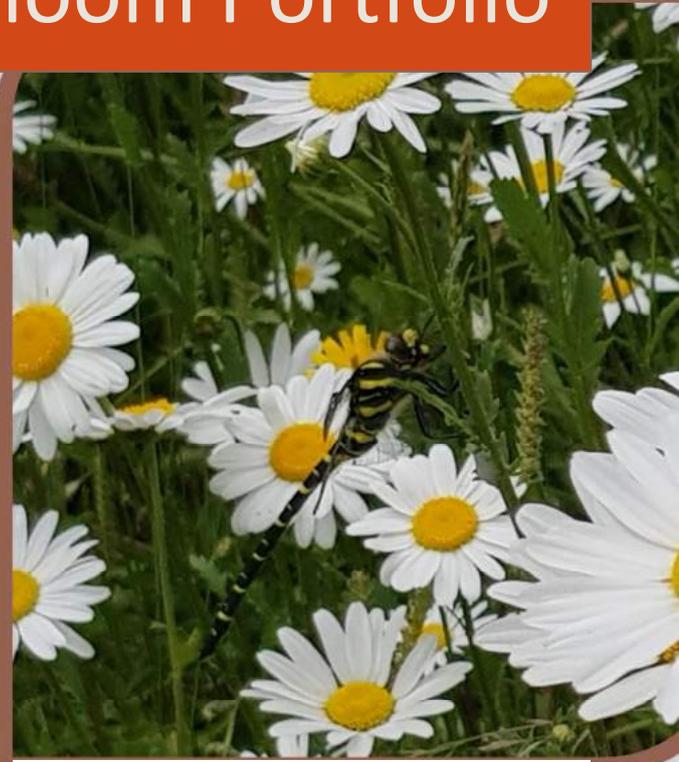


Bute In Bloom Portfolio



Photograph 1 by Georgina Denholm, Dragonfly at Chapelhill wildflower meadow

Executive Summary

This portfolio has been put together to assist Scotland in Bloom judges as a useful reference to Bute In Bloom entry 2018. It outlines the activities and achievements of our community over the last year since September 2017.



Photograph 2 by Iain Gillespie -
Appletree Nursery planting flowers



Photograph 3 by Sandy Ogilvie Rothsay Playgroup Picking Pumpkins

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Introduction

Bute in Bloom is the collective name for individuals and organisations on Isle of Bute who work collaboratively towards common goals that fit with the overall aspirations of our community. Bute in Bloom meetings provides a space for ideas, debate and action planning.

The purposes of the group are to promote Isle of Bute as a community that excels in horticultural achievement, takes environmental responsibility serious and is highly active.

Our community takes a 'many flowers' approach to achieve the greatest sustainable impact with limited resources. Our aspiration for 2018 was to engage closer with local education organisations and youth groups to empower young people to play an active role in providing solutions to amenity challenges and in designing our open and green spaces.



Photograph 4 by Reeni Kennedy-Boyle Battery Place Fruit Beds



Photograph 5 Appletree Nursery

Horticultural achievement

Impact

- Battery Place rose beds saved and given new perennial planting plan with herbs and fruit making an attractive and tasty addition to the sea front – January 2018
- Esplanade rose beds saved and given new perennial planting plan of standard roses and bush roses – March 2018
- New community garden for growing season fruit and vegetable on derelict site Chapelhill car park – June 2018
- Maintenance of community garden in Montague Street
- Maintenance of community garden in King Street
- Maintenance of Watergate Hidden Garden and other areas created to make space for pollinators within the townscape



Photograph 6 by John Lyle Cabbies Rest

Horticultural practice

Offering opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to come together, exchange knowledge and experiences is at the very heart of achieving a blooming Bute. Demand for horticultural learning has grown along with volunteering and job opportunities.

Bute in Bloom volunteers are running regular weeding and maintenance events around Rothesay, introducing people of all ages to simple plant husbandry practices.

Newly formed Incredible Edible Bute volunteers have maintained a program of fortnightly work parties where people have been learning to grow from seed and plugs a range of fruit and herbs. These will continue with additional learning in cultivation of season vegetables at the new community garden.

Bute Produce have a full program of horticultural workshops running throughout the year which are well attended:

- Seed saving
- Master composting
- Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh Certificate in Practical Horticulture
- Grow Your Own
- Working wood –making willow structures and step overs

Argyll College Rothesay Campus have been supporting Horticultural Modern Apprentices at Mount Stuart and Bute Produce.

Rothesay Horticultural Society members continue to inspire our community with high quality specimens of a wide range of floral and vegetable plants displayed at their annual event and throughout the year within our townscape.

Residential and community gardening

Many local gardeners maintain and keep alive heritage varieties of dahlias and fuchsias. There are great skills in maintaining these stunning plants. These gardens offer a feast for the eyes of local residents and visitors alike.

Photograph 7 by Jude Dallas Dahlias Ardbeg Garden



Business areas and premises

A real pride of place is developing following on from investment made during phase 1 of Townscape Heritage project. The project included small grants for the purposes of improving shop fronts.



Photograph 8 by Iain Gillespie Shop Fronts

In addition to the Bute in Bloom planters, many businesses are now actively cultivating floral and edible arrangements in containers and hanging baskets. Shop fronts are presented clean and welcoming across many part of the town. It is recognized that there are still empty shops in need of TLC however with phase 2 of Townscape Heritage moving from development phase to implementation, there is expectation of improved amenity across the business areas.

Green spaces

There are many green spaces in and around Rothesay, with the public park and The Meadows being the main ones. Lying adjacent to each other, and only a short walk from the sea front, these are venues which are home to the Brandanes, our local amateur football team, adult and juniors shinty clubs, rugby clubm Bute County Cricket Club and the pony club. All support a “leave no trace” ethos and ensure the area is cleared of any litter created by their events.

There are many ad hoc games of football and cricket played by children wanting to enjoy themselves rather than being part of a competition. These areas are also favoured for school sports days, Bute Agricultural Show held on 8th August this year, and Bute Highland Games held on 11th August this year.



Photograph 9 The Meadows in May

Environmental responsibility

Our community has adopted to brands to promote our commitment to the environment:

- Towards Zero Carbon Bute
- Zero Waste Bute

Both of these initiatives involve awareness raising, encourage behavior change through activities and events and practical infrastructure changes, which enable adoption of low carbon sustainable living.

A transformation project working with Argyll & Bute Council, to create a wayfinding signage installation, is reaching its conclusion. Bute Island Alliance and Fyne Futures have worked closely to inform the project which will promote local destinations and landmarks and encourage residents and visitors alike to explore on foot and by cycle.



Photograph 10 by Fiona Zavaroni Bute in Bloom Chairman at Zero Waste Bute event

Conservation and biodiversity

West Island Way @WestIslandWay · Feb 20

Bute Conservation Trust volunteers hard at work in Suidhe Wood repairing the boardwalk. This scenic section of the way links Kilchattan Bay with the west coast of the island. #westislandway #bute #isleofbute #rambling #walkingtrails



Local heritage

Further to the successful delivery of a Townscape Heritage Initiative between 2011 and 2016, Argyll and Bute Council recognise the need for greater economic development and regeneration activities within Rothesay. Rothesay TH2 runs between 2017 and 2022 and will complement all of the prior investment and link all of the regeneration activity within the town by investing in Victoria Street and Montague Street. The main elements of the Rothesay TH2 are to:

- Make an improved and lasting difference to the town centre;
- Safeguard Rothesay's historic sea front buildings;
- Encourage people to take an interest and get involved in their townscape cultural heritage; Support economic and social enhancement;
- Improve the long term approach to property maintenance;
- Enhance skills in traditional building technique and use of materials.

Grants are available to property owners within the eligible town centre area for Shopfront Repairs, Small Building Repairs and Traditional Window Repair or Replacement.

Bute in Bloom are playing their part too! A new addition to the annual bench and seafront fence painting has been the renewal of paint covering the wonderful lamp posts that became a feature of the townscape in 1985. Unfortunately Argyll & Bute Council resource do not allow for a more frequent maintenance programme, so Bute in Bloom volunteers took on the task of bringing them back to a fresh and bright standard.



Photograph 11 by Iain Gillespie

Local environmental quality



Rothsay Primary School pupil Sarah McDowall's winning poster

A multi-agency initiative to tackle dog fouling on the island took place in May 2018, following on from many community awareness raising initiatives to tackle this horrible social problem. Poster campaigns and painted signs were backed up by police officers and local authority officers stepping up patrol of problem areas. Fyne Homes got involved through their Tenant Participation programme.

Recycling on the Go initiative has proven to be a great success at both ferry terminals and in selected locations around the island including the main shopping area of Montague Street. Recycling collection services are delivered by local social enterprise Fyne Futures, who offer employment opportunities and training to those with barriers to gaining employment. A unique way of encouraging people to support Zero Waste Bute as an aim.

Community participation

Our community achieves a great deal through voluntary effort which is supported by organisations adopting an ethos of “what is good for our environment is good for our community.” Bute in Bloom is grateful that our “many flowers” approach is a successful and sustainable model.



Photograph 12 by John Lyle Rothesay Horticultural Society Annual Event

It is a model that allows individuals and organisations to play to their strengths and particular passions, work collaboratively when it makes sense, and utilize limited resources to their fullest.

Bute Youth Forum, as part of their school holiday programme, mix community amenity project with away days. Children from primary 6 to 6th year get involved in litter picks, fence painting and plant maintenance. Jessica Heriot, Bute in Bloom volunteer, will be leading a fence painting work party in late July 2018 at Watergate, Rothesay.

Funding and support

Bute in Bloom is supported with cash donations and benefit in kind plants and materials. Volunteers usually use their own resources when carrying out works.

