Bothwell
South Lanarkshire

Brighter Bothwell
‘Let’s just do it!’

Spring Clean, March
Poppy Display, November
Rainbows planting hedge, March

Beautiful Scotland Portfolio 2019
Small Town Category
Brighter Bothwell is 19 in 2019. Brighter Bothwell’s Year, 2018 — 2019

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 Beautiful Scotland 2018.
- Addressing the areas for improvement identified by last year’s Beautiful Scotland judges.
- Extending the age range and number of our volunteers, as well as increasing funding for our activities.
- Working with SLC, schools and key groups to promote Bothwell’s environment, attractions and heritage.
- Encouraging activities to promote intergenerational working, throughout all of our work.

Key events and activities over this year included the following.

August
- Bothwell Horticultural Society Annual Flower and Produce Show, held on 25 August. The 176th Show!

September
- Contributions to Bothwell Community Scarecrow Festival, a nine-day event. The Community Garden was open for two days over the main weekend, which is the climax of the Festival.
- Party for volunteers and supporters on 21st in Community Hall. Around 50 attended.

October
- Bulb planting in mangers at Evangelical Church, helped by senior pupils of Uddingston Grammar (UGS).
- Bulb planting in 26 tubs on Main Street.
- Young people from our two primary schools made a video contribution to the Beautiful Scotland Seminar.
- Notified of success in application to Co-op Community Fund. Funding runs from 26.10.18 until 26.10.19.

November
- Autumn tidying and bulb planting in key locations. Planted wildflowers and snowdrops, grown in Community Garden, in Nature Trail. Bulb planting (recycled bulbs) at Bothwell PS, with help from parents.
- Uddingston Grammar School shopping evening. We had a stall to promote our work.
- Major Poppy Display and exhibition, 8th to 27th, culmination of a year’s work.

December
- Fundraising Christmas Stocking Hunt, Christmas Craft Bomb displays.
- Bothwell Scarecrow Festival Committee AGM, planning for 2019 Festival began.
- Follow-up activities to Poppy Display.

February
- Planning for another replacement bed in Gilchrist Garden, and work needed in other areas.
- Start of major project to regenerate a piece of ‘managed woodland’ and create Colliers’ Corner.
- Tree planting throughout Bothwell, with help from SLC. • St Bride’s Primary School Clean Up on 22nd.

March
- Preparation of Brighter Bothwell newsletter. Further grant applications completed.
- Annual Spring Clean Up event on 23rd. Around 70 volunteers attended, including Beavers and Scouts.
- Potato Day at Community Garden, on 16th.  • Contributed to Jobs’ Fayre at Bothwell PS on 8th.
- Planned and ordered summer floral displays for Main Street, which include 54 tubs and 5 mangers.

April
- Newsletters delivered to every home in Bothwell by 45 volunteers. Also given to local businesses.
- Work parties for a range of tasks, which we promote as Green Gym activities. • Clean Up on 6th.

May
- Removed bulbs from Main Street tubs, dried for recycling.  • Fundraising for summer floral display.
- Ran activity sessions for groups of children at St Bride’s World of Work Week Careers’ Fayre on 15th.
- Community Garden Open Day, including Brighter Bothwell plant sale, 18th.

June
- Summer floral displays installed. Children planted welly boots, play park. Joint Clean Up activities, UGS.
- To support KSB Action on Roadside Litter, collected 24 bags of litter around Raith Interchange, 18th, 19th.
Horticultural Achievement 1

Horti Show opened by Provost of South Lanarkshire Council. A well-attended event.

Some of the trophy winners on 25 August.

St Bride’s Nursery School children were proud of their harvest.

Bothwell Primary School children ready to work on their bed on 31 August.

7 October saw us removing the summer plants. The ‘advance party’ escaped the rain, but the afternoon group braved the downpours and completed the job — still smiling.

Some plants were recycled in October at the Community Garden and some were used in floral displays at Bothwell Bowling Club.

Children helped to plant bulbs at the Bowling Club in November.
Uddingston Grammar pupils planted bulbs and pansies in mangers at the Evangelical Church on 30 October.

Volunteers were out in force on 21 October to do the autumn planting for our spring floral displays.

Gran and granddaughter enjoyed working together on the task.

Wildflowers grown from seed in Community Garden, planted on Nature Trail in November and looked lovely in April.

February, Nature Trail

January, Church Centre

March, Dixon Gate

June

Bees are now enjoying the summer floral display on Main Street.
The Green Gym activity on 8 May was to remove the bulbs from the tubs on Main Street. All bulbs were recycled and were dried off in the Community Garden. Daffodils and hyacinths will be planted in key places in the autumn, while the smaller bulbs were given to visitors to our plant sale on 18 May, in return for a donation.

Our volunteers work hard but have fun, as can be seen from all the smiling faces as they enjoy very welcome refreshments and good chat. Our Green Gym activities help to promote health and wellbeing.

The sun shone for weeding and trimming activities on 12 May at The Glebe.

Our youngest volunteer and his older brother are very willing to join in our activities. Both like working with our older volunteers, who enjoy working with them too.

Children of Montessori Nursery School learned a lot from planting up their tubs and pots on 22 May.
I am still working hard for Brighter Bothwell. As well as keeping in touch with my Buddies who look after my boxes, I helped to put labels on the new litter picking equipment that my pals bought with some of the Co-op funding. And I continue to enjoy my visits to the schools. All the children love me. Bobby Bothwell

22 March — Clean up of the area near St Bride’s Primary School.

23 March — our annual Spring Clean. The picture on the cover shows lots more volunteers.

Prizes for finding unusual objects.

6 April — another clean up of a wooded area badly affected by litter and fly tipping. SLC gave us a skip for the weekend. We are continuing to work to improve this area.

Local primary pupils presented at the BS & IYN Seminar, via video, in October. All had been involved in very worthwhile eco-themed projects.

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Tree planting is a current priority. Fraser’s apple tree, planted by a boy who won it as First prize in our Easter Hunt 2017, was bearing fruit in September. The alder planted on the Nature Trail in March is for future generations. The oldest member of Bothwell Bowling Club, along with her daughter and one of our volunteers, watched the planting of the rowan at the Club. The tree was gifted by Brighter Bothwell. A gift from a Japanese family when they returned to Japan enabled us to plant this Japanese maple. They loved life in Bothwell. The addition of flowering cherries enhanced one of the more sparsely-planted areas of Bothwell.

Bothwell Nature Trail is an attractive, health-promoting, biodiverse corridor for walkers and cyclists, as well as an educational resource. SLC’s Community Payback Team help with maintenance. It contains around 50 species of wildflowers and grasses. These are a few seen in spring.

Bothwell Community Garden is a haven for bees and the home of the Bothwell Beekeepers. Visitors to the Garden on the Open Day in May learned a lot about bees and how vital they are to the food chain.

Bee Friendly Bothwell is promoted by Bothwell Beekeepers, who make seeds for pollinator-friendly plants freely available in several locations in Bothwell. The library is one and the free seeds, and information leaflet, have proved very popular.

One of our wildflower areas, attracting many bees and ladybirds this year.
Bothwell’s ninth annual *Scarecrow Festival* was another resounding success. A varied nine-day programme of events and around 400 scarecrows brought out the crowds. Glasgow Children’s Hospital Charity and a number of local good causes benefited from funds raised. ‘Les Girls’ were out again for the Brighter Bothwell Hoopla and were popular with all ages. One of our scarecrows promoted KSB’s Roadside Litter campaign and another marked the work of Marion Gilchrist as a suffragette. Brighter Bothwell members also organised the Family Cycle Ride and the Wee Scarecrow Hunt.

Lots more promotion of bees at the Scarecrow Festival, where Bothwell honey is always on sale and very popular.

‘Don’t rain on my parade! Officers, I promise that I won’t sting any of the friendly folk in Bothwell. They love me and my pals.’

Scottish Water volunteers at the Community Garden.

Promoting our work at Uddingston Grammar’s November shopping evening.

Brighter Bothwell and Bothwell Historical Society organised this major event to mark the centenary of the end of world War One. Around 5000 poppies were knitted and crocheted. The Provost attended on 8 November.

Adding one of the poppies for the 111 Bothwell men who died.
Community Participation 2

- Party for volunteers
- Christmas Craft Bomb, crafters’ meeting
- Unveiling of plaque, new holly tree on site of Poppy Display
- Honouring Bill Deans of Castle Court
- Delivering Brighter Bothwell newsletters
- Brighter Bothwell Plant Sale at Community Garden Open Day

Colliers’ Corner
This year’s main project to improve a key area for the benefit of the community involved partnership working among SLC, Community Pay-back, Scarecrow Festival and Brighter Bothwell.
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 an annual donation of £50, residents and businesses can join our Adopt-a-Tub scheme. 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. Our local Day-Today Express requested a box and we are benefiting from customers’ small change.
- Bothwell Evangelical Church organises an annual coffee morning to boost our funds, and also gave us some of the proceeds from its 2018 Scarecrow Festival fundraising activities.
- Our annual plant sale in May was very successful in raising £340, as well as £30 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.
- The Council’s Community Grant of £300 was used to help fund the summer floral display.
- Our Nurture Bothwell Nature Trail project was chosen for a Tesco Bags of Help award. We received £2,000.
- Bothwell Scarecrow Festival donated money to support our work, some of which was targeted for use in our major regeneration project at Colliers’ Corner.
- Our application to the Co-op Community Fund was successful. Until 26 October, Co-op members can choose to give their 1%, which supports local good causes, to Brighter Bothwell. Donations to date total almost £600. We are using the funds to purchase more litter-picking equipment, and may also have enough to help support other projects.
- Our summer Ladybird Hunt will help to fund this year’s Craft Bomb activities.

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 and Craft Bomb materials.
- Insurance, Beautiful Scotland entry fee, stationery and sundries.
- Tesco Bags of Help award is being 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 was replanted in the spring. We also set aside £1,000 to plant trees. Fourteen have been planted and more are planned for autumn planting.
- Our contribution to the Colliers’ Corner project was £2,500.

We appreciate all the support that we have received over the year from a range of sources.
Key priorities for the year ahead

- Continuing to provide encouragement and support to local schools and youth groups remains a priority and offers opportunities to reinforce awareness of environmental issues and promote all aspects of Keep Scotland Beautiful’s work.
- We will continue to promote Bothwell’s environment, attractions and heritage, working as appropriate with other community groups. Next steps at Colliers’ Corner will include provision of information boards.
- We will build on the success of our Green Gym activities by harnessing the enthusiasm of some new recruits to enhance more key areas in Bothwell and promote the need to care for our environment.

Plans for the Future

Following renovation of the quire of the Church which was completed in 2017, Bothwell Historical Society secured grant funding and a donation from the Church to restore the wall, gate and railings at the Main Street entrance to the churchyard of historic Bothwell Parish Church. Lime mortar was used for the wall.

Brighter Bothwell volunteers cleared the area behind the wall last August ready for restoration work to begin. Two of our stalwart volunteers did considerable pruning and tidying this spring to help rejuvenate the planting behind the wall. The Dixon Gate, as this entrance is known, is a key feature on Main Street.
We always work hard to secure coverage of the work of Brighter Bothwell and related community groups in our local press.

A winner with the community
Bothwell lines up best-ever festival

Brighter outlook for gardening team
Gang impress Keep Scotland Beautiful judges

Fest success was something to scarecrow about

Gold strike at top awards ceremony
Bothwell and Uddingston star at glittering event
Ellis honoured for his eco message

5000 poppies to mark 100 years since WW1

Near and far come together to help village mark Armistice
For the first time ever one of our activities was reported on the front page.
Appendix — Newspaper Cuttings 4

Montessori Nursery kids celebrate with Eco-flag award

Volunteer call for hospitals

Brighter Bothwell spring into action

Community gather for huge clean-up

Scarecrow Festival
Appendix — Newspaper Cuttings 5

Community groups are quids in with cash boost

SHELLEY MARTYN

Community groups throughout Hamilton and the surrounding areas have shared a cash boost of over £6000.

South Lanarkshire Council decided to make the cash at the recent meeting of the Hamilton Area Committee.

And recipients include Stewarts, various groups, environmental projects like Brighter Bellwell, pensioners and students.

A total of £6061 was agreed from the committee's £25,374 2018/2019 budget, as well as grants of £2387 agreed at the meeting held on 19th October 2018 (Financial year).

In addition, they agreed to award £3000 today with the funding of three projects or to allow them to operate during the winter months October and Easter school holidays.

The full list of community groups is:

- Trinity Church Women's Group, Hamilton, £250 for outing
- The Hamiltons and District branch of the RCOG (£250) for an outing, information day and equipment
- Royal Stewarts Legion Scotland Women's Section, Larkhall, £250 for an outing and communications
- Quarter Parish Church Friendship Group, £250 for outing and entrance fees
- Larkhall Bowling Club, senior section, £200 for an outing

The newspaper cuttings are from the Hamilton Advertiser, unless otherwise stated.

Dates shown are the dates when the articles were published.

1. 9 Aug, Pre Scarecrow Festival publicity
2. 16 Aug, Visit of BS judges 2018
3. 10 Sept, Scarecrow Festival
4. 4 Oct, Coverage of BS awards 2019
5. 4 Oct, Coverage of BS awards 2019
6. 11 Oct, Ellis receives CUS Hero of Month Award
7. 25 Oct, Pre Poppy Display publicity
8. 14 Nov, Bellshill Speaker, Poppy Display
9. 15 Nov, Poppy Display, front page
10. 15 Nov, Poppy Display
11. 15 Nov, Poppy Display
12. 6 Dec, Kirklands Hospital
13. 24 Jan, Montessori Nursery Green Flag
14. 28 March, Spring Clean Up event, on 23 March
15. 9 May, Clean Up event on 6 April
16. 30 May, SLC Community Grant awards
17. 13 June, Scarecrow Festival advertising