

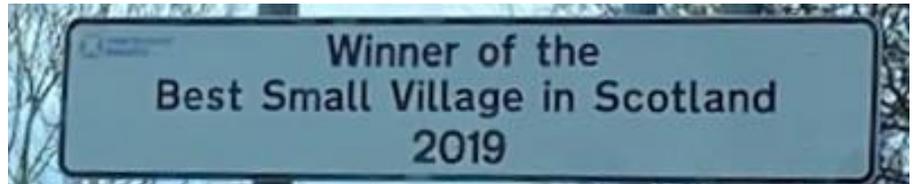
BRIGHTEN UP KIRKCONNEL SELECTED TO REPRESENT SCOTLAND IN RHS NATIONAL COMMUNITY AWARDS

Brighten Up Kirkconnel and Kelloholm have been selected as one of five groups to represent Scotland at the Royal Horticulture Society Community Awards as detailed in the national press release.

The other groups in Scotland being: The People's Project in Dumfries, Aberdeen Communities Together, Kinnesswood in Bloom and North Berwick in Bloom.

This is a marvellous achievement both for Kirkconnel and Kelloholm and for Dumfries and Galloway.

Brighten Up Kirkconnel and Kelloholm who were winners of the Best Small Village in Scotland in 2019 at the Beautiful Scotland Award ceremony held in Dumfries in 2019 are absolutely delighted to have been nominated and are already starting to plan for the 2021 community awards.



Gary Hughes, Chair of the Brighten Up Kirkconnel Group said: "2020 was a difficult year for everyone and like many groups we were not able to carry out our normal planting activity and/or showcase our usual floral displays. To be nominated to represent Scotland at the 2021 RHS Community Awards is therefore fantastic recognition of our achievements over the years, in particular our Gold Award and Best Small Village award in 2019."

"We are really excited by this announcement and plan to build on our previous successes to ensure that Kirkconnel and Kelloholm continue to receive recognition for their efforts - both locally and nationally."



"We are very fortunate in Kirkconnel and Kelloholm to have the support of a both a wide range of community groups and Dumfries and Galloway Council. We therefore plan to work with both the Council and the wider community to do our very best for the community of Kirkconnel and Kelloholm and for Dumfries and Galloway."



Matt Lammie, Chair of Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Council said: "This achievement by Brighten Up Kirkconnel is great news for the community".
"It is also very well deserved and a great tribute to the marvellous work that Brighten Kirkconnel do to enhance the appearance of the village "
"The community of Kirkconnel and Kelloholm is proud of the civic pride work that takes place across the community and we as a Community Council are happy to give whatever support is required"



The work of Brighten Up Kirkconnel is very much appreciated and enjoyed by both local residents and visitors to the area. Indeed, over the years, we have seen evidence of the fantastic work that has been achieved by the Brighten Up Group, as seen in the pictures included in this article.

Whilst many people have remarked on how much they had missed the bright and colourful displays in 2020 that they had become accustomed to over the years, we are sure that they will be looking forward to 2021 and seeing a bit of colour back in the village, as well as giving Brighten Up Kirkconnel their every support and encouragement and wishing them every success in the 2021 RHS Community Awards.

