

# The Almond Glen Community Group



## Wildflower garden project Keillor



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Because of the house build, the area where we had planned the wild flower meadow was a mix of sub-soil, top-soil and hardcore. The soil had been compacted by all the machinery involved in the build, so in the Summer of 2016 we hired a rotovator to break up the surface.

From Scotia Seeds we bought a general mix of seeds that contained a range of plants for a species-rich grassland common in Scotland. The mix contained 17 wildflower & 6 grass species. In Autumn 2016 we spread the seeds by hand, using bamboo poles to indicate the square meterage and fine sand to help us judge the sowing rate of 3g per square meter. Behind the house the grass in the field had not been disturbed by the building process. We bought some Yellow Rattle seeds, rotovated some strips to produce bare earth and planted. The rattle germinated successfully and continues to spread. Apart from pulling unwelcome docks and nettles, the only maintenance is a once a year cut in the Autumn. We bought a second-hand power scythe / sickle mower which cuts the grass and plants near the base and leaves them lying ready to be raked up. In 2017 the results were beautiful, but a little patchy. In 2018 there was more flowers and greater coverage. The Ox-Eye daisies took over the steep bank at the front of the plot. The Yarrow, Knapweed and Birdsfoot Trefoil all flourished on the flat and the various clovers started to colonise the worst of the hardcore areas.

We also dug a pond in a boggy corner of the field, the variety of plants and the access to water has attracted all sorts of wildlife; from Bees to Bats and Bullfinches.

Stewart & Gill