

Milnathort in Bloom

September 2011

As the nights draw in we can look back at a year which had its challenges and successes. The polytunnel we used to grow our plants and store our equipment collapsed in the snow last November and one of the replacements was then flattened by the wind in May. Thanks to the generosity of residents of Milnathort we were able to distribute some of our plants in greenhouses and bring the rest on in the remaining polytunnel.

Despite these setbacks we got our baskets out and our tubs and beds planted. For the cart and some of the tubs we went with a flower and vegetable theme and combined harvesting with watering, particularly the courgettes and beans. Though slow to get going the baskets and tubs again looked wonderful this summer. At Auld Mart Lane the beds have been planted with Lavender and pinks which are more sustainable in this exposed location.

The other highlights were the completion of the Community Orchard in South Street. The trees have become established and we even had a few apples. Please stop and read the plaque describing which apples have been planted. They are all Scottish Varieties, some with a very old lineage. We also completed the heather garden in Old Perth Road and as autumn draws on the colours of the different heathers are showing in all their glory.

The results of all this work was recognised when Milnathort in Bloom won a Silver Gilt medal in the Perthshire in Bloom competition. The judges were particularly taken with the vegetable planting and though the centre of the village was spectacular.

The big ideas for next year are purchasing a new polytunnel which can stand up to our weather, planting up the beds at the War Memorial and constructing a small walled garden/seating area in Stirling Road. If you have any ideas please get in contact or come along to our meetings.

The next two gatherings are on the 24th September to plant spring bulbs on Stirling Road. We meet at the school at 10:00 and are going to plant Crocuses and daffodils. After that we are meeting on the 1st October to take down the baskets, empty the tubs and cart and cut the grass at the orchard. Please feel free to come along to either or both, we are a friendly bunch and new hands are always welcome.

Our AGM is to be held on the 24th of October at 7:30pm in the Scout and Guide Hall, Milnathort. The meeting is open to all so if you would like to join in, in whatever capacity, please come along. You will be very welcome. After the AGM will be the first meeting of 2011/12 to plan out the year ahead.

You can contact Milnathort in Bloom at graemhs@yahoo.com or 01577864357 or Liz Cormack at lizcormack@mypostoffice.co.uk or 01577 861820