George Smith 1947 – 2017

“No tears” George Smith requested, as we of heard of his last diagnosis. Such was his positivity and consideration for others. Affectionately known as “Mr Bloom” by the residents of Bridge of Earn, George dedicated 19 years of his life to voluntary work, leading Brig in Bloom to become a Gold Medal winner in the Beautiful Scotland and the Take A Pride In Perthshire Awards.

Not only was George the driving force in terms of Brig in Bloom’s outstanding horticultural displays, growing the plants on and tending them with his loyal team of volunteers – he was also an excellent fund raiser, organising ceilidhs, coffee mornings, car boot sales and the ‘200 club’, to name but a few. His popularity and his negotiation skills were proven by the level of sponsorship which he achieved for Brig In Bloom, and he successfully secured substantial funds through grants and other initiatives.

He was ever keen to assist any new bloom groups in Perth and Kinross, and many sought his advice. As a Trustee of the Take A Pride in Perth and Kinross Association he also helped with community projects across the whole area.

In 2013, George was awarded the Take A Pride in Perthshire “Outstanding Contribution Award” for his services to Brig in Bloom. Such exceptional dedication, passion and sheer pride were further recognised in 2016 by the awarding of a Certificate of Merit by the esteemed Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society! This is an award for those who “have made an outstanding contribution to Scottish Horticulture.” This truly reflected his achievements, and we were delighted to see George so justly recognised at national level for his years of dedicated effort.

Inspired by his local landscape, George’s most ambitious project is the current “Bridging the Past: Brickhall and Balmanno Community Garden. The garden will tell the story of the rapidly changing way of life in this rural community. Funding has enabled residents from the Bridge of Earn area to share stories about the village’s farming life between the 1940’s and 1960’s and to create a community garden with a heritage theme. The group continues to raise the remaining funds needed to enable George’s vision for the village to be realised. It will be a fitting tribute to a special man.

George is survived by his wife Christiene, sons George and Stewart and grandchildren Cameron and Dionne. He will be greatly missed.