

# GLITTER TEAM PORTFOLIO

## LARGE TOWN ENTRY 2024



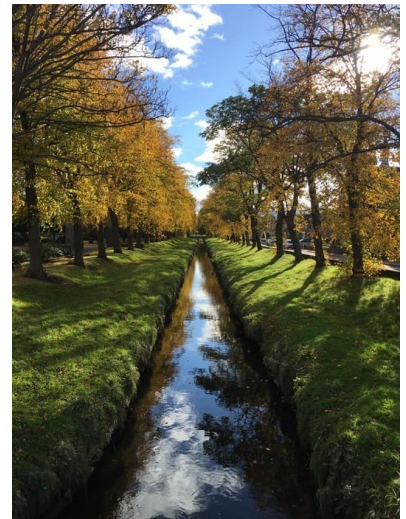
Grangemouth is a large industrial port located on the River Forth. It lies in the heart of the central belt of Scotland. Currently it has population of just over 16,000 inhabitants, who, if born in the town are referred to as Portonians. This year is a very special year, as Grangemouth celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a town.

### How it all Started

In March 2018 & having recently relocated to live in Grangemouth, our founder Phyllis McCaskill Paterson began a campaign to try her very best to “Get Grangemouth Clean”. Phyllis was appalled by the amount of litter she saw in & around the town. A lot of the litter was historic, often caught up in hedges & in the undergrowth of shrubbery & lovely green spaces.

She began her campaign by initiating a litter pick with a neighbour in the street where she lived. Several bags of litter were collected & removed, which greatly improved the overall appearance of the street. Phyllis then posted some pictures of their joint effort on Facebook, showing before & after photos to highlight the difference. Using this medium Phyllis reached out to see if there were any other like minded people willing to help her tackle the awful litter problem. It turned out that there were (Hurrah) & another litter picking event was organised. This time she chose to litter pick

a large area on the edge of the Grange burn, a watercourse which runs through the heart of the town. It was in a very prominent position near to where she lived. The road is used to access a large supermarket. The idea behind choosing this area was to ensure that the team of litter pickers & their efforts would be highly visible. There was a good response & many of the people who turned up to help at that 1<sup>st</sup> group litter picking event are still active members of the team today. A massive amount of litter was removed & disposed of. It took several attempts to clear the huge amount of historic litter which had accumulated over the years.



Falkirk District Council were contacted & made aware of her plan to clean up the town. Their response was very positive. The FDC cleansing department offered to supply bin bags & a loan of litter picking equipment. An arrangement was made, that if they were given plenty of notice they would uplift & dispose of all litter collected by the team.





A dedicated Facebook page was set up to inform everyone of where & when all future litter picking events would be held in & around the town. It was simply given the name of “LET’S GET GRANGEMOUTH CLEAN” People were encouraged to get on board & the support started to grow. The campaign was now truly up & running. Areas to target were quickly identified & regular litter picks started to take place. There are currently 3.1k followers on our Facebook page. The knock on effect is huge, many people who previously didn’t, are now are taking a pride in where they live. It’s challenging, as there is still littering occurring, but much less so than prior to March 2018. Each member of the Glitter team has adopted the street where they live & regularly do litter picks. We also street clean where we live removing weeds & moss from kerbsides, paths & roads. Lots of other people are now doing the same & are known as our “Street Cleaning Champions”. They are awarded & given a certificate for their efforts.

Shortly after the group was formed, the Bowhouse Community Association offered to supply litter picking equipment. They asked us what we needed & then ordered & delivered bag hoops, litter picks & High Viz vests, which were essential for our safety when litter picking alongside busy roads. We were asked if we wanted a logo on the vests & that’s how we became the G litter team. The G in the logo was covered in glitter which Phyllis absolutely loves. At the same time the local Rotary club also offered us support. Both of these organisations continue to support the Glitter team today.



Over the past six years we have had fantastic support from local business's, individuals & other organisations within the town. 3 years ago we jointly applied along with The Friends of The Inchyra Park group for funding to purchase a large Community Trailer. Our joint bid was successful & we have the use of it for litter picking, moving equipment, plants etc. It's handy for removing fly tips & helping people get rid of bulky waste they cannot afford to dispose of. It's a fantastic community resource. There's a lot of joined up working taking place in the town especially with the following well established groups.

The Bowhouse Community Association, The Grangemouth Rotary club, The Friends of Inchyra Park, The Friends of the Zetland Park, The Zetland Park Regeneration Rose Garden project, Cycling Without Age Grangemouth Zetland Park, Talbot House Day Care Grangemouth, The Talbot Street Bowling Club, The Grangemouth Heritage Trust, The Grangemouth Bike Library & The 15<sup>th</sup> Grangemouth Scouts.

Then we have the newest community group which was only set up late last year called "The Loo Crew". They were instrumental in reopening & now maintaining the towns public toilets. FDC closed all the public toilets within the Falkirk District area, trying to save money. To provide funds the group have opened a small charity shop near to the toilets & it's being well supported by local people. They have also organised 2 street markets in the town centre encouraging much needed footfall. They are now having monthly car boot sales in the car park next to the toilets. It has been a huge success & local people & visitors to the town are so happy to have this facility reinstated. The Glitter team have purchased 2 planters which we plan to plant up & site next to the entrance to the toilets. It's our way of saying of saying thank you & it will brighten up the area. Hopefully this will be done prior to the visit in August.

## Our Horticultural Achievements

But First a short bit of background information

After a successful few years of litter picking we began to notice that a lot of the towns flower beds were no longer being tended to by our local council. They were just left & were no longer being planted with their usual colourful annual displays. Unfortunately the councils funding had been cut & savings were having to be made. The flower beds started to look really awful & were quickly filling up with weeds. Everyone was complaining about how bad they looked.

No one was doing anything about the situation, so the "GLITTER TEAM" did.





Phyllis approached the local council & negotiations ensued. An arrangement was made that the Glitter team would adopt some of the flower beds. It was agreed that the council would provide us with the bedding plants which they grew themselves. We would prepare the beds, plant them up & maintain them. This arrangement continued for about 2 years & we eventually took on nearly all of the flower beds on the towns Bo'ness Rd. That was until further savings had to be made by our cash strapped council. The situation was bleak, we were devastated to hear that they were closing their local plant nursery. The staff were all being redeployed, therefore they were no longer able to supply us with plants.

We got our thinking caps on & decided to just take over the management of as many of the Flower beds that we could devote our time to. An action plan was initiated.



We sought out sponsors to fund the new plants via our Facebook page. Word spread around the town & we were inundated with support. We then made the decision to stop planting annuals & change over to planting perennial plants in all of the flower beds. One of our team members (who is also called Phyllis) is a very talented artist & crafter. Using reclaimed roof slates, she has designed & painted all of the slates which we use as signage in the flower beds & baskets to acknowledge our very generous sponsors. Every bed in & around the town has been sponsored. We then has lots of challenges to overcome. Watering was a huge issue for us, especially during the initial planting phase. We had built up a good rapport with the staff in the Police station on Bo'ness Rd, where the flower beds are located. The Police allowed us access to their premises to use a tap. We bought loads of hose connectors & then joined up lots of our hoses together. This enabled us to water most of the beds. The rest were done using watering cans & team members using their cars to take a boot full of water in containers to the furthest away beds. Thankfully, through fundraising last year, we managed to buy a 2<sup>nd</sup> hand water bowser & a new water pump. It's been invaluable as we had now spread our wings & had taken over another 3 flower beds in the town centre, all of the beds on Bo'ness Rd & others dotted around the town.

We needed some sustenance to help the new plants grow & help retain as much moisture as possible in the flower beds. We used our Facebook page to try & source free horse manure to help mulch & get some life into the depleted soil. A local stables owner kindly offered it to us for free. We could have as much as we wanted, we just had to help ourselves. We donned our wellies & dug deep & collected tons of it to cover all of the beds in a nice deep layer. It made a huge difference to the soil structure & the plants were very happy.



## Horticultural Achievements from August 2023 – July 2024

### AUGUST ....

Saw a huge effort by the team to get all of the Bo'ness Rd flower bed maintenance completed. Ongoing litter picks continued at the same time, to ensure the beds were always litter free & tidy looking. The newly planted up Dr Mrudoch's bed, was weeded & watered using our newly acquired water bowser.

### SEPTEMBER....

It was now the turn of the town centre beds to be spruced up. This involved lots of weeding, infill planting, watering & then street scraping to free the area of weeds & moss.

Planning commenced for a Spring Bulb display & ideas from the team were sought, as to what to plant & where to display it. This idea was inspired by Monty Don of Gardeners World fame & turned out to be a huge success. (Well we thought so & the feedback from the townspeople was very heart warming. They loved it.)

Planning also commenced to try & improve an area at the back of the Municipal chambers, which was a dead space & an absolute eyesore. A huge task of clearing rubble, broken glass, litter & weeds commenced. The Community trailer was again utilised for this task. This was part of pre parity work for a project which was set to commence in Spring 2024.

At the end of the month, all of the hanging baskets were replanted, along with the flowerbed wheelbarrows.

All of flower bikes were replanted & refreshed with new soil & planted up for the upcoming winter. The Community trailer was again utilised for this task & a volunteer driver sought to facilitate the transportation of the baskets & all the equipment required to get this huge job done.

Wee bit of joint working with the Rose garden volunteers. We helped them with planning & sourcing new plants via our discount arrangement at Craigmarloch. A full carload of gorgeous new plants were purchased & then delivered to the rose garden volunteers. We also assisted with getting everything planted & some of our team helped to plant a huge amount of spring bulbs.



100 lavender bags were made by 3 volunteers. (Same sourced from lavender collected in the summer from various flowerbeds we had planted & manage.) These will be offered up at the Flower Girls Autumn sale for a donation to the Glitter team.

Big tidy out done at our storage shed at Talbot House & all the donated pots cleaned & prepared for the new spring bulb display. Lots of daffodils & tulips planted. Spare bikes taken to the Police station for storage. Ongoing rose pruning done. 2 new winter planters planted up & will be put on display at the library.

Work commenced on the 2 newly acquired flower beds on Bo'ness Rd. Sponsorship sourced & obtained for same.

October....

30 bags of bulbs bought & planting commenced for the new Spring display.

Mid month the water bowser was dismantled & the water pump put into winter storage.

The Police station car park & surrounding area was thoroughly tidied up. We scraped off lots of moss, weeded & then swept the whole area. We litter picked all around the Police station as well, to give it a finished look. We do this annually & as then required throughout the year. It's to say thank you to all of the staff working there, especially for allowing us to store our water bowser at the rear of the Police station. We also have the use of 2 outbuildings at the rear for storage.

Further bulb planting carried out. New compost & the last of the bulbs sourced & stored in the shed. We were waiting on some more terracotta pots arriving. These had been promised to us after an appeal was made to the team & the wider local community, again via our Facebook page.

November....

Bulb planting completed & all the pots & containers are now being cared for at the back of Talbot house.

Ongoing maintenance of all flowerbeds, hanging baskets & wheelbarrows carried out.

December....

A quiet month for gardening. Mainly just lots of litter picking in & around the town done to keep the hedges, verges & flower beds free of litter. (All weather dependent)

January....

Lots of planning done this month for the new raised beds behind the Municipal buildings. George our very talented handyman & engineer, has worked out all the materials he will require to build the new beds. He will be building them for us. Costings submitted to FDC. Sarah, our community gardening officer at FDC has confirmed that the full costs of materials, plants & compost will be paid for by the council. (Another hurrah) The job will commence & be completed in April.

Sedum table dismantled & plants rescued after it collapsed after a very wet winter. Plans made to reinforce it & get it back in place.

Area around the municipal chambers tidied up. Same planted & bark applied to help ease the amount of weeding needed.

February....

Some storm damage to our Slates & flower bikes, repairs carried out to same. Various slates repainted & repaired & reinstated this month.

Planter building is going well & confirmation that the new Kelpie compost will be delivered mid march.

March....

Bulb display put in situ & spring bedding plants added to give it an instant pop of colour. All transported from Talbot house to the town centre via use of the community trailer. All remedial work to get the planters in situ was completed & a fabulous team effort saw them installed into their new home.



Work recommenced on tidying up the Bo'ness Rd flower beds.

Our new compost arrived, tons of it.

April....

Work ongoing filling up the new planters with extra soil, now that its had a chance to settle & weeds removed from around the area at the bases.

Flower bike refurbishing work done & is ongoing. 2 totally repainted so far this month & resited.

April saw the new plants delivered & it was all hands on deck to get them planted. There were hundreds of them. Nick the designer & Sarah from the council were on hand that day to offer guidance & advice.

Some joint working done at the Rose garden in Zetland Park to help the volunteers out with a big project they had planned.



Sponsorship obtained for the flower bed at the Cenotaph & plans made to install carpet roses.

Old Tricycle painted, planted & then donated to the Cycling without age team. It was put in place for the opening of their new HUB situated at the Famous Kelpies. They were thrilled with it & its been much admired since.

Ongoing weeding finally finished on all our flowerbeds.

New slates all painted by Phyllis Robb were put in place in the new raised beds.

May....

Rotary club assisted at their new flower bed. Advice & slate signage provided by the Glitter team.

Small flower bed on Bo'ness Rd where we couldn't get anything to grow, was redesigned & prepared for planting, then planted up with free Alpine plants. We will explain this further when you visit.

Lots of watering of all flower beds was ongoing, especially the new raised beds as we'd no rain. Water bowser now back in action. Winter hanging baskets are still looking Fabulous & bulb display is looking Fantastic. Some pots were removed as they'd gone over. Display then rearranged & was still looking good. Again all required constant watering by the team. The display was dismantled at the end of the month & pots put in storage at the back of the Police station for use again later in the year.

The Sedum table was restored to its pride of place. It was repaired with reinforced metal work, then repainted & new plants & compost were added. The previous plants were reused in & around various other flowerbeds.

Preparatory work started on the new bed at the Cenotaph & a few days later it was planted up with roses.

We registered for Beautiful Scotland & planning commenced for same.

All of the town centre beds were weeded, hoed over & refreshed with compost.

Rose garden volunteers assisted with a 3hour joint session of dead heading, weeding & general garden maintenance by the Glitter team gardeners.

8 Summer hanging baskets sourced from old FDC stock held in storage all planted up & allowed to settle for putting in place next month.

June.... Ongoing maintenance of all flower beds, litter picking, street cleaning in preparation for the towns Gala day this month.

Winter hanging baskets removed & replaced with summer ones.

Duke Street flower beds tidied up & street cleaning carried out.

Street cleaning carried out at the town centre & around the library.

Dr Murdoch's bed weeded & tidied up.

Starting at the Zetland flower bed, we've been working our way down all the Bo'ness Rd flower beds getting them tidied up & watered. There's still a couple to do. Planning has commenced for a change to the shrub bed at the Municipal Chambers, as there's been damage done due to a vehicle reversing into the bed.

By typing in "Flower Bike Trail Grangemouth" it can be viewed on Google Maps.



## Environmental achievements

In conjunction with other volunteer groups in & around the parks in Grangemouth we are trying to create a "Pollinators Corridor". Starting at the side & behind the Library we have planted cornfield annuals. Nearby, behind the Municipal chambers we have the newly planted raised beds containing a diverse range of pollinating plants. In the Zetland park they have planted meadow wildflowers.

The Inchyra volunteers have planted a long row of cornfield annuals which are looking great. The Rannoch Park volunteers have created a new hedgerow containing Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Rowan & cherry trees. They too have planted wildflowers. We have plans to further add to the corridor, this will definitely include planting at Talbot house & hopefully some other areas in the near future. We have previously sourced tons of manure for mulching our flower beds & have plans afoot to do this again soon. We are ever mindful of improving the soil & saving water loss, by adding an annual mulch.

We were donated some unwanted compost bins which we have sited at the Police station. We are now making our own compost, as well as only using peat free compost in all of our beds, borders, baskets & containers.



We have stopped planting annual bedding displays & moved over to perennial planting in all of the flowerbeds. Annuals planting is now only used in the flower bikes, hanging baskets, wheelbarrows & for filling gaps as required, or if a wee a pop of colour is needed.

We never use weedkiller, just lots of hard graft & clever planting to try & suppress the weeds.

We try to re-utilise any fly tips we come across. The sedum table & our flower bikes are a good example of this. Many of the planters on the flower bikes are old mop buckets & containers we paint or add decoupage to. (It's handy having a talented artist on the team) Some of the flower bikes are gifted to us when folks are clearing out their sheds & garages. Some are sourced via the local tip, saving them going into landfill. We recycle anything & everything we possibly can. Nearly all the tools we use are 2<sup>nd</sup> hand ones & most of them are donated. We gratefully accept plants from people who no longer want them & replant them in & around the town. We recently accepted a large donation of garden ornaments & have cleaned or painted them as required & resited them in some of our flower beds. Waste not want not is one of our many motto's.

### Community Participation

I feel that as we've already mentioned this I won't go into great detail here. We get great support throughout the whole year, every year. This is through local sponsorship, funding donated by a variety of businesses & the townspeople. We do lots of joint working with other groups of volunteers within the town. We actively encourage others to help get "Grangemouth Clean" by providing free litter pickers, hoops & gloves. We litter pick with any organisation that is willing to join in with us, the latest being in the month of June. This was in conjunction with our local McDonald's restaurant. There were a total of 26 Mc Donald's staff & Glitter team members who litter picked a huge area in & around their premises & the main roads leading to & from there. It was a huge success. 28 bags of litter were collected. Mc Donald's arranged the disposal of all the litter, we just had to turn up. This was done over 2 days.





## Finance

We decided when the Glitter team started, that we would be happier out in the community doing good work, rather than sitting in meetings, so we do not have a committee or constitution. We do have a very healthy bank account, with usable funds of £1,100

We organise & plan things as we go. Phyllis is always coming up with new plans, suggestions & as a team we decide what projects we should or could tackle. We do raise funds via a local Florist's business. (It's owned by one of our original team members called Anne Kennedy.) We receive



fantastic support from Anne. She allows us to fundraise by attending her seasonal Markets at her premises. They take place every Spring, summer, winter & autumn. We provide seasonal drinks, such as tea, coffee & mulled wine at Christmas for a donation from the visiting public who come from far & wide to attend the markets. At these events we also have a raffle & sell art work donated by one of our team. The rest of our funds are donations mainly by local business's or local people making donations directly. There are currently 2 young girls who have started selling home made lemonade in their driveway at weekends to raise funds for us. A friend of one of our team members who is a keen armature photographer took photographs of our Flower bikes & helped produce a calendar for us, which we then sold to raise funds.



## Funds

Date	In	Out	Bank total	Total cash
23/2/23			£303.63	£2045
20/9/23		£85.63	£218.00	£1600
23/4/24		£35.00		£1300
25/4/24	£200		£235.00	£1300
26/4/24	£100		£335.00	£1300
1/5/24	£100		£435.00	£1300
9/5/24	£100		£535.00	
16/5/24		£302.11	£232.89	£1300
17/5/24	£60	£349.00	-£56.11	£1300
20/5/24	£125		£68.89	£1300
21/5/24	£25		£93.89	£1300
4/6/24		£255.82	-£161.93	
18/6/24			-£203.93	£1100

Deficit paid to Phyllis from cash.

Account now empty.

Cash at £1100 in safe.

Glitter purse has £60 + petty cash.

Float tin for events = £60 in coins.