

Coupar Angus Pride of Place in 2020

As with all Bloom groups, Coupar Angus Pride of Place had all their plans in place for 2020 well before Covid19 hit the headlines and so we were very disappointed when they came to a sudden end in March. We had discussed ways of how we could organise our work to keep ourselves safe but all plug orders from the end of March were cancelled. So that was that it seemed! However, in November we had pollarded willow trees in Larghan Park and collected willow in tidying up our willow dome and tunnel to use to make obelisks to add to our floral displays in town. These we made with the excellent guidance of Jane Wilkinson, from the Carbon Reduction team, which is part of Forward Coupar Angus. We had also received an early order of plugs, lemon illumination begonias, local Nurseries advertised that we were selling plants online and so we were able to produce our floral displays with the obelisks as show in Picture (1). These were planted up together with our boxes (see Picture 3), socially distanced, in June. Using the yellow begonias and blue lobelia and verbena we focused on a Thank You to the NHS, Key workers and Volunteers.



We had planned to lay wild flower turf around our standing stone at the Perth entrance into Coupar Angus in March and with whole countries going into Lockdown we had to move fast. Within 2 weeks, with the Make a Difference team (MAD) we cleared the area around the stone and were able to lay the turf. A resident living close to the standing stone very kindly watered every day to ensure did not dry out all through the rest of March, April and May until rain started to arrive. It is thanks to her efforts that there has been a colourful display throughout the season. Picture (2)



Picture 3 shows our Pollinators Bed that we leave to go to seed in the autumn, through to the spring, to provide seeds for the birds and cover for the insects in the winter. We managed to get it cut back in March as lockdown approached. It soon began to show growth and grow into a beautifully coloured bed of pollinators for the bees and butterflies that were in great abundance throughout the summer. Again, we were very fortunate to have a resident living close that watered the bed throughout the dry periods. Also shown is our wildflower area, passed as you come into town from Blairgowrie. This really looked dead all through spring and we feared the yellow rattle and seeds from last years' plants would not germinate but once the rain started to arrive it came into flower in no time and hopefully we soon be able to cut it back and add in more plants now the yellow rattle is certainly helping to reduce the grass cover.

