

Comrie In Colour News December 2024



It has been a busy year!

Comrie In Colour has had a very busy and eventful 2024. We are now in our down season and having a very well-deserved rest before we start again in 2025. Like every voluntary group we have had challenges this year and we started off with a significant cut to the grant received by PKC to buy plants, compost and garden essentials for the village.

We are currently lobbying elected representatives to ensure that we get a better budget settlement for 2025, but we fully understand that bloom groups will not be at the top of PKC priorities.

All running costs for Comrie in Colour are supported by the efforts our volunteers who deliver the service. Our annual plant sale is always well supported by the village and the funds we raise go towards keeping our truck on the road. As a group we must raise at least £2000 per year to keep the service going. This year we were helped by a few very generous villagers who made donations to our funds.

Several village planters had to be replaced in 2024, and we were successful in our application for a grant from The Steinmeyer Legacy Fund. The request was to replace ten planters, buy plants and compost for the new planters, replace our gate at the polytunnel, and buy paint to refurbish benches in the village. The new planters (made from recycled materials) are now in place, the gate has been installed and painting of benches will start in the Spring. We are exceptionally grateful to The Steinmeyer Legacy Fund for this grant

As well as maintaining the community garden areas in the village a lot of work happens behind the scenes. In 2024 we arranged for a dying tree to be removed from Mid Square. We asked PKC to cut back the overhanging conifers at the public toilets. Requests have been made to resolve the issue of weeds growing through the slabs at Strathview Place and cut back overhanging tree branches at the corner of South Crieff Road and Strowan Road.

One of our big successes this year was the refurbishment of the Comrie War Memorial Garden, which has created a more accessible space for all villagers and visitors. We are pleased with the information board which provides interesting information about the fallen of Comrie in the two world wars. The garden will be formally opened in April 2025.

We had some fun during the Comrie Fortnight with our Sunflower Competition. We picked the worst summer for growing sunflowers, but we did eventually get some very impressive sunflowers in the village, and a lot of local (and friendly) rivalry. The winner was Alan Caldwell and Chris Grace.

Volunteer hours for 2024 were a staggering 784 hours delivered by eight volunteers. We would also like to give a special mention to 'the volunteered' Douglas Fowles, Brian McVey and Peter Philips.

Other Highlights

- Comrie in Colour trophies now displayed in White Church.
- We have two new volunteers Shonadh Battison and Jean Buchanan.
- Electricity sub-station at Strowan Road was repainted at our request.
- Contacted PKC to mend broken fence on Strowan Road at the bridge.
- Dior gifted perennials from their fashion show at Drummond Gardens. Some have been planted in the village and further planting will take place Spring 2025.
- New planters placed at Queens Road. Sadly, we still have a continuing problem with cigarette ends being left in the area. We do have plans to upgrade this area once the flood defences are complete.
- 2000 spring bulbs planted throughout the village
- A maintenance day was held at our storage hut at Cultybraggan. This involved repairing broken glass, painting window frames and the door.

Wishing all villagers a very happy Christmas and a good New Year from all at Comrie in Colour.