



ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR JUNE 2024 to 25 JUNE 2025



BEAUTIFUL PERTH



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1. Introduction from Chairman

As a Scottish registered charity, we are obliged to prepare annual accounts and an annual report of our endeavours and financial activity. This report therefore summarises the activities during the past year, of which there have been many.

In terms of personnel, after the significant change to the governance in the running of the charity at the start of 2023-2024, I am very pleased to report there have been no further changes amongst the Trustees. We do still have a vacancy for the post of secretary, but I am grateful to Christine Stokoe, one of our valued volunteers, who has taken on the task of recording and preparing minutes from our monthly committee meetings. Our volunteer numbers have marginally increased, not in large numbers, but as our workload increases, any additional support is most welcome.

At present we are still operating from a temporary base at the Riverside Park, however a resolution has now been reached to move to a storage container thanks to the valued assistance from the Community Greenspace Team at Perth & Kinross Council. They have also been helpful in assisting us set up a polytunnel which will be used to propagate our own plants and be used for educational purposes.

Our Beautiful Perth volunteers have continued to improve the Riverside Park with the introduction of a heather nursery bed and the latest project, creating a Butterfly and Moth Garden. Elsewhere they have taken on a prominent raised bed at the North Inch and continue to improve numerous beds around the city.

My sincere thanks to my fellow Trustees who have driven the charity forward significantly in the past year. As all bring a range of knowledge and experience, it would be remiss of me to pick out any individuals, sufficient to say we could not achieve what we have without their input and support.

The Trustees may lead the direction of the charity, but I am indebted to all our loyal and supportive volunteers for your hard work and camaraderie over what has been yet another extremely busy year.

Out-with our own organisation, I am grateful to the input and support from Perth & Kinross Council staff, particularly Community Greenspace, Operations and Parking Services along with our valued sponsors and supporters.

2. About Us

Beautiful Perth's governing document is a Constitution, adopted in 2001 and most recently revised in 2019. The charitable objectives of Beautiful Perth are:-

- To improve the local environment and quality of life in Perth by supporting and enabling voluntary activities that protect, care for and enhance the local natural, horticultural and built environment and heritage.

- To advance the education of the public by supporting and encouraging educational initiatives concerning the local environment and other related issues and by providing lifelong learning about the natural environment through environmental campaigns and sustainable improvement projects.
- To advance community development by fostering community spirit and pride of place by encouraging public participation for the achievement of these and other related purposes.

3. Overview of Beautiful Perth

Beautiful Perth is a charity registered with OSCR

Our registration number is: SC032395

Registered Office: c/o Community Greenspace, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth PH1 5GD

Trustees: Gordon Lindsay (Chairman), Euna Scott MBE (Vice Chair), Kim McDonald (Treasurer), Alison Martin, Fiona Hair, Barbara McDonald, Tom Lowdon, Allan Farmer.

4. Governance

Structure, governance and management

Our governing body is the Committee of Trustees all from differing backgrounds bringing with them a wealth of experience. All Trustees are volunteers and no remuneration is paid.

As required by the Constitution, the Trustees monitor the financial transactions via the Treasurers monthly reports to the committee. Audited accounts have been presented as required by OSCR for scrutiny and approval.

Beautiful Perth has a set of policies and procedures in place, covering Health & Safety, Finance, The Environment, Plastics, Volunteering, Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults, Equal Opportunities and Lone Working.

Independent Examiner

We employ a professional independent accountant to undertake an examination of our Annual Accounts in the timescale required by OSCR.

Finance

Full details of the finances are presented in the Accounts and Treasurer's Notes. The charity has benefitted from substantial grant funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which not only enabled us to purchase new equipment to replace that lost in last year's fire but to bring in a consultant on a short-term pilot project to work with young people who have fallen out of mainstream education and social prescribers. Having witnessed the success of this short-term project

we are seeking also to employ a second consultant experienced in horticulture to provide training on plant care/ propagation. Both these projects are subject to us being able to secure additional long-term funding. To assist us in sourcing the level of funding necessary, we have secured the services of a company who specialise in this work.

The accounts show that our allocation from Perth & Kinross Council has been increased from last year, but this remains only 50% of what we received in previous years.

Finally, we have to acknowledge and thank the contribution made by our generous sponsors. This year we were delighted that 2 new companies, The Fish & Chip Company and Kids Art Classes have joined our list of sponsors, as contained in Annex 4 below.

5. Highlights of the Year

Visitation from Professor Michael Dana and his party of Master Gardeners – Professor Dana from Purdue University in Idaho USA contacted Beautiful Perth to ask if he, along with his group of master gardeners he was taking on a tour of gardens across Scotland, could meet with us at the Heather Garden. He explained he had noticed our garden when on a visit to Branklyn Gardens and had researched the gardens on his return to the USA. He vowed to specifically visit our gardens if he returned to Scotland. We were delighted to welcome this group who were interested in learning about the work we do, particularly in relation to the National Heather Collection. Such was the success he has returned with a second group of master gardeners.

Visitation by Compassionate Friends – it is always a pleasure when members of this group pay a visit to our Compassionate Friends Garden. Although they each have very personal memories and reasons for attending, it is very pleasing for our volunteers that those attending take the time to acknowledge their efforts in maintaining the garden to a high standard.

Visitation by David Edge – As a specialist heather propagator and supplier, Beautiful Perth were delighted to welcome him to Perth. During the visit David was very kind in bringing some heathers to add to our National Collection of Carnea Heathers.

Presenting to Perth Parkinsons Support Group – Getting the message out regarding the work of Beautiful Perth is always a pleasure so we were delighted to be invited to give a presentation at a group meeting.

Bringing new sponsors on board – we have been fortunate that in these difficult financial times to have been approached by 2 small local companies who were very keen to support our work and to be associated with beautiful Perth. So a big thank you goes out to the Fish & Chip Company and Kids Art Classes.

Volunteer lunch – this is the second time we have held such an event. We see this as an important element in enhancing the general camaraderie amongst the group. It provides an opportunity to have an informal get together away from the

gardening environment. Judging by the general buzz in the room, it is clear this is very popular with our wonderful volunteers.

6. Key Projects and Activities 2024-2025

Business Plan – As we strive to secure more funding to achieve our goals, the decision was made to develop a 2 year business plan for the Charity. This was seen as a critical piece of work as it is a requirement for many potential funders. The Trustees, therefore decided to employ an experienced Consultant to co-ordinate and develop the plan which has now been published.

Heather Collection – maintaining and making improvements to the heathers is a continual process involving removal and replacement of a number of plants, including tree heathers, which had either died or were passed their best.

A criteria of holding a National Collection is the requirement to hold a backup supply of plants should the need arise. As part of a redevelopment of the entrance into the Riverside Park, we were allocated a new bed which now is being planted up with propagated cuttings for this purpose. This is particularly important aspect of the National Collection as some of the varieties we hold are no longer commercially available in the UK.

Compassionate Friends Garden – the ongoing process of maintaining and enhancing this space continues due to the efforts of our volunteers, bringing many positive comments from visitors.

Green Flag Applications – An application has been submitted to Keep Scotland Beautiful for the prestigious Green Flag award for the Heather Garden and for the Compassionate Friends Garden. Judging took place in May and whilst we received generally positive feedback on the day, the actual results of our application will not be released until mid-July.

Rodney Garden – In addition to general maintenance work in this garden, a major project is underway to create a Butterfly & Moth Garden in an area that was overgrown and frankly detracted from the beauty of the gardens. This involved a significant effort on behalf of our volunteers to clear out some large but unsightly shrubs. We have been supported in this endeavour with input from the Butterfly and Moth Conservation Trust, they have supplied information boards and plants which are attractive to these creatures.

Perth Railway Station – A new venture this year was the adoption of the planters at the frontage to the railway station. We were approached by Scotrail to adopt these planters and a small garden area which had fallen in to a state of neglect. With support from a couple of asylum seekers who are housed in temporary accommodation adjacent to the station, the planters now offer a welcoming sight to rail users.

Thistle Bed – This raised bed in a very prominent location at the North Inch was previously maintained by Perth & Kinross Council. Again we were approached to adopt this bed given cutbacks made by the council. As with the railway station this bed was in a state of neglect and has required a total overhaul but now is

planted in a manner that will significantly reduce the level of maintenance required and attract more pollinators.

Funding from Uk Fund – We were allocated a considerable sum of money from this fund in February, however the condition attached was that the money required to be spent by 31 March 2025. With much thanks to our consultant Scott Taylor for sourcing equipment and our wonderful treasurer Kim for dealing with numerous invoices at short notice, significant improvements have been made.

Support from the Business Sector – we were delighted to have staff from SSE, AVIVA, Merlin ERD, Scottish Water and Perth Racecourse who used their volunteer hours from work to join our volunteers in tackling some of the overgrown flower beds we had struggled to keep under control. In addition local company Trees Plus provided men and equipment to clear some large shrubs and bushes. All of this made a real difference and demonstrated the benefits of community involvement.

7. The Year Ahead

Another busy year ahead for our volunteers, in addition to the routine maintenance work, our key projects are

Butterfly & Moth Garden - most of the preparation work is complete and we have been bringing on plants donated by the Butterfly and Moth Conservation Trust, which our volunteers will enjoy planting. We have also been donated a number of colourful descriptive signs to install which explain about butterfly conservation and how to identify different types. Thereafter we will be looking to hold educational events.

Storage facility – another early fix will be to complete the installation of our new storage container then transfer equipment from the current temporary facility.

Polytunnel – one of our volunteers has been using his own garden and conservatory to propagate our plants. This is clearly not sustainable, therefore, completing the fitting out of the polytunnel is another priority to allow it to be used in the future. The facility will also be used for educating volunteers, school children and social prescribers on plant care.

Rodney Garden redevelopment – this perhaps is a longer term objective, as the area in question has lacked regular maintenance and is now unrecognisable from its heyday. We are fortunate in having a copy of the original planting plans for the garden and the intention is to try to replicate that general layout. Such is the scale of this project, it really does depend on whether funding can be secured. Some preparatory work was kindly undertaken by Trees Plus who cut back some of the overgrown bushes.

In general much of what else we would like to do next year will to an extent depend on the levels of funding we can secure. Whilst our own reserves could potentially sustain our 2 consultants in the short term, this is not sustainable in the longer term. The involvement of these specialists will enable us to focus more attention on the educational aspects of the charity's stated aims.

8. Community Engagement, Participation and Partnership Working

Partnerships are key to our success and whilst they have suffered a bit this year we continue to have close working relationships with both long-standing supporters and new partners. The intention is that the new year give us the opportunity to reinstate partnerships that have, for various reasons, been lost. Working in partnership does make a significant difference and the following list identifies some of the people and groups we would particularly like to mention as we are grateful for their input.

- Perth & Kinross Council
- CulturePKC
- The Westbank Project
- National Trust for Scotland Branklyn Gardens
- Kilmac Ltd
- NHS
- St Leonards in the Field Church
- Church of the Latter Day Saints
- Trinity Church of the Nazarenes

9. Environmental Responsibility

Local litter picks are regularly undertaken to improve the environment.

Regular feeding of birds is undertaken to attract a wide range of species to visit the gardens.

Planting is more and more focused on sustainability and attracting pollinators.

10. Local Awards

No local awards in the calendar year, however we have been judged for a Green Flag award for the Heather Garden and the Compassionate Friends Garden.

11. Conclusion

The past year has been extremely busy, not least the hard work preparing for the Green Flag Award judging. We have however moved into new territory by bringing on board consultants to expand our range of work to include more on education and training. Securing additional funding for the year ahead is key to allow us to continue and indeed expand on this initiative.

As always with the support and goodwill of our Trustees and our dedicated volunteers, I am confident that we are in a stronger position than this time last year as we move forward. We have been fortunate to attract a few more volunteers over the year which has helped us in our stated aim of making Perth a beautiful place to live, work and visit. If we require any motivation, then the positive

comments we receive on social media along with those made by passing visitors to the gardens provide that in abundance.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the support we receive from Perth & Kinross Council Community Greenspace. Our working relationship has grown stronger in the past year, with our quarterly meetings being very productive. In addition we are supported on site by one of their officers who physically assists on a weekly basis. The level of financial support we receive from the Council is still low by comparison to past years, however they have been supportive in other areas.

Financially the past year has been generally positive with a one off boost from the UK Prosperity Fund albeit that in itself created a lot of work given time constraints applied. Support of our sponsors is very greatly appreciated, without their support we would drastically need to cut back on the sheer volume of work we undertake. So having 2 new sponsors was very welcome indeed and the hope is to attract more to join us in the coming year. So to all our sponsors you have our sincere thanks, it is crucial.

I have no doubt that the year ahead will throw up it's own set of challenges, and we may not achieve all we set out to do but I know that I can again call on the support of my fellow Office Bearers, Trustees and volunteers. To them all I extend my sincere thanks for the continued work undertaken to improve and enhance the quality of the local environment for local residents and visitors.

Gordon J Lindsay
Chairman
Beautiful Perth
25 June 2025

ANNEX 1 – LIST OF CHARITIES, VOLUNTARY GROUPS AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Keep Scotland Beautiful
NTS Branklyn Gardens
Butterfly Conservation East Scotland
Church of the Latter Day Saints
Church of the Nazarene
Compassionate Friends Scotland
Heather Society
Oakbank Community Centre
Perthshire Organic Gardeners
Perthshire Wildlife Trust
RHS Perthshire
Take a Pride in P&K Association
The Gannochy Trust

ANNEX 2 – BUSINESSES AND AGENCIES

AK Bell Library
Community Safety Partnership
Craigie Cross Businesses

Kilmac Ltd
Perth City Centre Management
Perth Concert Hall
Trees Plus

ANNEX 3 – PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL TEAMS

Community Greenspace
The Westbank Project
Dog Control
Finance
Operations
Parking Services
Roads
Street Lighting
Waste Services
Westbank Nursery

ANNEX 4 – SPONSORS

Bannerman Decorators
Earnside Energy
Fish & Chip Company
Atlas Hotels – (Holiday Inn Express Perth)
Kids Art Classes
Kilmac Ltd
Morris Leslie Ltd
Noahs Ark Golf Centre
St Leonards In The Field Church