



## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

Beautiful Perth: a Scottish Charity



# Annual Report 2017-18

## Contents

- Introduction
- Beautiful Perth AGM and Election of Officer Bearers
- Perth and Kinross Council
- Schools
- Horticultural Projects and Activity
- Community Engagement, Participation and Partnership Working
- Environmental Responsibility
- Local Awards Scheme
- Finance
- Miscellaneous Activity
- Conclusion

## 1. Introduction by the Chairman

As a registered Scottish Charity (SC 032395), Beautiful Perth is required to prepare an annual report of its endeavours and financial activity. This report summarises another year of considerable activity leading up to and including preparations for the **Beautiful Scotland Awards**, the launch of a **Zero Waste Perth** campaign, support for the enhancement of **Rodney Gardens**, the **Riverside Heather Garden** project, launching new neighbourhood projects, continuing engagement with community groups and promoting our activities via traditional press, the website and social media.

Our application to **Zero Waste Scotland** to secure funds for a **Zero Waste Perth Campaign** was successful, with the launch in November 2017. This secured substantial funds of **£300K over a 3-year period**, with the aim of raising the levels of re-use, repair, recycling and resource efficiency in Perth. The **Zero Waste Perth** consortium comprises of **Beautiful Perth, Eco Technic from Perth College UHI** and the waste services team at **Perth and Kinross Council**. Our thanks to our Vice Chair and Treasurer, and to PKC's Waste Services team, for securing the funds for the Zero Waste Perth campaign, through an extremely competitive process against other towns and cities in Scotland.

Strategic planning also continued to improve the **Lamberkin** gateway into Perth with ambitious plans for landscaping the area to create a more permanent and sustainable site. This is being realised through the submission of a planning application for a design commissioned by the Committee and awarded to **Chris Palmer Associates**. Planning Permission was granted for the project's Phase 1 on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2018 and invitations to tender are in the process of preparation.

My sincere thanks 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. Elspeth continues to approach her secretarial duties with enthusiasm and good humour and supporting volunteers has been a key part of her duties.

The work of the Vice Chair, Jenny Williams, has proved invaluable to the Chairman at a time of change at the Council and the outcomes continue to be impressive. The securing of an important City Centre Clean Up Team, through the Criminal Justice (Community Payback) team in the Council, has paid dividends in environmental quality in the City. Beautiful Perth's 'starter funding' contribution, including an award of £4000 from Tesco's Bags of Help scheme, was warmly received by the co-ordinators and has allowed the project to prove its value and continue operation.

The efforts by all committee members as volunteers as well as Trustees, are really impressive, including community and action day events, judging duties and promotional activities. I would like to thank all of our volunteers, partner organisations, sponsors and supporters for another fantastic year helping us make Perth a beautiful place to live, work and visit.

*John P Summers OBE, Chairman*

## **2. Beautiful Perth AGM and Election of Office Bearers**

The Annual General Meeting was held in Pullar House, Perth on 22 May 2017.

Office Bearers elected to serve for the year 2017-18 were:

**Chairman: John Summers**

**Vice Chairman: Jenny Williams**

**Secretary: Elspeth Bruce**

**Treasurer: Monica Straughan**

**Auditor: Hunter Hope CIPFA, Perth and Kinross Council**

All of the above office bearers were elected to serve for one year and are eligible to stand for re-election in 2018-19. The other committee members confirmed as Trustees were: **Fiona Hair, Graham Harbut, Jean Hay, Tracey Hutton, Tom Lowdon, Barbara McDonald, Alison Morrison, and Sylvia Stuart.**

## **3. 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 have support from wider council teams in particular Waste Services, Dog Control, Roads, Street Lighting, Parking Services, Regeneration, Community Payback and Grounds Maintenance Operations. Our collaborative working is beneficial and ensures positive outcomes in helping keep Perth beautiful. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2018, Perth and Kinross Council resumed responsibility of operations at **Westbank Nursery** and retained the horticultural expertise of **Jane Keith** and **Carolyn McKenzie**. They have provided invaluable advice and assistance across a number of sites.

#### 4. Schools

Beautiful Perth continues to support the Eco Schools scheme in Perth. A total of 26 nursery, primary and secondary schools are part of the programme, and 16 hold Green Flag status.

Beautiful Perth's key schools' projects continue to be with **Kinnoull Primary School** and **the cross-city Leisure Pool planting**. Our joint venture with Kinnoull PS, the new £25,000 grant funded front garden project, continues to flourish. Inter-generational working sees committee members working side by side the young learners to tend the new landscaped frontage to the school.

Pupils from 10 schools across the Fair City joined our volunteers during the second week of June to create the floral display outside Perth Leisure Pool. This year's theme was Birds, Bees and Trees and the large circular bed featured an outdoor classroom – the centrepiece being an upcycled cable reel donated by British Telecom Openreach. This was flanked by Scottish apple trees and pollinating plants.

We were very grateful to the Perth and District Beekeepers Association for again bringing some of their bees to the site during the week to show the school pupils, staff and volunteers a working hive and to tell us the fascinating story of bee behaviour. As well as helping us plant the flowers, the school children brought along an item for the garden which they had made from recycled materials, providing a varied and colourful display of birdfeeders and garden ornaments. The outdoor classroom was later donated to a local Nursery at their request. Our Trustee Alison Morrison continues to liaise with local Schools and to establish the need for support and assistance from Beautiful Perth.

#### 5. Horticultural Projects and Activity

We were very proud of the impressive floral displays and hanging baskets that brighten up the City every summer. Particular thanks go to **Westbank Enterprises** and **Perth and Kinross Council** for the production of the baskets and plants and to the **Community Greenspace team for their co-ordination**.

- Our adopted bed at **Curfew Row** continues to flourish and is entirely looked after by our volunteers. It is in an area that has undergone major public realm enhancement in the Cultural Quarter of Perth and plans continue to enhance this area.
- **St Johnstone Football Club** continues to sponsor floral displays in the City, which is a welcome support from the home team.
- Beautiful Perth volunteers continue to enhance local neighbourhood sites such as **Craigie Crossroads** and have installed, planted and maintained colourful planters with seasonal bedding and bulbs to the delight of visitors and residents alike.
- The **Cherrybank** site has been enhanced with the planting up of slate planters, providing colour in Spring and Summer. We also look after the Oakbank corner where a stone cairn acts as a 'bug hotel' to support wildlife.

- Our volunteers continue to work in partnership with **St Leonard's in the Fields Church** to ensure a breath-taking show of non-stop begonias in their display beds in Summer and during Spring a riot of mixed *Narcissi* (we source the plants and put them in the ground; we keep them weed free and the church pays for the plants and undertakes the watering – a great and equal partnership). **The Community Payback** team also assisted with refurbishing the outdoor benches at the church this year. These are very popular with the members of the public who can often be seen often sitting there to enjoy the display at the church and the view across to the South Inch.
- Increasing **Biodiversity** has been foremost in our minds, and to this end we have planted over a ton of *Narcissi* in partnership with the **Tulloch's Blooming Lade** neighbourhood group. Beautiful Perth has been closely involved with the Lade Improvement Plan, assisting in two litter picks and action days as well as the daffodil planting as above.
- **The Urban Butterfly Conservation Project:** Beautiful Perth is supporting this project in the suitable management of an area of the heather garden and by one of our volunteers registering as a Recorder for a Biodiversity transect in **North Muirton**. Species which are in decline have already been identified, and some of our volunteers attended a 1-day workshop in butterfly identification. Our Trustee Tracey Hutton continues to encourage butterflies and other biodiversity in the 'secret garden' at Perth Station.
- **Perth Railway Station** - We are proud of our partnership with the Perth Station Garden Club, which is run by our Trustee Tracey Hutton, with support from Abelio Scotrail. Our regular joint action days ensure that the entrance to the station, the platforms, and the 'secret garden' (*mentioned above*) are a horticultural and environmental delight.
- **Snowdrop Peace Walk Project:** in commemoration of the centenary of the ending of WW1, our volunteers have planted up over 5000 snowdrops 'in the green' alongside the River Tay near the heather garden. Ultimately this will link with **Branklyn Garden** and will feature in the annual national Snowdrop Festival. The snowdrops were donated by a local developer prior to site clearance just downstream, which would have destroyed the bulbs.
- **The Compassionate Friends UK:** we were honoured to install a bench at the Heather Garden as part of an ongoing partnership with Compassionate Friends UK. Plans are also in the pipeline to unveil a commemorative stone, kindly donated by **Athole McDonald** of Tayside-based construction company **Kilmac Ltd**.
- **The Blue Tay Project:** initiated by our Zero Waste Perth colleagues, emphasis has been placed on undertaking litter picks in and around the banks of the River Tay special area of conservation, with the aim of helping reduce the incidence of plastics and other litter making their way downstream.
- **Daffodil Conservation Project:** all arterial routes in to Perth are swathed with this uplifting flower which is still grown commercially in Perthshire. Aware that we were about to lose a

number of potential heritage varieties from a former Market Garden on the banks of the Tay, the developers were contacted and 20 crates of daffodils were harvested to be planted in the Heather Garden site. The identification of these daffodils is being undertaken with the assistance of the RHS Daffodil Registrar at RHS Wisley.

- **Riverside Park:** The Riverside Heather Garden, our flagship project, continues to flourish thanks to our weekly weeding, pruning, tidying and sweeping sessions. Taking on expert advice gleaned from a recent visit from the international Heather Society, over 8 tons of horticultural grit have been barrowed by our volunteers together with ericaceous compost to help alleviate the challenges which the clay soil at the heather garden presents. After the endeavours of the rejuvenation of the herbaceous beds at Rodney last year, the work undertaken has created a healthy and thriving area of plants. Over 80 per cent of the plants have flourished in the area and we look forward to further rejuvenations. The volunteers also painted all the pergolas within the gardens. Particular thanks go to our Trustee Tom Lowden for all his tireless work at Riverside.

A grant from The Gannochy Trust last year facilitated the purchase of our new tool store and shed to the rear of Rodney Pavilion. Equipment was decanted in to this new asset which had been sourced from a local supplier.

- **Bridgend Affiliate Group Activity:** With help from an enthusiastic group of local volunteers, we continue to look after beds at Camilla Bell Park, Dundee Road and the Queen's Bridge. These beds are now well established and offer a wonderful display all year round with a mixture of evergreen shrubs, spring bulbs, herbaceous planting and summer bedding for that extra splash of colour. The shrubbery at Back Wynd car park is also looking fantastic.
- The **Parking Services** team at the Council has given us on-going support, which helps make deliveries of extra bark and compost at our regular maintenance sessions run smoothly.

## 6. Community Engagement, Participation and Partnership Working

Partnerships are key to our success and we continue to have valuable working relationships with long-standing supporters and new partners. Together, we really can make a difference and listed below are some of the people and groups who have made valuable contributions to our success.

10 <sup>th</sup> Perthshire Cub Scout Beavers	Corporate Responsibility volunteers
Abelio Scotrail	Entrants to our Local Competitions
All Perth Schools	Take A Pride in North Muirton
Bridgend Affiliate Group	Tulloch's Blooming Lade
Church of The Nazarene	Oakbank Community Centre
Community Payback	Perth College Eco Technic
Compassionate Friends	Perth Station Gardening Club

RHS of Perthshire

The Heather Society

RHS – Daffodil Registrar

The Perthshire Advertiser

South Perth Greenspace Partnerships

Turning Point Scotland – Perth

Sponsors (see para 9)

Viewlands Venture

St Leonard's in the Fields Church

Westbank Nursery

The Black Watch Museum

And of course – **ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

The Gannochy Trust

## 7. Environmental Responsibility

As it is one of the key pillars of our work, we take Environmental Responsibility very seriously. We are very proud to be leading the consortium running the ambitious new **Zero Waste Perth** project (*see section 1: Introduction; see also the Treasurer's Report*). The photograph on the front page of this report was taken at the launch in November 2017; it shows representatives from the project partners - from left: Veronica Formosa-Hamilton, Perth & Kinross Council Waste Services; Jenny Williams and John Summers, Beautiful Perth; Robert Boyd, EcoTechic at Perth College UHI; Sam Martens, Zero Waste Perth Co-ordinator; Sheila Best, PKC Waste Services; Fiona McBain, Zero Waste Perth Co-ordinator. This project is a major step forward, as the aim is to make Perth Scotland's first Zero Waste City, bringing benefits to the environment and to the local economy.

We are active supporters of the **Clean Up Scotland Campaign** and we work closely with Keep Scotland Beautiful. The 10<sup>th</sup> Perthshire Scouts continue to manage Hilton Woods for biodiversity and access. They make and install nest boxes, remove non-native shrubs and trees and replace them with native species, as well as improving footpaths.

The Beaver Scouts also undertake annual **litterpicks** with us, to help us keep Perth litter-free. Our volunteers also undertake regular litterpicks in various hotspots in the City and we always encourage everyone in our Fair City to dispose of their rubbish responsibly.

We have moved away from large scale floral displays using annual bedding plants, and are taking a more **sustainable approach to planting**, including native species, pollinator plants and habitat creation wherever possible, to promote biodiversity.

## 8. Local Awards Scheme

Our Beautiful Perth Awards scheme is an important part of our partnership working. The aim of the awards is to recognise and reward individuals, businesses and community groups for their efforts to make Perth a more attractive and sustainable place in which to live, work and visit. The awards are based on the Royal Horticultural Society's system of giving bronze, silver, silver gilt and gold medals to reflect different levels of achievement and certificates are awarded to all successful entrants. The winner of each category also receives a trophy and there are two special awards – the Endeavour Trophy for the entry judged to have made the greatest community impact and the

Rosebowl for the best overall garden. We also assessed the Gannochy Trust's 2017 Gannochy Garden Awards.

Once again we received fantastic support from the Perthshire Advertiser with a full page advert over several weeks to promote the awards. We are very pleased to have the continued support of the Perthshire Advertiser.

## 9. Finance

Full details of the Association's finances are presented in the Treasurer's Report. The Association is in a satisfactory financial position and my thanks to those who support us for their continued contributions. Thank you to the Council for its continued financial support, and to our generous sponsors:

- Clark Thomson Insurance
- Curves Fitness Gym
- Even Keel Ltd
- Holiday Inn Express
- Kilmac Ltd
- Live Active Leisure
- Morris Leslie Ltd
- Perthshire Advertiser
- St Johnstone FC
- Abelio Scotrail
- St Leonard's in the Fields church

## 10. Structure, governance and management

The Beautiful Perth Association's governing document is a Constitution, adopted in 2001 and most recently revised in 2007. The aims of Beautiful Perth are improve the environment of Perth by:

- promoting and encouraging floral and horticultural exhibits
- advancing the education of the public about the natural environment through environmental campaigns and programmes
- promoting high standards of cleanliness in street and public areas, and fostering community spirit

The governing body is a Committee of Trustees, drawn from the private sector, public sector, voluntary organisations and local volunteers. The current membership is listed in paragraph two above. The committee meets monthly (10 times in 2017-18). All committee members are volunteers and no remunerations are paid (*see Treasurer's Report for more details*).

As required by the Constitution, the Trustees monitor the Association's financial position via monthly reports to the committee by the Treasurer. Externally examined accounts of the Income and Expenditure and of the Balance Sheet at the end of the financial year are presented to the Annual General Meeting, submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator and published on our website [beautifulperth.org](http://beautifulperth.org).



## **Conclusion**

The work of the volunteers and supporters of Beautiful Perth is truly impressive and requests for assistance with our activities are always met willingly. The motivation is to make Perth “A beautiful place to live, work and visit” and it is really gratifying when positive comments are received about our work. Beautiful Perth is working in partnership with the local authority to tackle horticultural sites, where due to Council budgets pressures, resources are stretched and with the financial support from a local trust fund, this work is seeing results. The efforts of existing and new volunteers are making a real difference to the area.

The backing from Local Councillors and staff from Perth and Kinross Council is essential to the success of Beautiful Perth and is much appreciated. Continuing sponsorship support from private sector companies has allowed prominent floral displays to be maintained and extended during 2017-18 and efforts to attract new sponsors are ongoing.

National recognition of the efforts of Beautiful Perth was manifested in the Beautiful Scotland awards for 2017, where we won a Gold Medal and the Large Town Category. As a result, we are delighted to have been invited to take part in Britain In Bloom in 2018.

Beautiful Perth has continued to implement an increasing community engagement strategy and more and more groups are taking part whether in the local Beautiful Perth Awards entries for householders, businesses and schools or through special projects such as Kinnoull School Garden or at Perth Station.

As Chairman I must thank all the Executive Committee Members, Office Bearers and volunteers as the successes of 2017-18 would not have been possible without them. The activities attracted several new volunteers, especially to assist with the Riverside Heather Garden.

**John P Summers OBE, Chairman**

24<sup>th</sup> May 2018