



Helping Protect, Conserve and Develop a Better Built and Natural Environment

## **30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – August 2021**

The rules for lockdown are changing but there is still some uncertainty, so we have decided to continue with our plan to hold a virtual AGM. So we are issuing a series of Reports summarising the activities of the various groups this year, although they have been somewhat limited. Of course, we have not been able to hold any of the events we normally do, such as visits or our Annual Dinner. We look forward to resuming these.

Nevertheless, we have been very active on the Planning front, which you will see that from Eileen Thomas's report and Brian D'Arcy has been very active in the Raingardens Challenge.

We are very sorry to report the passing of Karol Swanson. Karol was a very active member of both the Planning Committee and the Raingardens Challenge and she will be missed very much.

This year is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the Kinross-shire Civic Trust. The Trust was established in 1991 with the objects of promoting and encouraging a public interest in, and care for, the beauty, history and character of Kinross-shire and Glenfarg. These aims are designed to help maintain the essential character of the area through the preservation, conservation, development and improvement of buildings of general public or historic interest and, in the process, promote a high standard of architecture and planning.

#### **Kinross-shire Raingardens Challenge**

The Trust is very excited with the creation of the Raingarden Challenge as part of our commitment to improving the Environment. The initiative has been led by Brian D'Arcy who has had a long experience in dealing with groundwater matters. You will have seen articles by Brian on behalf of the Trust in the Kinross Newsletter explaining the aims of the Raingarden project and the Trust looks forward to progressing the project in the coming year.

The Trust has set up a Raingardens Challenge Steering Group with members of the Trust along with representation from SEPA, Scottish Water and Perth and Kinross Council to conduct the activities.

A Report on the Raingarden Challenge follows this.

### **Planning Committee.**

Eileen Thomas and the Committee have had a very busy year dealing with planning applications and pursuing the problems that so many of them have generated.

A full report from the **Planning Committee** follows this.

The Trust has always **supported development** but it has to be good development and the Trust will continue to oppose development that is inappropriate and is contrary to the Local Plan.

### **Awards Committee**

The Trust's efforts to encourage good architecture have included the introduction of **Architectural Awards** schemes for new build, renovation and restoration of old buildings as well as improvement of the environment, including tree planting. Unfortunately we have not been able to identify and candidates for the Awards this year.

The **Trust's Awards Committee** runs the **Well Kept County Competition** which has been running now for 55 years since its inception by Sir Robert Stewart in 1966.

The Committee's aim was always to have the 2021 competition in July this year, so that we could stagger the dates for the annual event to reflect different seasons. So, the Competition was held this year in the last week of July. The judging was held on two perfect warm sunny days and the villages and hamlets were looking at their best. The Judges were delighted by the enthusiastic responses from the villages and hamlets throughout Kinross-shire again. The competition was very close but the winners of the Best Kept Village were Kinnesswood, with Crook of Devon and Powmill joint second and the Winners of the Best Kept Hamlet were Glenlomond with Drum and Maryburgh joint second. The judges applauded all the communities for all their enthusiastic efforts and energies

It is wonderful that the competition continues today and is still enthusiastically supported by communities throughout Kinross-shire as witnessed by the increase in the number of entrants.

The Trust has a **web site** ([www.kinross-shirecivictrust.org](http://www.kinross-shirecivictrust.org)). The web site is organised by our computer manager, but we do need someone to keep in touch with the Trust's affairs and feed that information to the web site. I would be very pleased to hear from someone who would like to take this on. It should not be an onerous task.

We are also on **Facebook** where around 350 people "follow" our page.

I would like to thank the Planning Committee under Eileen Thomas for all their hard work this year.

I would also like to thank very much the Awards Committee.

The Trust also looks forward to progressing the projects proposed for Raingardens and the development of future proposals, all of which have been progressed by Brian D'Arcy.

I would also like to thank the Executive Committee, David Munro, Eileen Thomas, Ken Miles and Elsa Sinclair for their strong support during the past year, Eileen for her continued work as Secretary and Ken for his work as Treasurer.

Can I finally thank all members for their continued support? This is appreciated very much indeed. We are of course always looking for new members to continue the work of the Trust, in particular, we are looking for new members for the Planning Committee. If you feel you would like to get involved please get in touch with any members of the Trust's Committees.

Alistair Smith, Chairman