

Old Perth Road – A New Heather Garden

The plot of ground at the bottom of Old Perth Road which was the site of an old house was cleared three years ago and Euna kindly arranged for two loads of compost to be deposited there. We had planted a mixture of annuals and members excess perennials and while it was a great improvement, it was decided this was too high maintenance. So it was decided that we should create something more permanent – and a heather garden was the favourite choice and one of our members, Jackie, took on the responsibility of creating it. The use of heathers as the main plant will reduce the maintenance requirements and makes it a viable long term use of the site.

In 2010 the site was cleared of all perennials but we waited until the bulbs were all passed before landscaping. On the guidance of the heather supplier we designed a planting plan so that there would be colour all year round and also on their recommendation we created a 1 metre grass strip to protect the heathers from road salt. Using stone donated by a kind resident, a path and three beds have been created. The tractor tyre will give some height to the site and a low stone wall will be built in front of it. Clematis's have been planted along the wall to break up its appearance. The heathers were not planted before October to allow us to make sure the site was clear of weeds and the more stubborn perennials and to give the best planting conditions for the heathers.

The site was finished in early October with the planting of the heathers and the completion of the path. Despite the heavy snow and then the dumping of the snow and grit from the road clearances on the plants, we only lost four heathers. Even the grass which appeared swamped by the grit left behind has recovered. We have received numerous compliments from the local residents for its creation and children regularly use the path to avoid walking on the road at the junction... it's been a success all round.

The project was funded by Milnathort in Bloom and came in under budget at £264. All the labour was supplied by our members, organised by Jackie.