Bothwell
South Lanarkshire

Beautiful Scotland Portfolio 2018
Small Town Category

90 helped at Spring Clean, March!

Planting in Wellies, June

Beavers in Bothwell Woods, June

Bothwell PS Assembly, March
The Last Straw
Brighter Bothwell is 18 in 2018. Brighter Bothwell’s Year, 2017 — 2018

In planning our activities for this year, we had a focus on the following.
- Maintaining the range of activities that had seen us gain success in the 2017 Britain in Bloom Final.
- Addressing the areas for improvement identified by last year’s Britain in Bloom judges.
- Extending the age range and numbers of our volunteers, as well as increasing funding for our activities.
- Encouraging activities to promote Scotland’s Year of Young People.
- Continuing to work with other groups, as appropriate, to promote Bothwell’s attractions and heritage.
- Continuing Craft Bomb activities throughout year, including work for our Poppyfest in November 2018.

**Key events and activities over this year included the following.**

**August**
- Bothwell Horticultural Society Annual Flower and Produce Show, held on 26 August. The 175th Show!

**September**
- Bothwell Community Scarecrow Festival, a nine-day event. Community Garden open for two days.
- Meeting with staff from Bothwell Services Road Chef to discuss support for KSB and CUS campaigns.

**October**
- Bulb planting in mangers at Evangelical Church, with help from senior pupils of Uddingston Grammar.
- Fraser Chapman, winner of Easter Hunt, planted the apple tree which was part of his first prize.
- Publicity following success at Awards Ceremony for 2017 Britain in Bloom Final in Llandudno.

**November**
- Planted bulbs and pansies in tubs on Main Street and other key locations. Planted wildflowers, grown in Community Garden, in Nature Trail. Bulb planting at Bothwell Primary School, with help from parents.
- Party for volunteers and supporters on 14th in Community Hall. Around 50 attended.
- Uddingston Grammar School shopping evening. We had a stall to promote our work.

**December**
- Fundraising Christmas Stocking Hunt, Christmas Craft Bomb displays.

**January**
- Applied for Tesco Bags of Help funding; one of three chosen for public ‘vote’ in May and June.
- Bothwell Scarecrow Festival Committee AGM, planning for 2018 Festival began.

**February**
- Started planning for replacement bed in Gilchrist Garden, and work needed in other areas.
- Rotary Club of Bothwell & Uddingston’s fundraising concert in Bothwell Parish Church on 4th. Proceeds shared between Brighter Bothwell and Uddingston Pride.

**March**
- Started preparation of Brighter Bothwell newsletter. Further grant applications completed.
- Annual Spring Clean Up event on 24th. Just under 90 volunteers attended, including Scouts.
- Potato Day at Community Garden, on 17th. • Fundraising Bee Trail Quiz, 22nd March to 19th April.
- Ordered summer floral displays. • Started update of volunteers’ mailing list in line with GDPR.

**April**
- Newsletters delivered to every home in Bothwell (by early May) by around 40 volunteers.
- Several work parties for a range of tasks, which we promote as Green Gym activities.

**May**
- Ran activity sessions for groups of children at St Bride’s World of Work Week Careers’ Fayre on 2nd.
- Fundraising coffee morning run by Evangelical Church.
- To support KSB Week of Action on Roadside Litter, collected 20 bags around Raith Interchange.
- Removed bulbs from Main Street tubs, dried for recycling. • Fundraising for summer floral display.
- Community Garden Open Day, including Brighter Bothwell plant sale.
- Teddy Bears’ Picnic in play park, Bear Hunt in Gilchrist Garden. • Children planted welly boots, play park.

**June**
- Summer floral displays installed. • Planting of Impressions de Jouy irises. • Joint Clean Up activities.
Horticultural Achievement 1

Horti Show opened by Deputy Lord Lieutenant. The Organic Growers did well with their produce. Pupils of St Bride’s Primary School provided a very good display of their gardening work.

Winner of a fundraising ‘Hunt’ planted one of his prizes, an apple tree.

Community Garden, Oct, Nov
Recycling plants from summer tubs. Good job done to weed in fruit cage. Tasting the delicious apples.

November
Beautiful natural wreath on door of Pekino, Main Street. Passion flowers bloomed in play park.
November’s ‘Green Gym’ had us empty summer display from Main Street tubs and plant bulbs and pansies. It’s always fun to discuss the planting plan!

November’s pupils planted daffodil bulbs. Helped raise funds for Marie Curie.

Bothwell Primary pupils tidied their bed in January.

Grown in Community Garden and planted in Nature Trail in November — red clover, common sorrel, field scabious, musk mallow, yarrow, bladder campion, red campion, lady’s bedstraw and bird’s foot trefoil.

Our snowdrops were even better this year.
Bothwell Primary parents helped lift turf for bulb planting. We donated tete-a-tete bulbs recycled from 2017 spring tubs. Children planted the bulbs in November and they were flowering well in April. We look forward to seeing more in future years.

Crocus, muscari, hyacinth, scilla, tete-a-tete and pansies provided welcome spring colour in our tubs. The mangers were also attractive.

Potato Day at Community Garden, 17 March. 'I think this sack of potatoes should be enough for me!' It's never too early to learn about growing food.

In May, the tubs were emptied and the bulbs collected for re-cycling. Some were sold and some dried for use in autumn 2018.

We found this big toad under the bags of bulbs, when we were emptying them in the polytunnel and laying them out to dry. Great to have it to help control unwanted slugs in the Community Garden!
Clean Ups have been done during the year, at group events and by the regular work of some ‘champions’. Both primary schools held Clean Ups in their local areas. Our Spring Clean was very successful, with 90 volunteers of all ages joining us on 24 March. The cost of hiring the hall, used as our base, and refreshments were donated by generous benefactors who support our work.

St Bride’s pupils released young brown trout into the Clyde in March. They had raised the fish as part of a project.

As part of the Roadside Litter Campaign, six Brighter Bothwell volunteers picked up about 20 bags of litter from the walking/cycling route between Bothwell and Strathclyde Park, near the upgraded Raith Interchange. The owner of the premises where we left the bags for uplift promised to help us on our next outing!
Bothwell Primary made good use of the Nature Trail and the woods for outdoor learning. In March, the activities included using trees to enhance learning in mathematics and science. Montessori Nursery has a regular Forest School in the woods.

Greening a grey area of Bothwell by clearing it and sowing some wildflower seeds in April.

In various ways, we are helping to promote Bee Friendly Bothwell. Our Bee Trail Quiz in March/April was a good activity for the Easter break and had appropriate prizes. Bothwell Beekeepers had a stall at the Community Garden Open Day on 20 March (World Bee Day). Our plant sale included bee-friendly plants.

Bothwell Nature Trail is an attractive, health-promoting, biodiverse corridor for walkers and cyclists, as well as a very good educational resource. SLC’s Community Payback Team helped with maintenance this year by painting railings. Around 50 species of wildflowers and grasses are present. These are a few seen in early June. Our local Scouts were recruited to look after the pond area for us, and they use the Trail for some of their activities. The Nature Trail and the Community Garden are key areas for promoting biodiversity. Tesco Bags of Help funding will help us to continue to update our range of interpretation boards.

Metamorphosis in Bothwell Library. Library staff are supporting this project. The boys saw day 9 of the process.

Brighter Bothwell is supporting Ellis with his Last Straw campaign. You will hear more about it when you visit Bothwell in August.
Bothwell’s seventh annual **Scarecrow Festival** in September was another resounding success. A varied nine-day programme of events and around 400 scarecrows brought out the crowds. Glasgow Children’s Hospital Charity received a cheque for almost £9,000, and money was also given to worthy local causes. Brighter Bothwell’s Sunflower Hoopla was very popular, and one of our scarecrows promoted the Bin Your Butt campaign. Our members organise the Family Cycle Ride, which was extremely popular this year.

Attendance at Uddingston Grammar School’s shopping evening on 28 November helped Brighter Bothwell and Uddingston Pride to promote their work.

Attendance at Primary School Christmas Fayres helped us to sell entry forms for our fundraising Christmas Stocking Hunt held in December.

David Corbett’s entrance provided an ideal location for our Christmas Craft Bomb snowmen. They also loved the real snow and survived it very well!

We also decorated the trees in the Sensory Garden with lovely knitted Christmas decorations.

Everyone had a fun time, at our ‘thank you’ party on 14 November. Bobby loved seeing all the volunteers and supporters. We had a lot to celebrate after our visit to Llandudno for the Britain in Bloom Final!
Our annual newsletter was prepared during March and delivered by early May. We have almost 40 willing helpers for that task.

Sunday 20 May saw us at our annual Plant Sale, which was held in Bothwell Community Garden on its Open Day. Avril sold a range of bedding plants, giving helpful advice to customers.

We donated some of the plants to parents who volunteered their children to plant them in the wellies in Green Street Play Park. The task was completed in early June. A neighbour does the watering.

Teddy Bears’ Picnic and Bear Hunt, May

Just look at the crowds! Everyone had a great time at the Picnic in Green Street Play Park and the Hunt in Gilchrist Garden. Thanks to Joe for organising this event and making all the bears.

Work for our Poppyfest to mark the centenary of the end of World War I in November 2018 started in September 2017. Thousands of poppies have been made for a special installation. We are encouraging generations to work together and share their skills. And we have fun — lots of smiling faces!

We planted 30 Impressions de Jouy irises in June, to celebrate Bothwell’s long-established link with the community of Jouy-en-Josas in France.
Sources of Income

- Local businesses, particularly those on the Main Street, are approached individually each year to seek their support for the summer floral display. We visit new businesses to explain our work and discuss how they might help. For example, our new dog-grooming business is keen to support Bobby!
- For an annual donation of £50, residents and businesses can join our Adopt-a-Tub scheme. Brass plaques are added to donors’ tubs.
- Our newsletter is used to seek donations from residents, as well as support for our projects and work parties. The use of an insert/payment slip has once again helped to boost donations.
- Some people donate through our collection boxes. We have been pleasantly surprised by how quickly the box in our local Co-op can fill up with loose change. Around £700 was donated over the year.
- Bothwell Evangelical Church, where we now hold our meetings, organises an annual coffee morning to boost our funds, and also gave us some of the proceeds from its 2017 Scarecrow Festival fundraising activities. Bothwell Parish Church Guild donated £300.
- In February, Bothwell & Uddingston Rotary Club organised a very successful concert in Bothwell Parish Church, with all proceeds shared between our group and Uddingston Pride. We received £740.
- Our annual plant sale in May was very successful in raising almost £400, as well as over £50 in donations for recycled crocus and muscari bulbs.
- Our Christmas Stocking Hunt encouraged people to visit the Main Street to hunt for the tiny stockings (each one linked to one of the Twelve Days of Christmas) hidden in windows.
- Our Easter Bee Trail Quiz raised £210, which will help to fund our Poppyfest in November 2018.
- The Council’s Community Grant was used to help fund the summer floral display. Our Nurture Bothwell Nature Trail project was chosen for a Tesco Bags of Help award. Voting lasts until the end of June, and we will receive at least £1,000. We are awaiting the outcome of our application to the Co-op Community Fund. Our local Co-op has already given us £100 towards the purchase of wool for the Poppyfest.

Expenditure included

- Printing of newsletter and flyers/posters
- Purchase of plants and bulbs. Plants and watering for summer floral display (around £3,500),
- Cost of materials for projects, eg Bobby’s Boxes, Cigarette Litter Bins and Craft Bomb materials.
- Insurance, Beautiful Scotland entry fee, stationery and sundries.
- We renewed three mangers at the Evangelical Church, two at the Chapterhouse and also two large tubs at the Miners’ Wildflower Garden.
- Tesco Bags of Help funds will be used to purchase more interpretation boards, and replace bird and bat boxes, for the Nature Trail.
- Working with the Council, another bed in Gilchrist Garden has been replanted, and one more will be replanted in the autumn. We have also set aside £1,000 to plant trees in the autumn.
- Planned donations to our two primary schools for eco activities, related to Year of Young People.

We appreciate all the support that we have received over the year.

Prize winners of the fundraising Christmas Stocking Hunt.
Key priorities for the year ahead

- Providing encouragement and support to local schools will continue to be a priority, and offers opportunities to reinforce awareness of environmental issues and promote all aspects of Keep Scotland Beautiful’s work.
- Continue with horticultural improvements in areas such as The Gilchrist Garden.
- We will continue to seek ways to promote Bothwell’s attractions and heritage, working as appropriate with other community groups.
- We hope to build on the success of our Clean Up Bothwell activities by continuing to engage with the community on Bag it and Bin It and Bin Your Butt campaigns.

Bothwell Historical Society secured grant funding to restore the wall, gate and railings at the Main Street entrance to the churchyard of historic Bothwell Parish Church. Renovation of the quire of the Church was completed in 2017.
We always work hard to secure coverage of the work of Brighter Bothwell and related community groups in our local press, and in South Lanarkshire Council publications.
Appendix — Newspaper Cuttings 2

Brighter Bothwell is a blooming success story

People, recognised their efforts in engaging with, supporting and inspiring younger members of the community. Theouncil. Gardening in a Changing Climate, their Bothwell Community Gardens singled out for its commitment to advise in the RHS. Gardening in a Changing Climate report. Marjory Robertson, chairman, said: "I’d like to thank everyone who recognises their support has helped us achieve the same success. Special thanks go to our local South Lanarkshire Council Grounds Services team."

Scarecrow cash to help hospital

The Bothwell Heritage Festival has raised £5000 for the Glasgow Children’s Hospital Charity. A special appeal was made to the festival-goers, with many contributing to the cause. The festival was a huge success, attracting large crowds and generating much-needed funds for the hospital.

Nathan's history love shines so brightly

A primary school pupil won a national competition for his dedication to history. Nathan Lafferty, who is a pupil at St John's Primary, has demonstrated a remarkable talent and love for history. The 11-year-old has already attended several meetings of the society and has even contributed his thoughts to the newsletter. The society feels that they should encourage his talent and his contribution to their work by giving something back to him.

All about Lanarkshire

Christmas Craft Bomb

Brighton Bothwell Craft Bomb is a fantastic event, with a wide range of craft workshops and demonstrations. It’s a great opportunity for craft enthusiasts to learn new skills and techniques. The event is held in the beautiful setting of the Bothwell Castle Grounds, providing a perfect backdrop for this festive occasion.
Appendix — Newspaper Cuttings 3

**Bothwell Rotary**
Bothwell Rotary presents a night of enduring classic favorites from stage and screen. The evening will showcase some amazing performances such as Anne Heywood, Geoffrey Tennant, Christian Schnebbe and Eamonn McKeown. The event will be held at Bothwell Parish Church on February 11. All proceeds will go to Lodgingstone Priory, Bothwell and the Bothwell Rotary charities. Performers include Anne Heywood, actress in Scottish films, currently studying under the tutelage of Patrick MacSweeney. Geoffrey Tennant will also be entertaining on the evening. Tickets are priced £10 and can be available from Rotary club members or online at www.eventbrite.co.uk. For more information contact Bothwell Rotary Club.

**Scarecrow festival to take over village again**
The Bothwell Scarecrow festival has been given the go-ahead for the eighth year running. A footrace the week before the festival was canceled and it was officially given the go-ahead. The event will once again be spread around various streets in the village from September until November 10th. The Bothwell Scarecrow Festival posted a statement on their Facebook page announcing the good news. They said: “We’re thrilled that AGM and the good news is that the festival is back and is looking full on!”

**Brighter Bothwell**

**Organic open day**
The Organic Growers of Bothwell will be holding their May Open Day at Bothwell Community Garden, Blantyre Road on Sunday, May 20, between 10am and 4pm. There will be home-grown organic vegetable plants for sale, spring to summer bedding plants, perennials, and garden sundries for sale, as well as our ever popular tombola and our fabulous home baking to accompany a cuppa and a catch up with your friend in the gorgeous, peaceful surroundings of our garden. If you would like to join us as a member of the garden and start growing your own, our waiting list is open and we will be delighted to hear from you.

**Looking for something fun to take part in during the Easter break then why not take part in our Bee Trail Quiz – a fun activity for the Easter holidays.**
**Hunt for bees in the windows of Bothwell’s Main Street to find the answers to the quiz.**
**Entry forms are available from Bothwell Library and Bothwell post office.**
**Donation is £1 to support Brighter Bothwell’s work.**
**There is a first prize and 12 runners up for grabs. The quiz will run until April 19.**

**Brighter Bothwell needs your votes.**
**Their application to the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme has been successful and customers will be able to vote for the project – Nurture Bothwell Nature Trail – during May and June.**
**Just remember to ask for the charity voting tokens and drop them in at Brighter Bothwell.**

**Big Spring clean**

**Volunteers make Bothwell Brighter**

A group of around 90 volunteers took part in the Big Spring Clean last Saturday. The event is organised to support Keep Scotland Beautiful’s Clean Up Scotland campaign, and the team made the very most of the good weather they were lucky enough to enjoy.

They were joined by the local Scouts and Brownies, and targeted areas such as the natural woodland, other open spaces such as Woodburn Park, and even streets.

A spokesperson for Brighter Bothwell said: “We were delighted that almost 90 people attended our spring clean event on Saturday. Given that 2013 is Scotland’s Year of Young People, it was particularly good to see so many young people, including from the Beavers and Scouts.

“We need their continued support to keep our community clean and healthy.”
Taking action on roadside litter
Villagers’ frontline fight against rubbish

and costly to clean up.

The only real solution is for those responsible to change their bad habits and dispose of their rubbish responsibly when on the road. This means holding on to it in the vehicle until they find a suitable bin.

Recent monitoring by Keep Scotland Beautiful has revealed that over 85 per cent of Scotland’s main roads and local routes are affected by litter. With investment from industry and working in partnership with Transport Scotland, Zero Waste Scotland, VisitScotland, road operating companies and local authorities, the campaign hopes to see road users reduce the amount of litter thrown from vehicles.
The newspaper cuttings are from the Hamilton Advertiser, unless otherwise stated. Dates shown are the dates when the articles were published.

1. 31 Aug, Notice of 175th Horti Show
2. 7 Sept, Scarecrow Festival
3. 19 Oct, Fraser planting apple tree prize
4. 25 Oct, Work party to empty Main Street tubs
5. 2 Nov, Britain in Bloom 2107 Final results
6. 2 Nov, Youngest member of Historical Society
7. 15 Nov, Bellshill Speaker, BiB results
8. 30 Nov, Scarecrow Festival cheque to charity
9. 4 Jan, Christmas Craft Bomb
10. 18 Jan, notice of Rotary fundraising concert
11. 14 Feb, advance notice, AGM Scarecrow Fest.
12. 8, 15 March, notice of Bee Trail Quiz
13. 8 March, notice of Spring Clean Up event
14. 29 March, Spring Clean Up event
15. 17 May, notice of Community Garden Open Day & Brighter Bothwell Plant Sale
16. 24 May, Brighter Bothwell needs your votes, Tesco Bags for Help
17. 24 May, Workshop at St Bride’s PS World of Work Week Careers Fayre
18. 31 May, taking action on Roadside Litter
19. 7 June, winner of first prize in Bee Trail Quiz

See also the very good press cuttings related to Bothwell Scarecrow Festival, which will be on display when the judges visit.