CUPAR

Cupar in Bloom, would like to nominate the Royal Burgh of Cupar which dates back to the 14th Century and has, at its heart, our Mercat Cross at the junction with St Catherine Street, Crossgate and Bonnygate (Photo 1). St Catherine Street links our beautiful Haugh Park with its well-appointed playpark, exercise area, riverside walk, bandstand and War Memorial - affectionately known as ‘The Angel’ (Photo 2) and also features the historic County Buildings, recently restored Burgh Chambers and the Corn Exchange. To the south of the Mercat Cross is the Crossgate, which hosts monthly farmers markets, the annual Christmas Lights switch-on and leads on to a pedestrian community space with floral displays and seating well used by locals and visitors alike (Photo 3).

Fife Council and Cupar in Bloom worked together this year for the Glow for Gold Campaign, as reflected in the colour scheme for the Council themed beds in the Haugh Park and Cupar in Bloom’s 160 hanging baskets. Cupar in Bloom also maintain the planting at Cupar Railway Station which includes a Heritage Garden with sustainable planting and a small “help yourself” herb bed. A hat trick of awards, (Gold, Best Medium Town and Horticultural Achievement) were won at the Beautiful Fife Competition by the group.

Cupar has many strong community groups such as local Scouts, Guides etc, the ‘Y’ Young Gardeners Club, Cupar Rotary Club, Sustainable Cupar, CDT, Cupar Heritage as well as active primaries, and the secondary school hosting an annual ECO day in which the local SEN school participates. The townspeople are always supportive of any group which holds events in the town, anything from the annual duck race to apple pressing. Cuparians are a great bunch and they love their town!
Denny Town Centre’s new £7.8m development brings a bright two-storey split level building consisting of 10 bespoke retail units and a community library. This is complemented by a community-designed town square featuring 4 public art commissions and event space. The jewel in the crown is the new Denny Library offering a welcome and relaxed community space in the heart of the town - attracting 1000 new customers in its first year.

As Scotland’s first digital town the town offers free outdoor Wifi and its own Denny town centre website designed to support local residents, visitors and business through a custom made page driving footfall into the new town centre. Construction started in 2015 with completion of the new building marked this summer with a Celebration Event attracting thousands of local people keen to enjoy their new town centre. Two further phases are in the pipeline.
Inverurie lies in the heart of the Garioch at the confluence of two rivers, The Don and The Ury. It is a traditional market town within a large agricultural hinterland with its spoken Doric and genteel ways.

The High Street leads to the Town Hall and Market Place with its independent traders, coffee shops and pubs. The large triangular Memorial Garden sits in front of the Town Hall and is bounded to the east by Crosslet Court, a listed building of terraced dwellings. Beside Crosslet Court, Watsons Ironmongery trades away as it has done since the nineteenth century. The Town Hall was built by the Town Burgh in 1862. Its architecture and prominence in Market Place demonstrates the ambition and vision of the Town Burgh at the time. It remains a focal point for many community activities including the Christmas Panto.

The High Street and West High Street are busy shopping streets which creates a vibrant atmosphere throughout the day. Although the Town Centre faces many challenges the creation of a Business Improvement District is leading the way in meeting these challenges.

Inverurie has a strong community base with many active voluntary groups and a thriving 3rd sector including social enterprises. Inverurie was awarded a Gold Medal and a Community Horticultural Award by Beautiful Scotland in 2018.

The recently opened Garioch Heritage Society in the former railway locomotive works has added a new cultural dimension to the town and has attracted many visitors.

Recent capital investment in a new School Academy and Health Centre Hub means that the future is positive for Inverurie.
Jedburgh is undergoing a lot of structural work at present in connection with the Regeneration Project, and therefore there is scaffolding which has generated unwanted one way systems, but the High Street still remains the most beautiful one, in our eyes.

If you go beyond these blots in the landscape, we have a High Street that teams the old with the new (see pic 1 and pic 3). The traders are resilient and new shops are opening, the High Street is still used for all major events, flowers are still displayed (we have just won Scotland’s Floral Gateway Competition 2018 – Pic 2) and we are a very inclusive and positive community. The Jedburgh of today, retains largely the same street plan as it had centuries ago; the High Street and Castlegate crossed by Exchange Street and Canongate, with closes running off, similar in style to the Royal Mile in Edinburgh in, obviously, smaller scale.

We have various shops on our High Street, from the traditional kilt/tweed seller, to the shop that sells Scottish goods but with a modern twist, a multiple award winner butcher, award winning restaurants and a florist, a reputed auction house and an art gallery interspersed with a hotel in which Mary Queen’s of Scots lodged and a building that housed the original Jedburgh Library.

We strongly believe that we deserve to win because, by being resilient, we show that we can live with scaffolding and improvement work around us – life goes on!
Linlithgow’s historic High Street retains much character and has a wide variety of locally-owned businesses, relatively few chain stores and a high level of occupancy. Premises seldom stay vacant for long.

**Much of this success relates to:**

a) increasing involvement by the volunteers of Burgh Beautiful Linlithgow and other local organisations through the provision of floral displays including 120 hanging baskets, 73 planters and barrels and prominently-located flower beds, kept planted all year and financed entirely from the local community, principally sponsorship from over 90 local businesses, organisations, families and individuals

b) cooperation between Burgh Beautiful and local traders through a Business Liaison Working Group which has greatly increased direct business involvement in floral displays

c) provision of Christmas lighting and other improvements by the Linlithgow Town Centre BID

d) improvements to the public realm including Caithness slab and granite block paving, together with coordination of street furniture

e) recent painting of street furniture by Burgh Beautiful members and via Community Payback

f) considerable investment by the Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Town Management Group in the provision of planters, the financing of shop frontage improvements, etc

g) clearance of weeds and detritus by Burgh Beautiful members and other public-spirited members of the community

h) involvement by Transition Linlithgow etc in providing edible planting

i) easy access via High Street bus stops and nearby car parks and railway station.

Additional interest is provided by the existence of a well-publicised Heritage Trail with associated interpretation boards. There is an annually-produced Floral Trails booklet and a public art strategy is in hand.

As a result of all these efforts, Linlithgow won a ‘Gold’ award in the 2017 Beautiful Scotland competition and this year represented Scotland in the Britain in Bloom UK finals, the results of which will be announced on 19 October.
TURRIFF is a town and civil parish set in the heart of Aberdeenshire, Scotland. It lies on the River Deveron and has a population of approx. 5500. In everyday speech, it is often referred to as ‘Turra’ - a derivative of the Scottish Gaelic pronunciation.

Turriff High Street/Main Street converge into one another at the town’s focal point ‘Coo Corner’ famous for the bronze sculpture of the ‘Turra Coo’ (Turriff Cow). The Turra Coo was a white Ayrshire-Shorthorn cross dairy cow owned by Robert Paterson of Lendrum, Turriff. In 1913, Mr Paterson protested against the government over taxes and national insurance and supported by the local community took the ‘Coo’ to London.

Throughout the season, the street is a ribbon of colour with hanging baskets and floral displays giving delight to residents and visitors alike. In total some 250 baskets and tubs are planted up by volunteers and displayed around the town. The ‘Mercat Cross’ at the top of High Street is a blaze of colour which extends down High Street, past the Municipal Building (now a community owned museum) which at one time was the local Court and Council Chambers. The High Street has many red sandstone building, which date back to the 1700’s then onto Coo Corner. The ‘Coo’ sculpture was a community led project and is very much a part of the history of the town. Here we have floral displays to compliment the structure, then it meanders into Main Street, again a riot of colour, culminating in the Square at the top of Main Street where the town’s Timeline is displayed.

Turriff’s High Street/Main Street is very lucky to host a vibrant, unique shopping experience, a wonderful heritage and a high standard of care and cleanliness that reflects the pride we have in our town.