

# Issue 10 Trust News July 2015

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<http://www.balernovt.org.uk>

FREE

## Community Survey a hit!

BVT have been anxious for some time to be as clear as possible about what people of Balerno want to see happening. Membership of BVT of course is open both to all the residents of Balerno and also people who work and volunteer in the community here, but BVT want to act so far as possible with the backing and support of the entire community. which is why this consultation is so important.

By the end of June which was the official closing date, there had been over 350 responses. Those responses are sufficient to be able to draw some reliable conclusions.

However the on-line questionnaire was only the first step in a process which in August moves on to a series of open forums; watch the website for details!

The Trust recognised that a community survey is an important step likely to yield results of interest to a wide cross section of bodies in Balerno. The survey was endorsed from the outset by number of bodies including Dean Park Primary School, Balerno Community High School, the Community Council, the Balerno Parish Church and the Scout Group.

'The aim is to find out what people think about the village – what they like, what they're not so keen on, and what they'd like to see improved', says Keith Taylor, Chair of Balerno Village Trust. The survey included questions about aspects of life in Balerno and was intended to be able to be completed in under 10 minutes.

You can still respond to the survey if you haven't yet been able to do so; simply go to <http://www.balernovt.org.uk/balerno-community-consultation/balerno-community-consultation-survey/>

## Members evening sets new pace

BVT decided this year to make the Annual General Meeting part of a broader based Members Evening with speakers, displays and refreshments. The result was an evening attended by over fifty people, with a lot of interest in Trust plans for 2015/16 and beyond, and following the meeting not one, not two, but three separate consultations have been run by the Trust.

Keynote speaker Tony Foster, of Kirknewton Community Development Trust, outlined the background to the real success of KCDT over the past five years. That success he said was founded largely on the basis of a community consultation which in turn enabled the trust to argue that it had community support for projects for which grant funding was being sought.

The second speaker was Tracy McQue, principal of McQue Garden Design, who has been engaged by the Trust to develop the plan for the Ravelrig Walled Garden. Tracy outlined work and ideas to date, demonstrating some themes through mood boards, and also initiating the short informal consultation process inviting contributions and ideas for what people



would like to see included in the garden facilities. The advertised consultation period ended on 16 June with lots of ideas being added in to the mix, and the Trust expect to be able to publish some preliminary sketches for the Garden at the July Farmers Market. However if you didn't manage to get your ideas in before the deadline you can always forward them now. either via Email: [officebvt@gmail.com](mailto:officebvt@gmail.com) / Via our [contact form](#) / or Phone: 0131 477 7788 ext 156 (Mon-Thur).

## Annual Report and AGM

Ask most people what their favourite past time is and they are unlikely to say 'attending the Annual General Meeting.' But this year, BVT transformed its AGM, and at the end, some people said it was the best AGM they'd ever been to.

Following presentations by Tony Foster and Tracy McQue, Chair of the Trust Keith Taylor reviewed the performance of the Trust over the past twelve months and drew attention to various activities and events including the 10th Anniversary Market (complete with Bake Off), along with all the other Markets through the year, the recent (May) very successful Bee Keeping Course, the work of the Main Street Team and BVT's work with Dean Park Primary School including the PitchFever campaign and the donation of a PolyTunnel to the school.

He noted that quite apart from the successes of all those projects and events 2014/15 had been a year of great change for the Trust following on the award of a Capacity Building grant in March 2014. That grant had enabled the opening of the Trust's office and the appointment of two members of staff. Both had changed the profile of the Trust, and he thanked Clare and Laura in particular and also Gillian Rodger who was on a short attachment with the Trust during May and June 2015. He then looked at the next stages in the Trust's development and in

**balerno village trust**  
**annual report**  
**2014/15**

**The 2014/15 Board**

Chair	Hugo Whitaker (to Feb 2015); Keith Taylor (from Feb 2015)
Vice-Chair	Mike Martin (to Sept 2014); Emma Galloway (from Feb 2015)
Treasurer	Ian Gidney (to June 2014); Neil Johnstone (from June 2014)
Secretary	Richard M Henderson
Directors (other than as above)	Andy Hamlett, Caitlin Hamlett, Ian Hynd, Alan Laing (to Mar 2015), Martin Petty, Josephine Bisacre.

**What we do**

BVT's aims relate to the Balerno area and include:

- Sustainability
- Community development
- Education & health, and
- Providing grants as funds allow, to other local organisations in pursuit of the same aims.

Our projects aim to complement and support the work of the Balerno Community Council.

BVT is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.

As a Development Trust, we are members of the Development Trusts Association (DTA, Scotland), and are well constituted to start and run community enterprises.

Balerno Village Trust  
Balerno Village Trust Scottish Charity Number is SC043318  
BVT registered office is at Balerno Parish Church Office, 2 Main Street, Balerno DH14 7JH

particular at the development of the walled garden which had entered a new phase with the appointment of Tracy McQue as designer in March; see main article page for update on Walled Garden).

Keith also emphasised however that the Trust's other projects were also showing real signs of consolidation and development with the Market recently having taken delivery of new Market stalls and about to appoint a Market co-ordinator. The Main Street team (now the Friends of Main Street) were also moving forward, developing detailed plans for the replanting of flower beds. The Bee Group were showing strong development having attracted new members. A Community consultation was also in preparation (see above), and the Trust were also moving into a systematic business planning process.

Following Keith's presentation and the Finance Report the meeting appointed the following as Directors for the year 2015/16, namely Allan Ayres, Josephine Bisacre, Emma Galloway, Ian Gidney, Richard Henderson, Andy Hamlett, Martin Petty, Ian Hynd and Keith Taylor. On behalf of the Trust and the meeting Keith also thanked retiring Directors Allan Laing, Caitlin Hamlett, Mike

Martin and Hugo Whitaker for their help and involvement over the years. He was sure that in line with recent experience all the retiring Directors would stay involved with the Trust.

# FRIENDS of MAIN STREET

Eagle-eyed visitors to Main Street at the start of July will have noticed three large bags in the flower bed at the Bridge Road end. You would however have to have been quick since the bags, delivered on 1st July, were emptied and dug in by close on 4th. Congratulations Team!

BVT began looking after the beds in 2013 and, following discussions with Balerno Community Council and CEC, assumed responsibility for maintaining them in 2014. BVT is now putting together a maintenance plan, the first stage of which was drawing up a planting plan for the flower bed at the Bridge Road end of the street.

A consultation is running on BVT's website in which you are asked to comment on the proposals for that bed including the drawing below. The three bags contained compost from Forth Renewables, which is being dug in by The Trust's Friends of Main Street group. This is the first stage of the makeover for Main Street, and most of the changes will be carried out after the end of the growing season from October onwards.

The aim is to achieve a simple cottage garden effect, achieving year-round colour, and plants that are loved by bees and butterflies as well as by the people of

Balerno. Everyone who wants to is encouraged to contribute ideas, plants and time, in order to grow plants for the enjoyment of all.

This planting plan will be used as a guide, but the actual garden will evolve and will constantly change, though the general effect will be that of an informal cottage garden.

The team want both to know what people would like to see on the site, and also to encourage people to contribute their time and spare plants. BVT are also keen to work with businesses, educational establishments and others in and around the Main Street and further afield to encourage more people to take part. While everybody, including CEC, would like to see more investment by the local authority in ensuring that our environment is fully maintained, BVT also recognises that spending cuts are unlikely to help that aim. BVT would like the Main Street for one to look good, and would be delighted if you would like to help

If you'd like contact us regarding the Main Street Gardening project, don't hesitate to email: [officebvt@gmail.com](mailto:officebvt@gmail.com), or call 0131 477 7788 (Mon-Thur), or ask at BVT's stall at the farmers market.



## News in brief

Mike Martin is back on board with the Trust in a new role in charge of Market Operations. Mike returned to BVT following a six month sabbatical, following his resignation from the Board, and immediately got stuck in to organising the delivery of the June Market. Mike was BVT's Market Supremo almost from the time at which the Trust assumed full responsibility for delivery of the market. For the first few years the Trust had delivered the Market through an events organiser, but direct delivery has been the order of the day for the past eight of so years.

The training course for the Bee Group took place on 25 and 26 April with 12 participants, most of them new volunteers. In addition the Trust has also acquired a new Be-Hive which made an appearance at the Members Evening as part of a very popular bee-keeping display assembled by Rupert Jenkins.

Laura Thomas our energetic and enthusiastic Development Officer also resigned at the end of June. Laura has been a real source of ideas since she joined the Trust and we will all miss her, but she moves on with our very best wishes

## Job Vacancy

The Trust will shortly be advertising an appointment for a Development Officer following on Laura's decision to move on. The successful candidate will be part of a team leading, managing and developing the work of the Trust, ensuring both that local people, community organisations and other partners become involved in achieving the Trust's goals, and also creating a sustainable future for the Trust and the community. The post is funded by Scottish Government under its Community Regeneration budget delivered through the Development Trusts Association for Scotland, and appointment will, in the first instance, be to end June 2016. The appointment will be for the period to end June 2016 at which point the Trust's grant from Scottish Government expires. The time commitment is 14 hours per week, and the salary is pro rata based on a full-time salary of £11,750 per annum. If you are interested in this opportunity then see our website, get in touch with [officebvt@gmail.com](mailto:officebvt@gmail.com) or call 0131 477 7788 (Mon-Wed).

