Blairgowrie and Rattray Increase Biodiversity Action Plan

Updated 23/9 with additional comments from Len and Kay

1. Urban Greenspace Projects
2. Making Homes for Wildlife Bird/Bat Boxes, bird box trail – being actioned
3. 10% for Wildlife& Wildlife Trees and Edible Hedge Projects
4. Safeguarding Our Pollinators
5. Tayside Green Graveyard Initiative
6. School and Church Bats Project
7. New Orchards/Old Orchards
8. Living Roofs Initiatives Larders

 Phase 2

1. Safeguarding our amphibians and pond doctor projects
2. Wildlife in the Rough
3. Swift Conservation Project
4. Heritage Trails linking local heritage sites to Biodiversity
5. Tree Wardens
6. Town Tree Trails – Council Tree App
7. SuDS – Sustainable Urban Drainage, Swales and Raingardens - Daniele Muir?

**Urban Greenspace Projects**

***Introduction***

This will be a catch-all for many potential projects, working directly with Perth and Kinross Council to see what changes can be made to integrate biodiversity management into many greenspace areas, reduce chemical usage, raise awareness of wildlife to local people and ultimately enhance specific species populations and safeguard a range of a urban habitats.

* Research the potential for new community gardens – not sure what we said about this but it belongs in the Open Spaces group together with Chris. Could we identify potential spaces and then see if people in that area would like to take it on.
* Discover allotment/local food growing opportunities (**‘The Square Yard’** at the local school, care home, business) and enhance for wildlife – as above?
* Enhance existing community gardens, allotments and school grounds for wildlife – not sure we spelled out what this entails
* Research the potential for new community and school orchards; audit existing orchards (taking into account private orchards in the area or plantings of fruit trees in new developments) – Wendy McCombs may have info on private orchards, as does Kristin. The Climate Café has created orchards and can take this on.
* Review the amenity grassland maintenance for biodiversity, including verges, greenspace (including **No Mow May** where appropriate); discuss potential for biodiversity banks and nectar bar areas, real native wildflower meadows and the growing of wildlife/pollinator-friendly garden plants and shrubs where appropriate – we need Chris for this
* **Playing Around the Edges** – review the use of playing fields for families, children and wildlife – open Spaces group could suggest possibilities in Davie Park, Lochy Park, the park at Queen’s Ave and the Ardblair playpark.

***How can we go about this?***

***Who should we involve?***

Allotment Association, Blair in Bloom, Local Schools, Open Spaces Group, Greenspace, The Rotary, BRAN, Tayside Biodiversity, Perthshire Wildlife/Daniele Muir. How about linking this with the CAP too?

***What will it cost?***

Some funding for trees from Rotary? Or from the application Catherine is making now.

***When can it be done?***

***Who do we need to help us?***

As above

***Further information***

Making Way for Nature booklet - [Making Way for Nature – Tayside Biodiversity](https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/2016/07/04/making-way-for-nature/)  (there is an extensive “Further information” appendix with web links etc.

The Square Yard School Food Growing - <https://squarefootgardening.org/get-involved/a-square-yard-in-the-school-yard/>

No Mow May - <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/no-mow-may> (and Every Flower Counts survey)

Good Verge Guide - <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/our-work/publications/good-verge-guide-different-approach-managing-our-waysides-and-verges>

Managing grassland verges – <https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/roadvergecampaign/management-guidelines>

Road Verges – last refuge: <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/our-work/publications/road-verges-last-refuge-for-some-of-our-rarest-wild-plants>

Good example of a Community Toolkit for Verges: <https://toolkit.dontmowletitgrow.com/>

A Guide to Incorporating Biodiversity into Local Services (2020): <https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/2020/12/08/incorporating-biodiversity-into-local-services-2ndedition/>

Reporting on the Biodiversity Duty - Perth and Kinross Council 2018-20: <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/18069/Enhancing-biodiversity>

**Making Homes for Wildlife**

***Introduction***

* Discovering and creating the best places for bird nest boxes, bat roosting boxes, bee and bumblebee homes/hotels, hedgehog and amphibian hibernacula.

Throughout many of the Biodiversity Villages/Towns projects there will be opportunities to create a range of “homes for wildlife” either in groups or in workshops. This can involve all ages and abilities. Funds could be sought to purchase whatever is needed, but the community may prefer to get together and run regular workshops to bring together expertise and manpower to create a suite of nest boxes to use within the neighbourhood.

There will be opportunities for groups such as the Men’s Sheds to bring together all the materials and equipment needed to make bird nest box and bat roosting box kits so that groups can make up their own boxes to site themselves. These could be sold at cost just to recoup the price of the materials, or to make a profit to invest back into other projects or initiatives.

Workshops could be held where materials and equipment are provided so that people can make their own nest boxes. There is an opportunity to ask volunteers to make two boxes so that they can take one away with them for their own use but donate a second one to the community projects.

***How can we go about this?***

Involve families in the School Holiday Activities.

***Who should we involve?***

Men’s Shed, Wisecraft, Greenspace, Climate Cafe

***What will it cost?***

Cost of materials plus a donation – could be included in Catherine’s application for funding.

***When can it be done?***

Already started.

***Who do we need to help us?***

As above – would we ask Danielle to get involved too?

**“10% for Wildlife” (PKC)**

***Introduction***

This follows on from the Urban Greenspace projects proposals earlier. The TBP is working with PKC to review the potential to make this project viable. In the meantime if you can recommend PKC-owned greenspace areas for different management to enhance biodiversity, please contact the TBP initially with your ideas.

* Greenspace/climate change opportunities – mapping potential wildlife corridors (blue/green corridors), new native tree/orchard planting, edible hedges, wildflower verges and food growing projects in parks, etc. In all, looking to consider managing 10% of all urban greenspace for biodiversity gain.

***How can we go about this?***

Open Spaces group brought together to pool resources – we have a lot of info already. Also, how about a group studying the maps together and identifying corridors, spaces for planting & for food growing?

***Who should we involve?***

Open spaces group is made up of Blair in Bloom, BRAN, Greenspace, ProCom, Climate Café, BRCFC

***What will it cost?***

If we can put a cost on this, we could ask CL to include it in hew bid.

***When can it be done?***

A review of the open spaces in Blairgowrie and Rattray has been carried out. Next meeting will be to discuss the list, what to do where and timescales

***Who do we need to help us?***

As above

***Further information***

**Safeguarding our Pollinators**

***Introduction***

There are many opportunities in urban surroundings to create pollinator-friendly areas. It can be achieved at the small-scale - such as ensuring plants used in a private gardens, school grounds or in  park herbaceous borders provide pollinators with nectar and pollen. It can be large-scale as in creating and managing species-rich grassland, where appropriate, in our parks or working with others to create miles of B-Lines across counties and regions.

Such plantings do not preclude using garden plants; they may be non-native but many of them are superb for pollinators (bumblebees, hoverflies, bee flies, butterflies and moths) – such as lavender, hebe, Michaelmas daisies, clematis and forsythia. Annual and biennial garden plants can be fantastic for pollinators too – antirrhinums, marigolds, wallflower, forget-me-not, sedum, night-scented stock and honesty. However our native species can look good in gardens and parks too: honeysuckle, foxglove, teasel, corn marigold, ox-eye daisy, scabious, flag iris, etc.

All this contributes directly not just to the targets within the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan, but also the Pollinator Strategy for Scotland (see link below).

Pictorial meadows (using American seeds) can look spectacular but should not replace verges where the native species mix is already adequate. Such plantings are not as good for pollinators as native wildflower meadows are as they often rely on North American long-tongued pollinators which are not present in the UK. Pictorial meadows are also annual plantings so need herbicide use to clear the area (invariably removing the native species) and then again at the end of the season. If a community is keen to lower its chemical usage, then more natural plantings need to be considered.

With climate change creating strange weather patterns and altering seasons, it is becoming more and more urgent to ensure that flowers suitable for pollinators are available from February through to November. If a warm February is followed by a snowy March, the hibernating bumblebee queens can emerge earlier than expected and then starve if there is nothing for them to forage. Planting snowdrops, primroses, muscari, aconites, squill and narcissus will not only cheer areas up for local people to enjoy but will safeguard early pollinators. Likewise, milder autumns can mean there is a need to extend the flowering season as long as possible into November.

* **Community BeeWild Pollinator Projects** (schools, care homes, day care centres, hospitals, neighbourhood greenspace, local businesses, including hotels, guesthouses): (a) highlight garden plants that are great for biodiversity (and look neat and tidy); (b) encourage the sowing of wildflower seeds in window boxes and tubs to encourage pollinators – we are looking for whole streets, communities and courtyards willing to work together to improve their patch for wildlife
* **Pollinator Stepping Stones** - a smaller-scale BeeWild project, encouraging local people to use wildlife-friendly garden plants and wildflower plantings in front and back gardens to create a landscape-scale strip of pollinator-friendly vegetation)
* **Snowdrops for Pollinators** – part of the Green Graveyard Initiative, plantings of early-flowering spring flowers to cheer up areas for ourselves, but also offer early nectar sources for bumblebees
* **Making Way for Nature** – linking with existing initiatives such as the Gardens for Life Scotland school pocket garden competition etc and linking them where possible with the TBP’s BeeWild project
* **Buzzing Meadows projects** (see the example below) – using brownfield sites, parks and new development areas to create permanent (or in some cases, temporary) native wildflower meadows
* **Verge Champions** (surveying species-rich verges to safeguard them and manage them appropriately; proposing existing species-poor verges to enhance where appropriate; creating new verges where appropriate)
* **Buglife Scotland’s B-Lines** linking urban areas with nearby farmland/roads
* **Blossom for Pollinators** – planting blossom-bearing (and fruit-bearing) native trees and/or community or school orchards, boundary fruit trees, fruit avenues, neighbourhood wildlife corridors

***How can we go about this?***

Involve families, schools, offices, businesses Some of this is about giving people info on what plants to grow in their gardens as well as schools etc. Awareness raising through press, magazines, social media, websites etc. Could we pick a few at a time and have events like the bioblitz one recently?

***Who should we involve?***

As above and PKC Greenspace

***What will it cost?***

A small cost for plants but not much – it’s mostly people’s time

***When can it be done?***

Needs a timeline

***Who do we need to help us?***

***Further information***

We are working towards targets outlined in the Pollinator Strategy for Scotland 2017-2027: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/pollinator-strategy-scotland-2017-2027>

Royal Horticultural Society advice and key messages - <https://www.rhs.org.uk/Advice/profile?PID=970>;

RHS Plants for Pollinators list – (a) Plants of the World: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/pdf/conservation-and-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators-plants-of-the-world.pdf> and (b) British Wildflowers: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/pdf/conservation-and-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators-wildflowers.pdf>

Plantlife has an excellent Wildflower Gardening website - <https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/wildflower_garden>

BeeWild is the TBP’s project to work with care homes, sheltered housing, day care facilities, hospitals, schools and businesses to improve the surrounding gardens, playgrounds and car parks – focussing on a TBP visit and a BeeWild Action Plan to draw up for the next 3-5 years.

The TBP’s Making Way for Nature booklet can be downloaded (or paper copies made available for community use): <https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/2016/07/04/making-way-for-nature/>

The OPAL Polli:Nation Survey is an easy community-led survey for everyone to get involved in – the resources can be downloaded from: https://www.imperial.ac.uk/opal/surveys/pollinationsurvey/

Plantlife’s Every Flower Counts Survey follows up the No Mow May campaign with a brief survey window to see what has grown in the lawn not mown for one month - <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts/>

Seasonal plant spotter sheets are available here - <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/spotter-sheets>

The TBP is a member of the Garden for Life Forum and acts as a mentor to local schools taking part in the annual competition: <https://www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/community-and-place/community-projects/garden-for-life/resources/>

Buglife’s Buzzing Meadows– encouraging pollinators with native wildflowers: permanent meadow areas in parks or on temporary brownfields – we made a small start in Perth - <https://www.buglife.org.uk/projects/muirtons-buzzing/>. Elsewhere, however, there have been some very successful projects – Fife: <https://www.buglife.org.uk/projects/fifes-buzzing/> and Glasgow: <https://cdn.buglife.org.uk/2019/07/Glasgow-Buzzing-pollinator-report-year-3.-scotland-logo_0.pdf>

B-Lines Scotland – explore the online map to see if your community can join in this UK-wide project: <https://www.buglife.org.uk/our-work/b-lines/b-lines-scotland/> (we are keen to work with farmers and landowners outwith villages and towns to extend new wildlife corridors being created within the urban areas).

**Tayside Green Graveyard Initiative**

***Introduction***

This TBP project has been running for over 10 years, working (at first) with Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust and others to roll out small-scale projects. Now liaising with PKC Bereavement Services, an overall graveyard/cemetery management review is underway to ensure biodiversity is included.

* **Snowdrops for Pollinators** (planting early-flowering spring flowers on churchyard grassy banks and under trees)
* **The ‘Forget-me-Not’ Commonwealth War Graves Commission project** (to lessen chemical usage in the graveyard and increase potential for pollinators)
* **Scottish Church Lichens Survey –** some years ago totally new species for the UK were unexpectedly discovered in a Perthshire graveyard. With continued use of chemicals in graveyards not only eroding the soil around monuments, many lichens are disappearing without being identified or safeguarded
* **The ARG Amphibians in Churchyards Survey**
* **Church Bats & Swifts Project**
* **The Churchyard Yew Project** (adopting a Fortingall Yew cutting currently being grown on by the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh): Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens’ Network (and with links to EcoCongregation Scotland). In addition there will be an opportunity to survey existing yews in churchyards to discover their health and to advise on any future management
* **Churchyard Wax Cap Survey** – Perthshire is one of the most important areas for these rare fungi. They need short grass to thrive so must be taken into consideration if long-grass management is being considered in some of the less used graveyards

***How can we go about this?***

Hill Kirk is already on board. We could talk to the Rattray Kirk people about snowdrops, bats etc in their churchyard. Similarly discuss possibilities with whoever manages the crematorium graveyard

***Who should we involve?***

Jean Oudney

***What will it cost?***

***When can it be done?***

***Who do we need to help us?***

***Further information***

Tayside Green Graveyard Initiative - <https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/?s=green+graveyard>. The TBP is taking forward a suite of different projects as shown on the list – if any are of interest, please contact caglloyd@pkc.gov.uk. New projects in graveyards will, of course, be considered too.

Caring for God’s Acre only covers England and Wales, but their online resources are freely available and easy to use - <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/resources/>

Waxcap advice - <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/habitats/grassland/waxcaps-fungi> and <http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/assets/pdfs/Waxcap_Grassland.pdf>

**School & Church Bats Project**

***Introduction***

The local Tayside Bat Group may be available to help set up projects in local schools and churches to safeguard and advise on our bat species; we can help by joining events, helping with surveys and planting night-scented plants in our gardens to encourage moths – and bats.

* Bat surveys, wildflower planting for bats, providing maternity and hibernation roosts

***How can we go about this?***

Speak to Jean and the Tayside bat group

***Who should we involve?***

Jean Oudney

***What will it cost?***

***When can it be done?***

***Who do we need to help us?***

***Further information***

Tayside’s Batty Graveyards – <https://taysidebatgroup.wixsite.com/batty/tayside-s-batty-graveyards>

Bats in Churches is a project in England. It may be possible to set up a similar project in Scotland/Perth & Kinross - [Home - Bats In Churches](https://batsinchurches.org.uk/#:~:text=Churches%20are%20important%20roosting%20sites%20for%20bats%20and,damage%20to%20heritage%20items%20of%20high%20cultural%20value.)

Bats and Churches - <https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/bats-and-churches>

**New Orchards, Old Orchards**

***Introduction***

* Managing existing school/community orchards and offering pruning and grafting courses, together with links for using/selling the produce
* Where appropriate to expand school/community orchard space with other fruit planting (soft fruit mazes, avenues, etc) and raised bed vegetable and herb gardens (Local Food Strategy)
* Registering for the Tree Council’s **Schools for Orchards project**
* Planting new community, boundary or avenue orchards (featuring Scottish Heritage fruit varieties)
* Setting up a **Spring Blossom Tree Trail** and expanding wildlife corridors through settlements
* Reviewing the health of local traditional orchards and updating their mapping

There is an urgent need to review existing surveys of local orchards to bring these up to date and to discuss if new planting or management of the existing trees are needed. It may also be possible to consider the mapping (and publicity) of a Spring Blossom Trail (using the Tree Council app).

Management and care of existing community and school orchards is needed, including grafting and pruning; plus advice on how best to manage the grassland/meadow beneath the orchards.

Planting of new community, school and development site orchards will contribute towards the Scottish Pollinator Strategy, Food Growing Strategy and targets within the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan (2016-2026). The TBP is a member of the Scottish Apple Producers’ Group which shares information on how to use the fruit in the area.

***How can we go about this?***

***Who should we involve?***

The Climate Café could take a lead on this – together with the new woodland group.

***What will it cost?***

***When can it be done?***

***Who do we need to help us?***

***Further information***

Traditional Orchards in Tayside (A Guide to Wildlife & Management): <https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/2015/02/03/traditional-orchards-in-tayside/>

Traditional Orchard Inventory for Perth & Kinross - <https://www.orchardrevival.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/PERT-Orchard-Inventory-Area-Report-v1.1-2018-web.pdf>

Apply for fruit tree and hedgerow grants (and watch several webinars on the subject) - <https://treecouncil.org.uk/schools-and-education/orchards-for-schools/>

**Living Roofs Initiatives**

***Introduction***

Green or living roofs can contribute to climate change and sustainability targets.  Local people can recommend the possibility of creating a green roof on a community building refurbishment or newbuilds, but there are also opportunities to create garden sheds and smaller structures with green roofs (for instance, the Perth Station Biodiversity Garden has a summer house for its volunteers – it has an excellent green roof).

* Working with PKC to potentially green up our bus stops, community buildings, newbuilds and to encourage garden sheds with green roofs – for pollinators and beneficial insects.

***How can we go about this?***

Advertising starting with the community larders? Do we need to know more first? Starting with the larders is a great idea. On bigger rooves, perhaps we ask the Perth station group as a first step.

***Who should we involve?***

Open spaces grp, greenspace

***What will it cost?***

***When can it be done?***

Asap?

***Who do we need to help us?***

***Further information***

The whys and wherefores of how green/living roofs can help assuage climate change and encourage greater biodiversity: <https://livingroofs.org/>

Small-scale Green Roof Guide - <https://greenrooftraining.com/small-scale-green-roof-online-guide/>

**Phase 2**

**SuDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage), Swales & Raingardens**

***Introduction***

* Working with PKC to survey the area’s SuDS and swales to propose enhancement for wildlife
* actively look to include raingarden installations where appropriate

Some years ago we were fortunate to have two post-graduate interns undertake an audit of SuDS across Tayside so that we can see where the best ones are for biodiversity -<https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015_-SUDS-Biodiversity-Review-Perth-Kinross.pdf>

There is now a dedicated PKC SuDS Working Group within the Planning Service and more expertise to call upon when reviewing existing or planning new SuDS and swales. Many of them are still not suitable for attracting wildlife so this is an ongoing project to liaise with everyone on the best way forward. In many cases local volunteers are the linchpin to progress.

New raingardens are being installed as part of a community project in Kinross and others considered in Perth. As soon as the document ‘Developing a Shared Vision for Raingardens as Habitats’ by Brian D’Arcy is published, this will be made available online. Any raingardens created in Perth & Kinross will contribute to the 10,000 Raingardens for Scotland project.

***How can we go about this?***

Do we need a sub-group of people who could work with Chris?

***Who should we involve?***

Daniele Muir, Catherine, Carole Pudsey?

***What will it cost?***

***When can it be done?***

***Who do we need to help us?***

***Further information***

* <https://www.susdrain.org/delivering-suds/using-suds/benefits-of-suds/Biodiversity_and_ecology>
* <http://ww2.rspb.org.uk/Images/SuDS_report_final_tcm9-338064.pdf>

Raingardens: <https://www.10kraingardens.scot/>

**Safeguarding our Amphibians & Pond Doctor Projects**

***Introduction***

* **Amphibian migration route surveys** across the settlement (and regularly surveying gullypots, including saving amphibians which have dropped into them)
* **Amphibian ladder workshops** and training to install them (and subsequent monitoring)
* **Toads on Roads** surveys
* **Pooling our Ponds** citizen surveys
* **Pond Doctor** garden projects – how to improve our ponds for wildlife

Following on from our studies into SuDS and biodiversity, we were fortunate to work with Montrose-based Trevor Rose, the inventor of the amphibian ladder. These are now used across the UK and increasingly across the world to help mitigate the many deaths caused by amphibians (and other wildlife) getting trapped in roadside gullypots.

Besides finding out where the problem gullypots are, discovering where existing amphibian migration routes are helps mitigate not only in providing amphibian ladders but in planning new developments the installation of wildlife and dropped kerbs in the right place can help safe passage.

The local community can help with all these stages, from surveying gullypots, to joining a workshop to make bespoke ladders, fitting them and then monitoring them. A separate Toads on Roads scheme with toad patrollers could be set up where necessary.

There is a need to advise on how to improve our ponds for wildlife so a Pond Doctor project is needed to work with the local community and where appropriate expand this with a Pooling our Ponds survey to find out what is present in the first place. There will be something for everyone – especially all ages and abilities in this suite of projects.

The Tayside Amphibian & Reptile Group is jointly led by the TBP and, in a voluntary capacity, Perthshire Wildlife. TayARG is a member of ARG UK and will be re-submitting a funding application to undertake the Pond Doctor project.  Although TayARG has been undertaking surveys and community projects for many years, a lack of volunteers has made it temporarily moribund. The TayARG Facebook page has many followers and there is much interest in the projects so there is hope that funding new projects will revitalise the interest in volunteering to safeguard our amphibians and reptiles.

***How can we go about this?***

***Who should we involve?***

Dirty Weekenders type group?

***What will it cost?***

***When can it be done?***

***Who do we need to help us?***

***Further information***

Amphibians in Drains final report - <https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2014_Amphibians-in-Drains-Report.pdf>

Trevor Rose’s report - <https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2014_Angus-Amphibian-Ladders-Trial.pdf>

Amphibian gullypot ladder - <https://www.thebhs.org/the-bhs-amphibian-gully-pot-ladder>.

Toads on Roads Scheme - [Toads on Roads (froglife.org)](https://www.froglife.org/what-we-do/toads-on-roads/#:~:text=Toads%20on%20Roads%20Common%20Toads%20are%20very%20particular,scenario%20and%20the%20toads%20inevitably%20come%20off%20worse.)

Pooling our Ponds survey (an updated version is due soon) - <https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/2015/02/04/pooling-our-ponds/>

TayARG website - <https://groups.arguk.org/tayARG>

Please join the TayARG Facebook page to keep in touch - <https://www.facebook.com/TaysideAmphibiansReptileGroup>

**Wildlife in the Rough**

***Introduction***

There have been some very successful projects undertaken at golf clubs to improve the biodiversity of the courses. If there is a golf course within or near the community, it will be vital to include this in wider plans and ascertain if there is good ongoing practice already or if there is an opportunity to start a new project.

* Improving our golf courses for wildlife (especially linking green and blue corridors)

***How can we go about this?***

Speak with the Golf Clubs and get a base line of their course/land management practices

***Who should we involve?***

Golf Clubs and Greenspace

***What will it cost?***

***When can it be done?***

***Who do we need to help us?***

***Further information***

A to Z of Scottish Golf Courses – [www.scottishgolfcourses.com/atoz.html](http://www.scottishgolfcourses.com/atoz.html)

* <https://www.randa.org/en/sustainability/nature/working-with-nature>

**Swift Conservation Project**

***Introduction***

* taking part in **Swift surveys** during July
* reversing the 62% loss of swift populations in Scotland by surveying buildings for existing nest sites and erecting specialist swift nest boxes where appropriate – **Swift Conservation Project**
* Helping with the **Swift School Twinning Project** (working with schools in Africa)

Tayside Swifts is a working group of the TBP and has been undertaking surveys and community projects for many years. Like TayARG, it is jointly led with Perthshire Wildlife.

Individuals can look to the sky throughout July to count how many swifts are in the neighbourhood. If they can identify specific nest sites this will help with creating  Swift Zones (mapping on PKC GIS) to help safeguard them.  Training can be made available to communities to discover more about swifts and if possible, a group of volunteer swift surveyors set up to plan and co-ordinate annual urban surveys. This can lead to specialist swift nest boxes being provided where needed.

A separate project is currently being set up – to twin P&K schools with schools in Africa to “share our swifts”. We need help to compile the African teacher packs and small-scale funding to enable the African schools purchase stationery and equipment to help with their birdwatching and science projects (donations of items are not required, just the means to purchase locally).

***How can we go about this?***

***Who should we involve?***

***What will it cost?***

***When can it be done?***

***Who do we need to help us?***

***Further information***

* The most recent Tayside Swifts summary report can be read here: <https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/2021/02/23/swift-summary-report-2021/>.
* All information should be shared with the RSPB Swift Mapper app - <https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/conservation-and-sustainability/safeguarding-species/swiftmapper/>.
* There is a 10-minute video online to find out more: <https://vimeo.com/198993788>.
* Four archived copies of the Tayside Swifts Newsletter can be seen here: <https://www.taysidebiodiversity.co.uk/information/information-newsletters/information-newsletters-swifts-in-tayside/>.

Please join the Tayside Swifts Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/TaysideSwifts>

**Heritage Trail – linking local historic sites with biodiversity**

***Introduction***

* In addition to raising awareness of our area’s past history, past wildlife and ancient foods can also be featured. It may be appropriate to create a foraging trail.

In St Madoes it has been decided that a heritage trail will bring together the many historical eras present in the vicinity. This will link in with the NHS Health Walks and there will be an opportunity for the TBP to widen the interpretation to include wildlife present in the different historical eras and how that would have impacted on the landscape and the people of the time. Plant usage can also be highlighted for both medicinal, clothing and food purposes.

It may be appropriate to plan new edible hedges and plantings of appropriate trees or fruit trees along the trail, and to manage the grassland verges/greenspace to show which wildflowers were common in different eras.

Many of the Biodiversity Villages and Towns have a distinctive history so it would be worth seeing how interpretation can also include the historical biodiversity aspects.

***How can we go about this?***

***Who should we involve?***

Eco Museum, Heritage group, Daniele Muir, Greenspace.

For interpretation/event Bob Stewart, Alex Scott Fairley

***What will it cost?***

***When can it be done?***

***Who do we need to help us?***

***Further information***

**Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens**

***Introduction***

* Joining the **Perth & Kinross Tree Wardens’ Network** (which is part of the Tree Council): several tasks can be undertaken, i.e. mapping and safeguarding local Trees (checking planning applications), sharing skills and planning new tree planting and hedgerow planting.

It is hoped each Biodiversity Village and Town will have one or two Tree Warden representatives (more are welcome). The Network has a suite of projects and initiatives that will fit well with local projects – and there are links with the UK-wide Tree Council, not just for funding, but also for a series of seasonal events/initiatives to join in. These include Walks in May, Seed Collecting Sundays, Tree Care, a new hedgerow project, Orchards for Schools and a Youth Tree Champions initiative.

From late 2021 each Tree Warden will have the opportunity to undertake a series of training modules – from legislation affecting trees, tree care and diseases.

***How can we go about this?***

***Who should we involve?***

***What will it cost?***

***When can it be done?***

***Who do we need to help us?***

***Further information***

* Join the local Tree Wardens’ Network (free membership): everyone welcome -[www.perthandkinrosstreewardens.co.uk](http://www.perthandkinrosstreewardens.co.uk)
* Join the #ForceForNature and be a Young Tree Champion: <https://youngtreechampions.org/>

Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/PerthandKinrossTreeWardens>

**Village or Town Tree Trails (Tree Council App)**

***Introduction***

Using the Tree Council’s **Tree Trail App,** there is an opportunity to create tree trails for the local community and visitors alike, incorporating Health Walks with NHS Tayside – and linking in with the wildlife corridor project

***How can we go about this?***

***Who should we involve?***

***What will it cost?***

***When can it be done?***

***Who do we need to help us?***

***Further information***

There is a newly-launched app to use free of charge to create tree trails through communities – if wished, this could lead to a series of printed (and online) leaflets and the inclusion of the trail(s) on eco-tourism/visitor websites - <https://treecouncil.org.uk/tree-trial/>.  It will also be possible to link with the various NHS Health Walks initiatives.