



ANNUAL REPORT

20th June 2022-25th May 2023



1. Introduction.

As a registered Scottish Charity (SC 032395), Beautiful Perth (BP) is required to prepare its accounts and an Annual Report of its endeavours and financial activity. This Annual Report summarises the activities during 2022-2023, after the previous difficulties during the previous two years of COVID Pandemic restrictions, it became more of a return to normal this year when group activities could take place and meeting together became the norm again for volunteers.

Beautiful Perth volunteers continued to improve the Riverside Park with the introduction of more heather varieties including new Erica carnea varieties and the aim of achieving a National Collection was achieved. Work also continued to improve and maintain areas including Rodney Gardens, Oakbank Corner bed, Bridgend Car Park, Rosslyn House, Dewars bed Kinnoull School Garden, various beds along Dundee Road, Curfew Row, St Leonards in The Fields Church, Craigie Cross, Oakbank Post Office planters, Oakbank Community Centre, Curfew Row, and a community garden project at Goodlyburn Nursery School

My sincere thanks to our Vice Chair, Jenny Williams, whose continued support to me as Chairman is greatly appreciated. Thanks are also conveyed to both Monica Straughan and Elspeth Bruce for undertaking the roles of Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Both are important and key positions and we are also grateful to Monica for her duties on media promotion through press releases, the website and social media.

I would like to thank all our volunteers and Trustees for their loyal support to Beautiful Perth, and to each other, through another busy year. We are also very grateful to the partner organisations, sponsors and supporters who have remained loyal to Beautiful Perth throughout this time.

2 Governance

Structure, governance and management

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
- to enhance environmental education through environmental campaigns and projects
- to advance community development by fostering community spirit and public participation

Our governing body is a Committee of Trustees, drawn from the private sector, public sector, local residents and voluntary organisations. All committee members are volunteers, and no remunerations are paid.

Our Trustees at 31 March 2023 were: John Summers, Chairman; Jenny Williams, Vice Chair; Elspeth Bruce, Secretary; Monica Straughan, Treasurer; Fiona Hair, Tracey Hutton, Gordon Lindsay, Tom Lowdon, Barbara McDonald.

During 2022 we thanked Sylvia Stuart and Graham Harbut for their Service as Trustees and volunteers over several years as they left BP. A special gift was handed over to Sylvia Stuart, a very long standing Trustee and volunteer by the Chairman along with a small group of Trustees at her house, in the presence of her husband Bill(also a former volunteer) and their daughter and son in law. Sylvia was delighted with her engraved floral vase and flowers and we wished her all the very best of health and our grateful thanks for all she has done for BP as a Trustee and a volunteer.

We welcomed volunteer Gordon Lindsay as a newly elected Trustee to the Committee and confirmed Susie Eisner as a Trustee, who had already been serving on the Committee until her formal adoption. Both new Trustees were formally proposed and seconded at the 2022 AGM.

During 2022/23 we sadly accepted the resignations as Trustees of Susie Eisner and Alistair Chalmers due to work and other commitments and the Chairman wrote letters of thanks to them both for their service and wished them well.

As required by the Constitution, the Trustees monitor the Association's financial position via monthly reports to the committee by the Treasurer. Audited accounts of the Income and Expenditure and of the Balance Sheet at the end of the financial year are presented to the AGM for scrutiny and approval.

We have a set of Policies and Procedures in place, covering Health & Safety, Finance, The Environment, Plastics, Volunteering, Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults, Equal Opportunities and Intergenerational Working and Lone Working

Independent Examiner: We are very grateful to Lorna Sharp FCCA for her professional independent examination of our Annual Accounts

Finance: Full details of the Finances are presented in the Accounts and Treasurer's Notes. The Charity is in a satisfactory financial position and my thanks to those who support us for their continued contributions. Thank you to the Perth and Kinross Council for its continued financial support, to other funders and supporters including the Gannochy Trust, and to our generous sponsors, Earnside Energy, Holiday Inn Express Perth, Kilmac Ltd, Morris Leslie Ltd and St Leonard's in the Field Church.

3 Key Projects 2022-23

- Riverside Park – Good progress was made on the major £39K project to promote and enhance the Riverside Park. Many new heathers and other plants were planted and maintained with general improvements to this growing garden. Progress made on new signage and interpretation of the Garden based on the Landscape Architect's plans starting from the entrance and throughout the Garden. Funding was secured from local grant sources and BP funds to further this work which had been significantly held up by COVID 19 restrictions over the previous two years.
- After several years of planning and hard work, the award of a National Collection for the Erica Carnea heather collection at Riverside Heather Garden was finally achieved. This prestigious and unique Award is credit to the many volunteers involved, especially Tom Lowdon and Barbara MacDonald with support from Elspeth Bruce. Euna Scott President of RHS Perthshire presented the Banksian Medal from the RHS to Beautiful Perth in recognition of achieving the National Collection which was much appreciated.
- Kinnoull Church and churchyard - the Committee continued to support the Community Greenspace Team of the Perth and Kinross Council as part of a Council 'Friends of Cemeteries' Initiative with the free use of tools and storage etc from BP resources and several BP volunteers have joined the Cemeteries Initiative as volunteers at Kinnoull Church and other locations in Perth.
- Due to the particular interest of one volunteer, Lesley Johnson, attention is been given to feeding and recording birds and hedgehogs at Riverside Park over the winter period and this has proven to be very successful. Ongoing monitoring will be carried out to assess and support this work.
- The Compassionate Friends Garden at Riverside Park- Beautiful Perth volunteers continued to enhance the Compassionate Friends' garden with new planting and ongoing maintenance. This effort is greatly appreciated by the Local and UK wide Compassionate Friends Group and the many visitors and bereaved family members who visit it.

- Thanks are due to the Council, especially their Landscape Architect Annabelle O'Connell, in securing the major upgrading of the access pathway through Riverside Heathers down to the River Tay weir over to the King James the V1 Golf Course which is used by visitors, locals and Golf Club staff supplying the golf course.
- Works were completed to restore the natural planting on the Cascade through the Heather Garden by volunteers with Nature Restoration grant funding support
- Rodney Gardens- Volunteers continue to maintain and enhance the Gardens to a high standard by regular volunteering sessions, sometimes supported by Community Payback personnel. This area is an important asset to Perth and the support of the regular volunteers is vital to presenting this area in its best light for visitors and locals alike.
- Partnership with Rosie's Garden- BP continues to work in Partnership with Rosie's Garden clients to improve areas in Perth including Curfew Row, other sites and also floral tubs at Bridgend in spring and summer
- Meeting with Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) to try and find a route back into National 'Bloom' Competitions again after the cessation due to COVID 19 over the last few two years. Following Judging by KSB's Colin Ainsworth in September 2022, Beautiful Perth was awarded two 'Its Your Neighbourhood Awards' at Level 5 -Outstanding, for the Compassionate Friends Garden and the Heather Garden. Well done to all involved.
- Working with Scotrail at Perth Station to support the efforts of the staff at the Station to resume work which has been severely curtailed by National COVID 19 restrictions at one of Perth's most important entrances for residents and visitors
- Continuing to promote and encourage sustainable planting choices to support the environment whilst maintaining colour and vibrancy in displays

4 Community Engagement, Participation and Partnership Working

Partnerships are key to our success, and we continue to have valuable working relationships with both long-standing supporters and new partners. Together, we really do make a difference and listed below are some of the people and groups who have made valuable contributions to our success. I am very grateful to all those involved. Key partnerships include:

Perth and Kinross Council: The positive and longstanding partnership with Perth and Kinross Council's Community Greenspace Team continues to help us deliver beneficial outcomes in horticultural excellence, environmental responsibility and community participation. We also have support from wider council teams. Our collaborative working is beneficial and ensures positive outcomes in helping keep Perth beautiful. Planters have been provided in some City Centre areas by the Council and we continue to work with the Council Nursery in Jeanfield Rd. Discussions are continuing with the Council about the ongoing maintenance of Display beds given the Operations Teams capacity in difficult financial times, to carry out as much as in previous years Community Payback continue to be a great support to BP in delivering compost to Riverside Park, removing graffiti and general assistance where they can

Schools: Following an approach from Perth's Goodlyburn Nursery School, BP agreed to support the establishment of a community garden of raised beds at the Nursery Garden area for use by nursery pupils. With support from BP funds and from its volunteers, and generous donations from local companies KILMAC and WICKES Perth, the project was successfully achieved. Greenspace Rangers from the Council's Community Greenspace Team also assisted with the project along with Unpaid Work clients from Community Payback and Perth College who provided a free raised bed.

5. Environmental Responsibility - local litter picks were carried out to improve the local environment

6. **Local Awards** - No local awards have taken place this year.
7. **Conclusion** - Our motivation is to make Perth a beautiful place to live, work and visit and attempt to enhance the environment for residents and visitors. It is anticipated that even more volunteers will be recruited in recognition of the value of their local environment in terms of health and wellbeing, social interaction and its positive impact on good mental health.

The backing from Local Councillors and staff from Perth and Kinross Council is essential to the success of Beautiful Perth and is much appreciated. We have been grateful for continuing sponsorship support from private sector companies during 2022-2023

As Chairman I must thank all the Executive Committee Members, Office Bearers and volunteers who have helped once again to improve and enhance the quality of the local environment for local residents and visitors.

John Summers

John P Summers OBE, Chairman

25th May 2023

Annex 1: list of partnerships

Schools and youth groups

Kinnoull Primary School
Goodlyburn Nursery School

Charities, voluntary groups & social enterprises

Keep Scotland Beautiful
Branklyn Garden
Butterfly Conservation East Scotland
Church of The Nazarene
Compassionate Friends Scotland
Heather Society
Moncreiffe Island allotment group
Oakbank Community Centre
Perth Station Garden Club
Perthshire Wildlife Trust
RHS of Perthshire
Royal Scottish Geographical Society
Salvation Army Skinnergate House
South Perth Greenspace Partnerships
Take A Pride in P&K Association
Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
Tulloch's Blooming Lade
Turning Point Scotland – Rosie's Garden Perth

Businesses & agencies

AK Bell Library
Black Watch Museum
Community Safety Partnership
Craigie Cross businesses

Perth City Centre Management

Perth Concert Hall

Perthshire Advertiser

Scottish Natural Heritage

Perth & Kinross Council Teams

Community Greenspace

Criminal Justice (Community Payback)

Dog Control

Finance

Operations (Grounds Maintenance)

Parking Services

Regeneration

Roads

Street Lighting

Waste Services

Westbank Nursery