



Trustees' Annual Report

1st APRIL 2024 TO 31st MARCH 2025

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Formal name: Take a Pride in Perthshire Association | Scottish Charity number SC 027774

Website: www.prideinperthshire.co.uk

Postal Address: c/o Community Greenspace, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth PH1 5GD

Section 1: About the Association

Formal Name: Take a Pride in Perthshire Association

'Known as' name: Take a Pride in Perth & Kinross (P&K) Association

Scottish Charity number: SC 027774

Charitable Objectives:

The Association is established for the public benefit, specifically for the following charitable purposes:

- To improve the environment and quality of life throughout the Perth & Kinross Local Authority area, by supporting and enabling voluntary Environment "in Bloom" and "Friends of Cemeteries" Groups in their work to protect, care for and enhance their local natural, horticultural, cultural and built environment and heritage.
- To advance the education of the public by supporting and encouraging educational initiatives concerning the local environment and other related issues and by providing lifelong learning about the natural environment through environmental campaigns and sustainable improvement projects.
- To advance community development by fostering community spirit and pride of place by encouraging public participation for the achievement of these and other related purposes

In furtherance of the above charitable purposes the organisation will:

- Enhance local amenities and facilities through environmental campaigns and improvement projects.
- Support community initiatives and social causes through fundraising and charitable work.

Governance

The Association's governing document is a constitution which was most recently updated in 2025. A copy of the Constitution can be found on the website www.prideinperthshire.co.uk

The Association is run by volunteers and managed by a committee of Trustees, recruited from within its voluntary member groups and confirmed at the Annual General Meeting. All

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Trustees sign a declaration confirming that they are not disqualified from being a charity trustee for any of the reasons specified by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

The Trustees at 31 March 2025 were:

Trustee name	Office held	Member group	Notes
Karen McDonnell	Chair	Scotlandwell in Bloom	
Caroline Boyle	Secretary	Abernethy in Bloom	
Monica Straughan	Treasurer	Perth	
Susan Crawford		Muthill in Bloom	
Gordon Lindsay		Beautiful Perth	
Liz Paterson		Ardoch in Bloom	
Norma Smith		Kinnesswood in Bloom	
Barrie Starck		Pride in Meigle	
Susan Whyte		Community Greenspace Team	Perth & Kinross Council
Willie Wilson		Viewlands Venture	

Financial matters

Details of financial matters, including Surpluses/Deficits, are included in the Treasurer's Notes that accompany the Annual Accounts of the Income and Expenditure and of the Balance Sheet. These are Independently Examined before being presented for approval to members at the Annual General Meeting. Once approved, the Accounts are submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. The Accounts, along with Treasurer's Notes, are also published on the website www.prideinperthshire.co.uk

Reserves policy: the Association has no paid employees and no premises, so overheads are low. The funds required to plan, raise funds, manage and deliver local projects are raised from appropriate funders on a project-by-project basis. Reserves are held in a savings account, reviewed annually.

Section 2: Making a Difference (Our Outputs and Outcomes)

In order to fulfil its Charitable Objectives, the Association supports and advises member groups on the planning and delivery of local environmental and heritage improvement projects in towns and villages across Perth & Kinross. Locally based consultancy Nicki Soutar Associates is contracted by the Association to provide fundraising and project management expertise. This helps local voluntary groups undertake ambitious projects that enhance the local heritage, environment, economy and quality of life of their communities.

In the year 2024-25, eight projects were managed by the Association in partnership with local volunteers; two were completed during the year and the other six have been continued into 2025-26.

Completed projects:

- **Comrie War Memorial Garden** (with Comrie in Colour)

Improvement plans for the garden at the war memorial set out to provide a lower maintenance approach to managing the site whilst enhancing biodiversity and accessibility, improving the aesthetics and renewing paths and seating areas.

Groundworks took place during 2024 with works completed in time for Armistice Day. An official launch was held in Spring 2025 to celebrate the completed garden with local residents and dignitaries.

- **St Fillans – ‘Still’ Sculpture** (with St Fillans in Bloom)

The ‘Still’ sculpture (affectionately known as the ‘Mirror Man’) was created by Scottish sculptor and environmental artist Rob Mulholland and stood in the waters of Loch Earn until 2017. St Fillans in Bloom has purchased the statue and was granted planning permission to reinstate it in the Loch. A new robust base was constructed in early 2025, with the sculpture returned to the waters of Loch Earn in spring. A well-attended launch event was held shortly after the sculpture’s return to the water. It has been very well received, with visitors flocking to the village to view the much-loved statue.

Ongoing Projects:

- **Alyth Boer War Memorial Plaza** (with Alyth in Bloom)

The Boer War Memorial in Alyth is adjacent to the busy market square in an area that also includes a historic water fountain, a raised planting area and other features. Alyth in Bloom applied to the Association for help in improving the area. The Trustees have approved the project and the initial stages of planning and fundraising got underway

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in 2024. Site plans have been refined and revised, and a public consultation is planned for Summer 2025.

- **Blair Atholl Village Nature Garden** (with Blair Atholl in Bloom)

An opportunity arose to improve a large public space directly to the rear of the village hall. Local volunteers and the Association have contracted landscape architects to draw up site plans which include creating several distinct spaces divided by native species hedges and incorporating accessible features for the whole community. Fundraising is underway and a public consultation is due to be held in Summer 2025.

- **Kinnesswood Michael Bruce Cottage Garden** (with Kinnesswood in Bloom)

Kinross-shire poet Michael Bruce was born in Kinnesswood in 1746. The cottage where he was born is now managed by the Michael Bruce Trust, and volunteers from Kinnesswood in Bloom help maintain the garden. This new project aims to rejuvenate the upper garden, making it a low-maintenance, wildlife friendly space with seating and a central feature, useful and attractive for visitors and locals alike. Plans for the revamped garden have been shared with and welcomed by local residents at two public consultation events in 2024 and fundraising continues.

- **Meigle Village Entrance** (with Pride in Meigle 2015)

Pride in Meigle 2015 volunteers were keen to enhance a grassy area at the north-western entrance to the village incorporating a community garden, drystone walls and a large stone containing a 'Welcome to Meigle' sign, designed to reflect the village's Pictish history. During 2024 the group decided to scale back these ambitious plans, so the area will now feature a more simple stone cairn and accessible pathways. Costs have been estimated and fundraising is underway.

- **Scone Mercat Cross Restoration** (with Scone in Bloom)

The historic Mercat Cross in New Scone is in poor condition and surrounded by Heras fencing. Scone in Bloom applied to the Association for a project in two phases – the first to restore and conserve the cross, the second to landscape the surrounding garden area to enhance the aesthetics, the biodiversity and information provision at the site. The project has been approved by the Trustees and the initial stages of planning and fundraising got underway in 2024. A conservation architect was appointed in early 2025 to provide a detailed understanding of the work required to the cross structure and is due to report imminently.

- **Scotlandwell Wash House** (with Scotlandwell in Bloom)

The Scotlandwell in Bloom voluntary group wants to carry out repairs to the historic well structure in the village. A structural engineer has been appointed to provide a detailed understanding of the work required. The group is now in the process of engaging a conservation architect to develop the next stages of the project, including developing a set of probable costs and identifying suitable contractors. Fundraising will commence once the costs are known.

Further information about the many projects delivered by the Association in partnership with local community volunteers over past years can be found on the website

www.prideinperthshire.co.uk

Section 3: Overview by the Chair

It has been an absolute privilege to Chair the Association, during what I believe has been a pivotal year in ensuring our voice has been heard at the highest level here in Perth and Kinross, and the work of our volunteers being recognised as fundamentally important in effecting lasting change across Perth and Kinross. Our work is very much a team effort, and I extend my thanks to our committee of Trustees, the majority of whom are volunteers. They have again this year selflessly devoted their time to the Association, assessing project applications, monitoring their progress, reviewing the Association's finances and supporting member groups.

Huge contributions have been made by each of our Trustees. Secretary: Caroline Boyle, Abernethy, Treasurer: Monica Straughan, Susan Crawford, Muthill, Gordon Lindsay, Perth, Liz Paterson, Ardoch, Norma Smith, Kinnesswood, Barrie Starck, Meigle, Susan Whyte, Perth & Kinross Council, and Willie Wilson, Viewlands (Perth).

At our 2024 AGM we spoke at length about the cuts to core funding for our groups that arose through the Perth and Kinross Council budget process. It was the strong will of the member groups that the Association wrote to Council Leaders and Elected Members seeking a meeting to ensure that Councillors across Perth and Kinross understood the many benefits that our network brings and the value it adds. This was scheduled expeditiously in advance of budget negotiations for 25/26. This meeting took place in January 2025, with many positive consequences, the most significant and tangible of these being boosted annual allowances for our member groups.

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The opportunity to meet them has led to our reflecting on how the Take a Pride in Perth and Kinross Association 'tells our story', to ensure that the benefits we bring to the 48 'in Bloom' groups and their communities are widely understood.

During the year we have worked even more closely with Community Greenspace to enhance the impact we can make in our communities and explore how we can bring additional stakeholders to the Association table. I am grateful to all groups who have responded to the recent survey which will assist the Association to plan a way forward that has benefited our groups and the communities they represent.

Our vision is to improve understanding of biodiversity, climate change and land restoration and their links to our volunteer groups, supported by Community Greenspace we have during the year engaged with Tayside Biodiversity Partnership and the PKC Climate Change and Land Restoration team. These connections are an essential part of our future, providing routes to funding and support that will enable us to build in biodiversity and sustainability threads in our volunteer work and projects funded through the Association, which potentiates the likelihood of our success.

Some may believe the increase in core funding for the groups we represent from Perth and Kinross Council is hugely disproportionate given the number of volunteer hours we deliver; however, this success has built confidence and opened many conversations with Council representatives and others that can only be to our mutual benefit.

We have much to look forward to in the coming year, at this time in the Association calendar it is also time to thank those Trustees who are stepping away from the Committee, Caroline Boyle, Monica Straughan and Norma Smith. Each has made a huge contribution to our work and in their 'bloomin' neighbourhoods', as Secretary and Treasurer Caroline and Monica have done a sterling job in keeping the Association on track, for which I and the other Trustees are grateful. Thanks also to the Community Greenspace team led by Susan Whyte. Last, but certainly not least my grateful thanks go to Nicki Souter Associates and in particular the tenacious and ever efficient Charlie Hardman – our Project Development Adviser, who works in the best interests of the Association to successfully deliver our valuable legacy Projects. Between us, we have done great work over the last year and reset our way of working for 2025/26, and we are looking forward to seeing the benefits that this brings.

Signed: *Karen McDonnell*,

Chair

7 June 2025