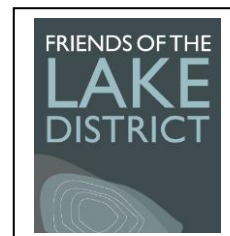


# Landscape & habitat improvements to Lazonby Parish Council land at Scaur Close

To: Lazonby Parish Council  
From: Geoff Wilson  
Date: 24 September 2022  
Re: Scaur Close Green

Supported by  
**Friends of the Lake  
District  
Environmental  
Improvement Grant**



## Landscape and habitat improvements to Lazonby Parish Council land at Scaur Close: Project Progress Update

Report to 5 October 2022 parish council meeting.



It was May 2015 when proposals to do a landscape improvement project on parish council owned land in Scaur Close was first put to the parish council, and early 2016 when the first works commenced on rebuilding the stone wall and felling some trees.

Seven years on ... there was plenty of rain this year in the Spring and the grass grew well on Scaur Close Green. The deliberate gathering and spreading of Yellow Rattle seed appears to have served the purpose of weakening some of the more dominant grasses and allowed in more light to allow wild flowers to grow.

However, July was sufficiently free of rain for the grass to be cut (by strimmer), dried and gathered-up late in the month after all the flower seed had dropped. The photos (above) show how it was when the grass was being cut, turned, raked and rowed-up in readiness for bagging and disposal.



Come autumn the grass has been lightly cut back again to let light in to the germinating seeds which are next year's crop of grass and flowers, and the area will possibly be scarified to encourage germination of the meadow seeds. But like last year sections of the green appear to have been invaded by leatherjackets (Crane-fly / Daddy-longlegs larvae) which live underground feeding on plant stems and roots. In turn the crows have appreciated the larvae as rich source of food for them. Together they make it look a bit of a mess (see photo left). Unlike last year it's not intended to sow any more wildflower seed on the infested area. We'll see what returns in Spring.

The various trees on the green continue to grow well, but there is still little fruit on the apple trees.

The area of bird and bee friendly shrubs and herbs at the top of the site continues to thrive, Over the past year some cuttings have been taken from shrubs which will add to the density of planting in that area.

The Broom bush which was ripped up and broken by Storm Arwen (November 2021) was replaced by a new bush (from Weasdale Nursery ... now closed) ... but a part of the broken bush that was heeled into a nursery corner of our own garden has thrown out shoots and will be returned to the parish land.

As usual the cut grass and weed becomes compost in the two on-site bins.

GW 24.09.2022