplishment as I can immediately see the difference I’ve made. I hate to see litter lying around so clearing it up makes me feel better, and it’s good to be able to give something back to the community in which I live. I enjoy keeping the village tidy so everyone can enjoy it. I’m out in the fresh air and getting exercise, but a surprise bonus of joining other volunteers is meeting new people, and I now have a new group of similarly minded friends.”

**Jacqui McDove**, Volunteer

“Grow Uddingston are a great asset to the community keeping the place looking great all year round. This could not be done without the volunteer who spend lots of time making sure that everyone is proud of the way Uddingston looks. These volunteers are out all year round regardless of the weather always upbeat cheery and have a ready smile.”

**Hazel Krawczyk**, Hazel’s Butterfly Bakery

We have been lucky enough to have been situated on Uddingston Main Street for almost 7 years and we have seen many changes, but one remains constant; Grow Uddingston’s dedication and passion to our village. The volunteers who run this wonderful organisation have created a pride and togetherness in our community and really make it a pleasure coming to work every day. From the beautiful floral displays to engaging young people in litter picking events, to encouraging and educating on new ways to recycle and reuse; the volunteers of Grow Uddingston truly make our neighbourhood a better place to be raising a smile every day and we could not be prouder of them.

**Karen Turner**, Travel Guru