

Ballater Royal Horticultural Society

(est 1859)

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20 July 2020

Hello everyone

This was not the summer that Ballater Royal Horticultural Society had planned!

The village was looking most unkempt due to Covid 19 restrictions which forbade the council workers being allowed to cut the grass or supply the usual plants to brighten the tubs and flower beds in the village. The Society, in conjunction with the Ballater Enhancement Group, decided to undertake the sourcing and planting themselves.

Thanks to monetary donations from Invercauld Estate and Captain Alwyn Farquharson, who agreed his donation towards the Flower Show could be repurposed, plants were purchased from the SeedBox and fertilizer from Alistair Cassie. Paul Patrick, of Pawz N Klawz in Aboyne, kindly donated compost and a varied selection of plants. The Hilton and Malcolm Jarvis too donated bedding plants.

The work was carried out by BRHS members, Tommy Jackson, Douglas Mutch and Colin Wilson. Tommy's idea to plant "NHS" in one of the beds has proved most successful and shows our gratitude to it during these troubling times.

Thanks must also go to Wee Jim and Louise, his daughter, for cutting the grass on the Kirk Greens.

Rain is not always welcome, but the plants have certainly benefited from it and are thriving. We are most grateful to Graeme Eldred, The Bike Station in the Station Square and Glenmuick Kirk for allowing ongoing access to water when required. Wendy and David Cobban, Peter and Jenny Hendry and Jo Coll are watering and weeding the various tubs when required, whilst Tommy and Colin are maintaining the beds. It is hoped to plant up the rear bed with perennials in the autumn to ensure a lovely display next year.

We hope this will bring some pleasure to you on your shopping trips and daily walks.

Wednesday 8th July should have seen us visiting the Cullen Community Allotment and the Walled Garden at Gordon Castle, Fochabers. Hopefully, we will be able to do this next year!

Sadly there will be no Flower Show for the village to enjoy and only time will tell if our meetings starting in November will go ahead. It's the same for the many groups in the village.

In the meantime, we can continue to work in and enjoy our gardens, and before too long, start planning for next year's plantings.

I'll finish by quoting the late Audrey Hepburn who said, "*To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow*"

Kind regards

Elizabeth Wilson
Secretary BRHS