It's birthday time! Sixteen years ago, a group of our residents decided that Bothwell was badly in need of some TLC and set up Brighter Bothwell. To give us some guidelines and provide a focus for our activities we decided to participate in Keep Scotland Beautiful’s Beautiful Scotland campaign. Entrants are judged on Horticultural Achievement, Environmental Responsibility and Community Participation.

Keep Scotland Beautiful was set up in the 1950s. Post-war pride had led to a public desire to tackle an ever-increasing litter problem. In 2000, Keep Scotland Beautiful became an independent registered Scottish charity and, in addition to its focus on anti-littering campaigns, it expanded into several related environmental activities.

The Brighter Bothwell campaign has come a long way in its 16 years. Our initial entry in Beautiful Scotland earned praise for a ‘first class’ effort. In recent years, we have consistently achieved the Beautiful Scotland Silver Gilt award, the second top ranking, and have won the trophy in the Small Town category twice. In 2015, our efforts to support biodiversity were recognised, for the second time, by the National Biodiversity Award. In addition to being awarded another Silver Gilt medal, we were named as Clean Up Scotland’s Hero of the Month for June. We are grateful to all who help us for their valued support.

This year, Beautiful Scotland will celebrate 50 years of activity while we celebrate our 16th birthday. The teenage Brighter Bothwell is going to bridge the generation gap, join forces with 50-year-old Beautiful Scotland and help it celebrate this special Flourishing at Fifty birthday.

Our Flourishing at Fifty celebrations will begin on 21 May. Look out for —
- Displays on Bothwell Main Street to make you smile!
- The Beautiful Scotland Fairy and Elf Hunt — a fun activity for all ages — from 21 May until 13 June.
- Our plant sale at the Community Garden on 21 May.
- Floral displays in the colours of Keep Scotland Beautiful’s saltire.

A huge ‘thank you’ to everyone who helped with the Bothwell Spring Clean Up on 19 March!
In the last year, the Garden has been busy as ever. Despite the wettest summer weather in years all was not lost and, along with a steady supply of vegetables, we harvested bumper crops of juicy soft fruit.

In addition to the weekly exertions of the resolute growers, we welcomed corporate volunteers from Scottish Water whose efforts made a big impact on our paths around the garden.

The Beekeepers had a busy time at the Open Days. Although honey and pure beeswax candles are popular items, the Observation Hive is definitely a star attraction with adults and children alike coming to ‘meet the Queen’. We were delighted to support the Auld Alliance when the garden welcomed a party of beekeepers from Jouy-en-Josas in France.

As Organic Growers, we love to see birds, bees, bugs and beasties at the garden. The bee and butterfly borders are becoming well established now and both were blooming and lovely for gardeners and visitors to enjoy during the Scarecrow Festival. Right now we’re sowing seeds and preparing the garden for the coming season.

We hope you’ll come along to our Open Days: Saturday 21 May and, of course, during the Scarecrow Festival. There will be hardy plants available and lots to see, as well as delicious teas and home baking. See you there!

Would you like to grow your own? To find out how to become a member of the Garden, simply email us:

info@bothwellcommunitygarden.org.uk

www.bothwellcommunitygarden.org.uk

Bothwell Scarecrow Festival will return in September!

You can have lots of fun between 3 and 11 September.

The Festival helps to

- highlight all that is good about Bothwell as a place to live, work and visit
- promote community cohesion by connecting residents of all ages, local organisations and businesses
- bring visitors to Bothwell and
- make people smile!

www.bothwellscarecrowfestival.co.uk
Brighter Bothwell and Bothwell Historical Society worked together on two projects. In June, the replica coal hutch at the corner of Uddingston Road and Fallside Road was unveiled to honour the miners of the Castle Colliery. The unveiling was carried out by two retired miners who had worked at the colliery. Brighter Bothwell members look after the plants in the hutch, some of which were grown in the Community Garden.

Because the hutch was very well received, it was decided to add a plaque to the noticeboard at the Miners’ Wildflower Garden, nearer the actual site of the colliery. Behind the Garden are the remains of a coal bing or spoil heap, which was created from the waste excavated material from the Castle Colliery. Part of the bing was removed during the construction of Castle Court. A slatted wooden wall on the north boundary of Castle Court retains the remaining part of the bing. The two shafts of the colliery were located in the area now occupied by The Fairways. The colliery was opened by William Baird & Co. in 1877. Its underground workings extended as far as Uddingston Cricket Ground. The colliery was nationalised in 1947 but stopped winding coal in 1949 when the coal reserves were exhausted.

In October, the plaque’s unveiling was attended by pupils of our two primary schools, all of whom are honorary members of Bothwell Historical Society. Also present were representatives of Brighter Bothwell, the Historical Society and members of the public.

Crowdfunding? We did it first!
Apart from a small annual grant from South Lanarkshire Council, we have to raise all the funds to support our activities ourselves. The vast bulk of these funds comes from the donations you, the people of Bothwell, make to us and for which we are very grateful. Not only do your donations make it possible for us to work to brighten our village, they also serve to encourage us. Your generous donations let us know that you appreciate our efforts. So a big thank you for all the support you have given us in past years.

If you feel you wish to support us with a donation again this year, we would be very grateful for your assistance. Just use the enclosed form. You can contact us on 01698 852411 or by emailing to brighter@visitbothwell.com

Bobby Takes a Lead in Tackling Dog Fouling
To help dog owners to ‘Bag it and Bin it’, Brighter Bothwell has installed pooh bag dispenser boxes in several key locations in Bothwell. ‘Bobby’s Boxes’ contain the free bags that are available from South Lanarkshire Council. Bobby and his Boxes have gained national recognition in Keep Scotland Beautiful newsletters and publications. Early signs are that the boxes are helping to encourage people to ‘Bag it and Bin it’.

Restored Coal Hutch Unveiling
Bothwell Primary School’s Eco Committee congratulates Holly from Primary 6 in designing our school Eco Code. We are sure you will agree that the phrase “1 Planet, 1 Choice, Go Eco!” is easy to remember and use everywhere. We would also like to thank Brighter Bothwell for helping to choose the winner. Please help us when you can to “Go Eco”! Turn off your car engines, put any litter in the bin, recycle when you can, use Bobby’s Boxes if you forget a bag to pick up after your dog, and be green. The Eco Committee thanks anyone who has helped us or given us great ideas.

St. Bride’s Eco Committee has used the recent good weather to weed our raised beds, turn over the soil and begin planting vegetables such as onions, garlic and beetroot. Working with Mr Collins, we ensured that the ‘wild garden’ was cleared to encourage last season’s seeds to germinate. The ‘wild garden’ is particularly important as it encourages a huge variety of wildlife and insects into the beds. Our focus on a litter-free school continues as a priority. Our ‘school litter map’ provides us with data to identify our main litter issues. We use the information to target key areas around the school, place bins strategically and raise pupils’ awareness.

This year Uddingston Grammar’s Eco Committee continues to work closely with Brighter Bothwell. In the past year pupils have been involved in improving the local environment, planting bulbs on Bothwell Main Street and taking part in the annual litter pick in June. Under the Clean Up Scotland campaign, the school is introducing ‘Litter Less’ policies such as our Golden Ticket prize – a voucher given to pupils seen to be taking an active role in the clean up – and planning an ‘Earth Day’, an event involving all the associated primary schools, in conjunction with Brighter Bothwell, to raise awareness for both global and local environmental issues. The Eco Committee is very grateful for the support and resources it receives from Brighter Bothwell and hopes to continue to improve the community of which the school is an integral part.

Young people are volunteering with us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award activities. Two of them helped us with our recent ‘Bin the Butts’ clean up.