

Dunkeld and Birnam Community Arboretum

Scotland · Charity number SC049890

Details

Status	Active
Legal form	SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered	2020-01-23
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address	Dunaird House St Marys Road Birnam PH8 0BJ
Website	www.communityarboretum.scot

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the advancement of environmental protection or improvement'

What the charity does: Our mission is to remove the barriers that prevent people in our local community in playing active roles in sustaining Dunkeld and Birnam as an area of exceptional trees, woods and biodiversity. We will work with local organisations, funders and stakeholders to create new opportunities to 1) connect our diverse community to their arboretum through accessible pathways and inclusive activities 2) have fun increasing biodiversity through exploring, learning, growing and planting heritage trees grown from local seeds by local people and 3) inspire community creativity, support local artisans, traditional crafts and sustainable community enterprises. Our vision is Dunkeld and Birnam Community Arboretum will be more resilient, growing in size, status and significance as an area of exceptional trees and woods and biodiversity at the heart of Perth and Kinross.

Beneficiaries: 'No specific group, or for the benefit of the community'

Objectives: The organisation's purposes are the creation, development and maintenance of a community arboretum around Dunkeld and Birnam which will: 1 Preserve and conserve the natural environment in the area. 2 Preserve and conserve a range of native flora and fauna and habitats. and 3 Promote sustainable development locally.

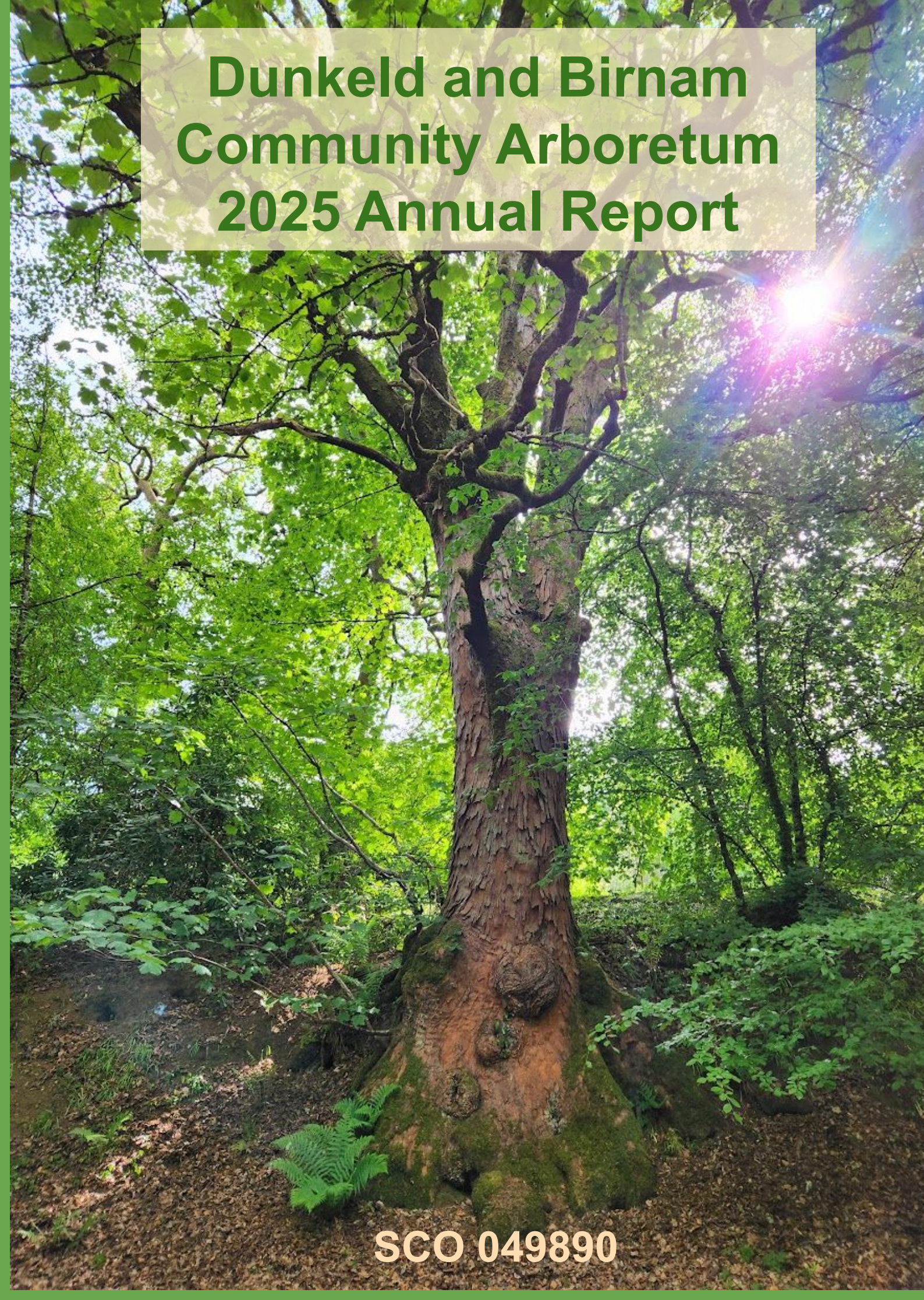
Geography

- **Main operating location:** Perth And Kinross
- **Geographical spread:** A specific local point, community or neighbourhood

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£1,575	£11,475	-	0
2024-12-31	£15,225	£15,225	-	0
2023-12-31	£10,000	£0	-	0
2022-12-31	£0	£0	-	0
2021-12-31	£0	£0	-	0
2020-12-31	£0	£0	-	0

Accounts



Dunkeld and Birnam Community Arboretum 2025 Annual Report

SCO 049890



Dunkeld and Birnam Community Arboretum

SCO: 049890

www.communityarboretum.scot

Our mission is to remove the **barriers** that prevent people in our local community in playing **active roles** in sustaining **Dunkeld and Birnam** as an **area of exceptional trees, woods and biodiversity**. We will work with **local organisations, funders and stakeholders** to create **new opportunities** to

- connect our diverse community to their arboretum through accessible pathways and inclusive activities
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Come sit 'neath the
branches
of the old oak tree,
What will you find,
Who might you see?

Excerpt from "The Old Oak Tree"
Fiona Ritchie
Tales of Birnam and Dunkeld

Our vision is **Dunkeld and Birnam Community Arboretum** will be more **resilient, growing in size, status and significance** as an **area of exceptional trees and woods** and biodiversity at the heart of Perth and Kinross:

Working in partnership with other organisations, we will:

- enhance and improve our natural environment
- Improve accessibility for local people and visitors
- support and strengthen the local economy

The impact we are seeking to achieve is that Dunkeld and Birnam Community Arboretum, in the heart of "The cradle of Scottish Forestry Renaissance" * benefits **everyone** in our community and **future generations** by supporting the work of our local Climate Cafe in helping prevent climate change.

* *Perth and Kinross Forest Strategy 2022-25*

Reflections from our Patron: Dr Jan Silburn

It has been wonderful to see Dunkeld and Birnam's Community Arboretum projects grow and adapt to the changing environment and voice of the community.

Adaptation is one of the biggest challenges facing our trees and it was heartening to hear recently that saplings have been seen growing from the stump of the first tree in Scotland and the UK to reach 200 feet, which sadly blew down in the Hermitage in 2017. The wood from this fallen Douglas Fir tree has been crafted in collaboration with Dunkeld and Birnam In Bloom by Rumbling Bridge Sawmill and Heritage Wood artisans into a huge table and benches for community use in St Ninian's Garden as well as benches for NTS. Thanks to all those involved!



Huge community table and benches made from the first tree in the UK to reach 200 feet. This Douglas Fir was blown down at the Hermitage in 2017. Donated to the community by local artisans from Heritage Wood and Rumbling Bridge Sawmill. Located in St Ninian's Garden 2026



New Douglas Firs sprouting from roots of the fallen Douglas Fir

2025

Cathedral path made more accessible for all using natural materials thanks to Paths & Nature Group volunteers working collaboratively with HES, NTS, PKCT and many others!

The Paths and Nature Action Group volunteers, working under the umbrella of our local development trust along with NTS, PKCT, HES and others, have also been making a huge difference to the accessibility of the big trees along the Bishops Walk cathedral path using natural materials and methods. The photo here shows one of our members inspecting the path after the recent heavy rainfall and the good news is that it has stood up well to the deluge!

There are lots more paths in our community that need attention and the new knowledge and skills gained by the Paths and Nature volunteers working collaboratively with others, has built sustainable capacity for future projects in our community. In a context of rising costs and growing demands on public services, it is great to see communities can find ways to work together to improve accessibility to our big trees for all in sustainable and cost effective ways.

2024



Chair's Report 2025

2025 has been a year of creative research and exploration. We have learnt lots by partnering on projects like thebirnamoak.co.uk project and participating in the fantastic co creative workshops at Birnam Arts led by the University of Birmingham.

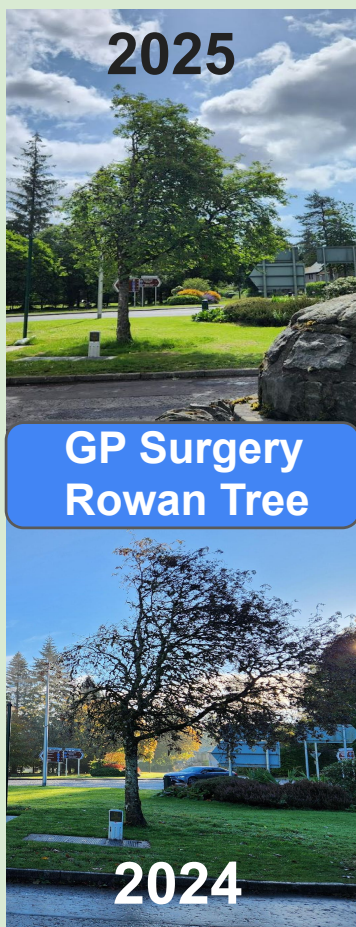
We also got crafting and making so we could trial activities like a fairy door tree identification trail at Torwood House's Open Garden.

Beatrix Potter is another important source of local inspiration for us and it's been great to hear that some of our members have been supporting Birnam Arts efforts to help refresh the Beatrix Potter garden. We hope to see projects like this remove barriers to participation, improve safety and make as much use of natural and locally sourced materials and artisans as possible.

We are keen to support any efforts to improve the accessibility of the paths that guide people from our Grade A train station and other public transport routes to and through the big trees along the Tay. Less cars is better for our trees and our community!



<https://thebirnamoak.co.uk/>



In 2026, we plan to work in partnership with local groups including Birnam library and Birnam Book Festival to encourage learning about trees through literature, creative writing, music and song in ways that also helps nurture literacy and numeracy in fun ways.

These activities are more important than ever in these fast changing times. By doing more to notice, value and protect our trees, we protect our Dunkeld and Birnam's community arboretum for future generations and build our own resilience.

As the Rowan opposite the old surgery below exemplifies, quiet strength and gentle growth is always around us. As this Rowan tree survives and thrives it, in turn, provides shelter for a world of biodiversity. We have so much to learn from trees.

In 2026, we look forward to welcoming new members and enjoying creative activities together that will help protect Dunkeld and Birnam's magical community arboretum with and for future generations. We will also continue our efforts to improve the accessibility of our big trees by working in collaboration with others. And we will continue to seek new sources of inspiration and ideas so, do get in touch, if you want to get involved!



Arboretum Trustees

Bill Muntus (Chair) lives in Dunkeld near the Stanley Hill path. As Chair, he brings a wealth of experience, most recently from his voluntary work for Breadalbane Men's Shed and Tay Valley Connections. An active volunteer for our local repair cafe, Bill is keen to champion improved accessibility of paths, especially for wheelchair users, people with mobility support needs and dog walkers. Bill is skilled and experienced in reusing and repurposing wood that might otherwise be thrown away.

Previously the patron of Dunkeld and Birnam Community Arboretum, **Jan Silburn** has now kindly agreed to be co opted as a trustee and in particular to assist us with partnerships, such as the Development Trust and Birnam Arts. As a retired GP, Jan's knowledge and experience of the importance of outdoor activities for health and we look forward to benefiting from her insight into the barriers that need to be removed to ensure those who might benefit most of our big trees, can access and enjoy them with us.

John Shelley is a passionate cyclist with 2 beautiful greyhound dogs, one of whom is blind - so accessible paths are important for animals too!. We are delighted to be able to co opt John as a trustee as he brings a wealth of experience to help us with improving access to our big trees, having worked for PKC as a surveyor for many years. John lives in Stanley and has family in Perth and will be helping us look more widely at access to our community arboretum for those who have to travel in via bus, train and car. To access our big trees.

George Yates (Secretary) has a degree in Outdoor Leadership and Environmental Management. He has been living and working in Dunkeld and Birnam for over 15 years. George brings a wealth of knowledge working with diverse young people and adults through outdoor activities. His expertise in Health and Safety and risk management will be helpful in to DBCAs future activities. George has also recently signed up as a Community First Responder.

A resident of Birnam, **Nicola Herbertson (Treasurer)** has been fascinated by the lichen abundant in our local woods and forests. When she heard about Community Arboretum she was keen to get involved. Once lockdown restrictions were lifted, Nikki agreed to be co opted by the Trustees to support the Board with SCIO governance, administration, activity development, help recruit new members and volunteers and develop ideas for inclusive engagement activities.

2025 Spring Shoots



The new www.thebirnamoak.co.uk sculpture that was created is now installed near the Birnam Oak tree, carefully located to encourage visitors to take photos a little further away from the tree and give it space and minimise compaction of the soil around it. Three DBCA members participated in the co creative process for this great project led by the University of Birmingham and delivered in partnership with Dunkeld Community Archive, Birnam Book Festival and others.

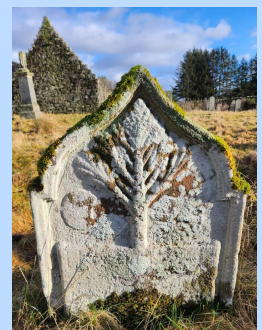
Birnam's Oak: History and Heritage

Aged between 500 – 600 years old, the Birnam Oak is now the oldest living tree from the ancient Birnam Wood referenced at the end of Shakespeare's Macbeth. As Malcolm's army advances toward Dunsinane under the cover provided by the wood's branches, they fulfil the witch's prophecy that Macbeth's demise will be signalled when the Birnam Wood moves.

This sculpture by Lewis Morrison is inspired both by this living representative of the moving forest made famous by Shakespeare, and its real-life history and legacy in Birnam and Dunkeld. You can learn more by visiting any of the topic pages below:



Please help us grow the project by taking a short survey [here](#)



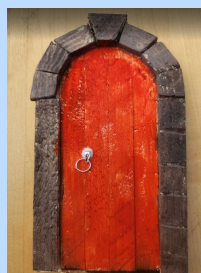
As well as being a beautiful and engaging artwork in its own right, the new sculpture continues a long tradition in our community: our members have been noticing stone sculptures and carvings of trees in all sorts of different places - on walks by the river in Blairgowrie to graveyards in Little Dunkeld and St Fillans, the importance of trees as a symbol of life are there for all to see. If you spot any, let us know!

Can you spot the fairy doors and identify the tree species?

Our chair, Bill Muntus, also designed a lovely fairy door making kit and made some fairy doors to trial an intergenerational tree identification and learning activity with 18 adults and children at Torwood House Open Garden. Fun was had by all but the species of one tree still remains a mystery! Can you help?

Do you know any tree related games?

If you have any ideas or would like to help co design one, do get in touch!.



Can you spot the fairy doors and identify the tree species?



2025 Summer Highlights

We partnered with 2 New Zealand artists from <https://ainin.org/>, part of the Artists in Nature International Network, one of whom had volunteered with In Bloom during a previous visit. Together, they designed and delivered a participatory art installation called Forest Dreams - Woven Dreams in Jubilee Park, one of our less well used local parks that has many old and beautiful big trees as well as saplings planted by local children and young people..The artists' work was funded by <https://www.nuitsdesforets.com/> in France which aims to reinvent communities' relationship with the natural world and to bring citizens closer to the forests as well as to forestry, cultural and scientific communities. In spite of weather disruption, and other challenges we have learnt from, the artists created some wonderful pieces and we are looking forward developing links to other international projects in 2026



A big thank you to PKCT and the Greenspaces team for mowing a path through Jubilee park to help reduce the risk of ticks and other health and safety risks to the artists and those who engaged with them..

On the subject of paths, congratulations to all those involved in improving the accessibility of the station through investment in raising the platforms, creating step free access to the Northbound platform and improving the accessibility of the route to Dunkeld via Birnam Glen road. All that is left to do now is

- step free access from the Birnam Glen road to the station building
- step free access via the Station Cottage footpath to station road and Birnam Arts main entrance,
- improve the accessibility of Oak Road and the paths along the Tay
- create step free access from the Tay riverbank via the Community Orchard to Dunkeld
- create safe wheelchair and buggy access to the GP, MUGA, hermitage and recreation ground
- improve the accessibility of the paths around Stanley Hill and along the Tay to Dunkeld House Hotel

Whilst that sounds like a daunting list, the progress made in the last 12 months and volunteer skills and capacity that has been built, shows that anything is possible!

An unexpected outcome of the Les Nuits des Forets project was that we bumped into a troupe of Shakespearian actors and musicians called The Barden Party <https://thebardenparty.com/> who were visiting the Birnam Oak and rehearsing in Jubilee Park as part of their preparations for performing Macbeth at Edinburgh's Fringe Festival. Their Fringe Show was a great success with 5 star reviews across the board and we have just learnt that they are back at the Fringe at a bigger venue - and in 2026, will be performing Macbeth at Birnam Arts!! Authentic to the original script, their interpretation of Macbeth is a fantastically innovative gender flipped, bluegrass folk music version which is very engaging and funny - and they specialise in performing it outdoors! Many years ago, there was a performance of Macbeth around the Birnam Oak - whilst that might not now be appropriate given it's age, perhaps Jubilee park, close to the Birnam Oak and its sapling, could be an option for the future.

Big Tree Country 2026 Autumn Colours

GATEWAY TO THE HIGHLANDS

Step outside and discover Birnam & Dunkeld, a historic haven where nature and culture meet. Wander riverside paths, climb wooded slopes, explore historic gems, enjoy the homegrown arts scene and experience the rhythm of village life. Every turn brings a new reason to linger.



The cultural, social and economic importance of our big trees to local community enterprises, charities and start ups - and of course to visitors to our local community - has become more visible than ever this year.

Birnam Arts community consultation became a colourful arborial feast for the eyes as leaves of ideas and community input (in the form of colourful post it notes) “grew” on the tree and helped our community share ideas creatively. We are delighted to learn that the Birnam Arts team intend to retain Mat Dugard’s vibrant tree painting on the wall of the cafe. Birnam Art’s new programme of events will include nature talks, films and activities including things specifically about trees - which we are hoping to help raise funding to support. So watch this space and sign up as a friend of Birnam Arts. You can support in lots of different ways and different levels - some of which are named in honour of our local big trees!.

BA

WHAT'S ON

EVERYTHING ELSE

LOGIN | TEL: 01350 727 674



**LARCHES OF DUNKELD CATHEDRAL
PARENT LARCH TO MORE THAN 14 MILLION TREES**

The Mother or Parent Larch by Dunkeld Cathedral stands as a reminder of the more than 14 million trees that were planted by successive Dukes of Atholl for more than a century. Planted over hilly ground that had been washed by rain and were useless for farming, the trees stabilised the ground and provided habitat for wildlife, which still thrives today.

The tree canopy provides a light shade on a forest floor which is suitable for deer and capercaillie. Larch seeds are eaten by red squirrels and several species of bird including the siskin, treecreeper, and redwing. Black grouse are fond of young cones and buds, and many species of moths hatch their larvae on the nutritious leaves. The sparrowhawk and the goshawk both favour the larch for nest building.

The large-scale plantings on the hillsides around Dunkeld were instrumental in transforming the Perthshire landscape during the 18th and 19th centuries. The trees were harvested for the rot-proof qualities, making them highly suitable for marine uses.

* Notes compiled from reliable sources such as VisitScotland.

It has been great to see the Chattan Tea Room regrow as the Birnam Oak Cafe. The cafe’s logo is a beautiful wood carving of the silhouette of the oak with colours behind it that, like the stain glassed windows of St Mary’s Church, hint of the Tay, sunsets and swathes of green leaves. The timber clad cafe building, calls to mind the seasonal summer sawmills that a Dunkeld resident described her grandfather using Clydesdale Horses to build in estate woodlands and forests- we are trying to track down the documentary made about him and this lost trade. It is wonderful to see the Birnam Oak Cafe continuing to sustain a vibrant community of local people, cyclists and walkers basking in its sunny setting on the Perth Road before heading off to explore our big tree country.

The Birnam Hotel’s new website makes it clear how important big trees are to it Scottish social and cultural heritage and sense of place. Their design aesthetic has prioritised working with local artisans and traditional skills and materials to create something is a homage to the past but with a modern twist and will contribute something new to Birnam as a place and a community. The great hall has vast amounts of wood in it, both to hold up the huge vaulted ceiling and often reported as the best sprung dance floor in Scotland!

One question that has come up from looking at the heritage wood in all our local building is, where did the wood come from? Was it locally sourced and milled or was it brought in from elsewhere? If it came from elsewhere, how did it get here - using the station and coal and timber yard of Alexander Robertson? Did they use the Dunkeld Sloop to bring timber up the Tay from Dundee before putting it on the train? What type of wood is it and how old were the trees from which the wood came?

This is where the science of dendrology comes in. Scotland has relatively limited dendrology research records compared to other parts of the UK and Europe - and our community could learn lots from the science of dendrology about our past and future needs and how we balance these. It also reminds us of the importance of our local Dunkeld Community Archive!

***Someone once asked me what my favourite place was.
I replied, I don't have a favourite place, I have a favourite tree
and whenever I spend time near my favourite tree, that becomes my favourite place.
I have so many favourite trees and trees are my place, my home. ANON***

2025 Winter Warmers

A long dark, and very wet winter, has made it difficult for our members to spend as much time outdoors enjoying our big trees as they would have liked.

Before the worst of the weather set in, one of our members made the most of this year's Mast Year to encourage us all to grow local heritage trees from seed:

"Every few years, some species of trees and shrubs produce a bumper crop of their fruits or nuts. The collective term for these fruits and nuts is 'mast', so we call this a mast year." Woodland Trust This is a useful resource for those interested in growing trees from local seeds:

<https://treecouncil.org.uk/guidance-resources/watch-seed-gathering-season-masterclass/?portfolioCats=192>

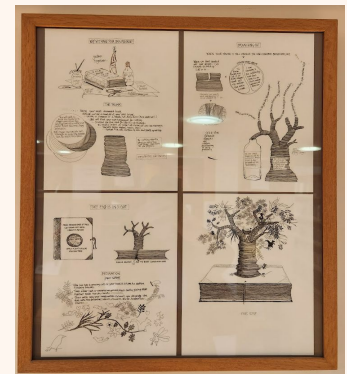
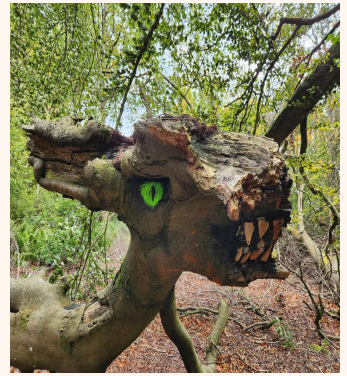
Others have been appreciating the art and poetry of trees in lots of different ways that have reduced isolation, improved community connections and promoted creativity and mental health.

We have continued to use playing cards with different tree species on them to chat to members about the trees they most associate with our local area, those that may be at threat from climate change and which species may help build our woodlands and forests resilience to climate change.

Basi Studio has played host to local people practising painting trees for relaxation and recovery. The Scottish Poetry Library have shared information about their "Poet Tree" activity with us which recycles old books to create a tree that people can have their leaves of poetry on. A tree theme is central to some of Murray Royal hospital's recovery programmes

Last, but not least, we have continued to share and appreciate heritage tree themed discoveries as well as the artistry of those who understand the unique characteristics of different woods and craft and design with these to stunning effect. The tea cup shown here was tourist memorabilia from the early 1900s and the tree bookshelf was exhibited at Birnam Arts in the last month.

Look out for tree themed poetry and literature, music and song and arts and crafts workshops for members in the Birnam Arts Community Education Room 2026!



Current plans and ideas for making a difference in 2026

More ideas and activities welcome!

- Make use of Table in St Ninian's Garden for intergenerational learning about trees and creative activities connected to trees.
- Encourage use of refreshed Beatrix Potter garden.
- Participate in tree warden scheme and help record special trees in tree registry - especially updating <https://www.ancient-yew.org/find-a-yew>.
- Collaborate with Birnam Arts, the Birnam Book Festival and Birnam Library to do tree related poetry and writing sessions.
- Collaborate with Birnam Arts and local artists to create a Dunkeld and Birnam Community Arboretum tree calendar.
- Collaborate with Birnam Art, the Trad Youth Group and Just Singin' to research and perform tree related songs.
- Participate in local Climate Cafe and connect to local tree / forest projects eg Tayside Woodland Partnership, tree planting and protection
- Support Artisan village project and path improvement projects especially around Stanley Hill.
- Develop more international tree related collaborations and events like Forest of Dreams especially through partnership working with BA.
- Research and start a local dendrology project working in partnership with those responsible for oldest buildings in Dunkeld and Birnam including the Three Churches, the Station and Duchess Anne.
- Encourage more use of Jubilee Park for tree identification, creative and learning activities about trees
- Continue to support the Birnam Oak project and creative activities that explore the relationship between trees and rivers eg. River of Words.
- Follow up on birnam oak sapling grown from Mask Year acorns.
- Continue to support work of the paths and nature and station groups.

Sustainability and Impact

**Thank you to all our local partners, funders,
supporters and volunteers !**

***Your connection to and care for our big trees and their
biodiversity is our Community Arboretum***

***2026 Regenerative Tourism Goal:
support local charities, enterprises
visitors, artisans & crafters in
protecting our big trees for future
generations through how they
work as well as what they do***

**Community
Volunteers
Members
Trustees
Experts
Crafts & Trades**



We are committed to learning from best practise to quantify our impact.



Dunkeld and Birnam Community Arboretum

www.communityarboretum.scot

SCO49890

Annual General Meeting

30th March 2026 4pm

**Birnam Arts
Library Reading Room**

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

Accounts

Dunkeld and Birnam Community Arboretum

2024 Annual Report

SCIO 049890





A tribute to Mike Silburn - Founder and Chairperson

At the start of 2024, the Chair of our Trustees, [REDACTED] sadly passed away. A passionate advocate for the environment, with a relentless focus on the community of Birnam & Dunkeld and the valley and hills that surround us, [REDACTED] heartfelt commitment was to create change for the better. [REDACTED] was the driving force that led to the foundation of Dunkeld and Birnam Community Arboretum - our charity would not have existed without him.

A true visionary [REDACTED] was full of creative and exciting ideas on how to make things happen in our precious big tree country. He was determined to try to prevent and help heal scars caused by any future dualling of the A9. He understood the importance of increasing the connection between community and trees, to help everyone learn more about tree species, habitat, and their relation to memory and story. [REDACTED] was determined to reduce and remove the barriers that prevent people in our community from engaging with their big trees. It was clear to him that this could be done in interesting, participative, and creative ways. He understood that education and learning do not have to be dull; they can be playful and that very much suited [REDACTED] playful personality and sense of humour. Biodiversity is a critical issue for us all in terms of the sustainability of our planet. [REDACTED] article in the Bridge about Birnam Wood and Birnam Hill is an example of how active he was in addressing this right up until the end of his life. (A copy of his article can be found under New Projects on our website; www.communityarboretum.scot).

[REDACTED] became an electric wheelchair user in the last 10 years of his life and through that had direct lived experience of the disabling attitudes, behaviours and infrastructure barriers that many people with health conditions and impairments in our community can experience. His insight and wide-ranging skills as a retired GP and deep knowledge of our community, made him a powerful champion for change. He understood the relationship between the health of our big trees, fragile environment and our community and the opportunities for each to heal the other. Like many others, daily he found novel ways to overcome practical barriers that people with health conditions and impairments like him face in accessing and enjoying the things others take for granted.



Come sit 'neath the branches
of the old oak tree,
What will you find,
Who might you see?

BIRNAM AND DUNKELD COMMUNITY ARBORETUM

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We will work with **local organisations, funders and stakeholders** to create **new opportunities** to

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www.communityarboretum.scot

SCIO: 049890

www.bigtrees.scot

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We will work in partnership with other organisations in ways which

- > enhance and improve our natural environment
- > support and strengthen the local economy
- > are accessible to local people and visitors alike

*** Perth and Kinross Forest Strategy 2020-24**



His beloved tree
Many hours he sat beneath
Their roots touched deeply

© A local

Proudly Majestic
Sentinel of her domain
Gracious Sycamore



'Ice hair', also known as 'frost hair' or 'frost beard' forms on dead wood, most commonly in broad leaf forests in northern latitudes. The fungus, *Exidiopsis effusa* was identified as key to its formation. - Wikipedia

2024 Achievements

- 🌰 Charity sustained and adapted to difficult circumstances.
- 🌰 Lease of path from National Trust progressed and construction design and planning application for Stanley Path completed.
- 🌰 Poetic community tree heretage / identification and tree growing from local seed activity continues.
- 🌰 Partnership working with local organisations, community council and trust secures funding for Train to Town active travel path and Station Road – Ongoing.
- 🌰 Partnership working with Dunkeld Archive, Birnam Book Festival enables Birnam Oak / Birnam Hill / Birnam Wood / Shakespeare project to progress.
- 🌰 Research and community engagement to improve accessibility to path to GP surgery continues.
- 🌰 Links with new organisations developed for example PAMIS
- 🌰 2 funding applications submitted and donations and match funding secured in principle.



Chair's report:

2024 has been a challenging year, not only for Community Arboretum but also many of our members. Never has the healing potential of big trees been so important; nor felt precarious in the face of accelerating climate change and growing global conflict. But trees can be our teachers. As the photo on the left shows, even an apparent 'dead' tree hosts and enables a wide variety of life.

The Rowan opposite the Dunkeld and Birnam Co-working space is a testament to the resilience of our local trees; challenges, roots were significantly disrupted by the SGN gas pipe construction, but so far, it appears to have adapted and once again continues to nurture a wide range of lichen, mosses and wild birds.

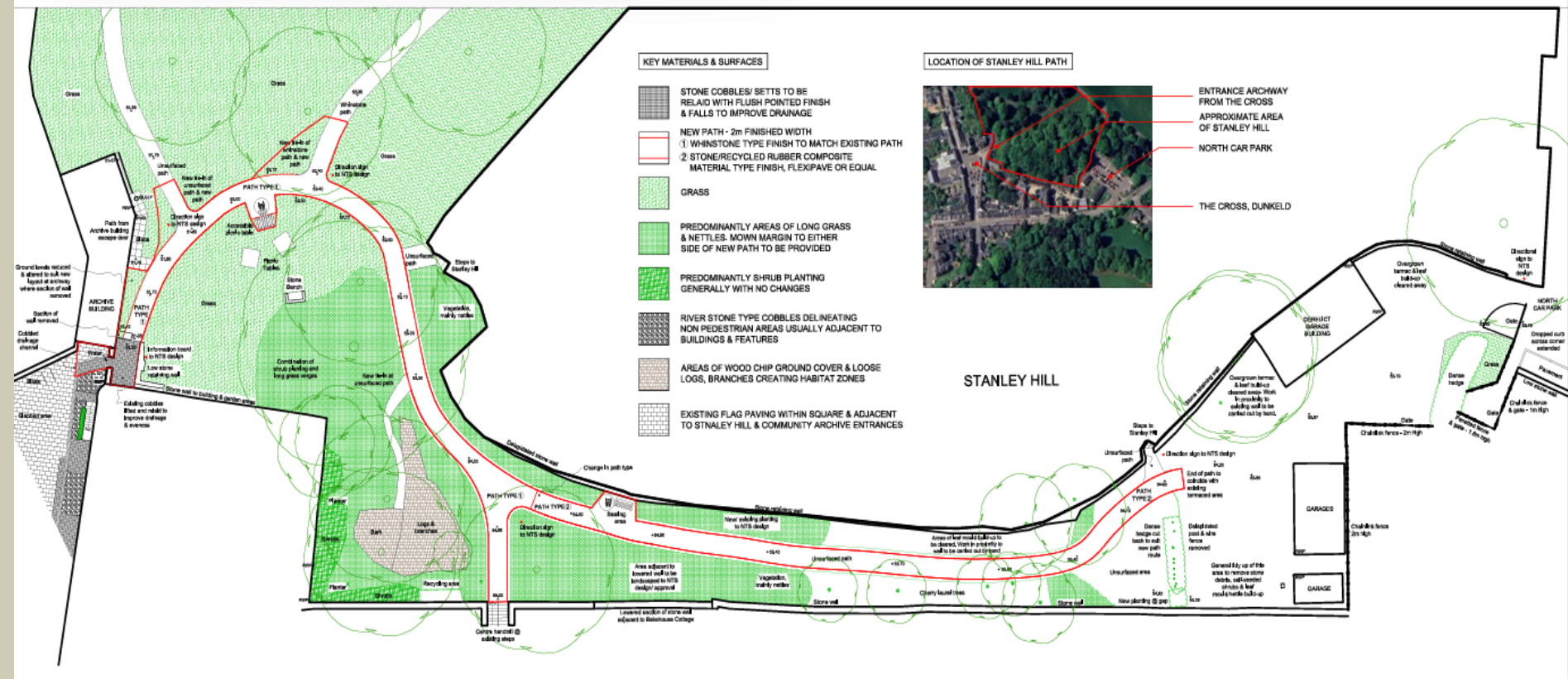
Like the Rowan tree, Community Arboretum has had to adapt to new challenges and we have learned a lot over the past 12 months. In 2025, we would like to continue to work hard with those living in the heart of our communities to understand their priorities and concerns when it comes to protecting our big heritage trees and the local environment.

'A traditional function of an arboretum is to provide opportunities for educators, students, and the general public to identify plants and learn about their natural history.' – *Indiana University of Pennsylvania*



Stanly Hill Path Construction Design

Consultation ongoing





COMMUNITY ARBORETUM TRUSTEES

██████████ and her family settled back in Dunkeld in 2011 having lived here as a teen attending Breadalbane Academy. ██████████ has been involved in local projects as an architect - Birnam Arts and Bruce Gardens - is on the Birnam Arts fabric committee, the A9 Core Group, is a director of the Dunkeld and Birnam Community Coworking space and a friend of the Dunkeld & Birnam Station. She is a keen mountain biker, swimmer and skier and loves the big tree landscapes of Highland Perthshire

██████████ and his family moved to the Dunkeld in 2011 when his daughters started at the local primary school. The family live in Strathbraan about 1 mile west of Trochry. ██████████ has been involved in a wide variety of community activities: a Community Councillor; PH8 Covid Response coordinator; Development Trust Treasurer and Chair of the Sports Hub where he led the project on the recently completed Covered MUGA project. He is a keen hillwalker and skier with a keen interest in the environment and improving biodiversity

██████████ lives in Dunkeld near the Stanley Hill and is an active volunteer in our Repair Café. ██████████ is keen to continue championing the accessibility of paths, especially for wheelchair users, people with limited mobility and dog walkers. ██████████ is skilled and experienced in reusing and repurposing wood that might otherwise be thrown away. ██████████'s favorite tree is shown on the left and is along the cathedral walk.

Since moving to Birnam with husband ██████████ and her family in 2017, ██████████ (Secretary) has been fascinated by the lichen abundant in our local woods and forests. When she heard about Community Arboretum she was keen to get involved. Once lockdown restrictions were lifted, ██████████ agreed to be co-opted by the Trustees to support the Board with SCIO governance, administration, activity development, help recruit new members and volunteers and develop ideas for inclusive engagement activities.

██████████ has a degree in Outdoor Leadership and Environmental Management. He has been living and working in Dunkeld and Birnam for over 15 years. ██████████ brings a wealth of knowledge working with diverse young people and adults through outdoor activities. His expertise in Health and Safety and risk management will be helpful in to DBCAs future activities. ██████████ has also recently signed up as a Community First Responder.



First of Trees

'This beautiful Cedar of Lebanon is located at the end of the Hermitage bridge – the bridge was built around this tree in 1774. I love the aged bark has greyed and almost taken on the appearance of the stone of the bridge and because of that many visitors don't notice the tree. From paintings of the hall, to early photography you can follow the growth of the tree. It has an interesting' What 3

Words: bearable /chimp/covenants

NTS 2024

Cedar of Lebanon – A very rare tree in a very special place.

'Revered by civilisations for thousands of years, the Cedar of Lebanon is a rare wood with a natural lustre and distinctive, long-lasting odour. In biblical times, this 'true cedar' grew extensively all around the mountains of Lebanon, giving the cedar its name. After centuries of deforestation, there are now just a handful of groves remaining, most notably the Cedars of God, a UNESCO World Heritage site which is now under threat from climate change.' ©Thorgood Timber Merchants

*Use the three underlined words in
the Haiku to help you find the tree.
Haiku © DBCA Volunteer*



Bearable stone bark
Bridges a lonely chimp to
Ancient covenants



2025 Priorities and objectives



Paths For All and National Lottery funded Stanly Hill path project progressed in partnership with National Trust and local community.



Improved accessibility of local heritage trees via the train station, town, recreation ground celebrated.



Continue to support progress of Dunkeld Archive, Birnam Book Festival enables Birnam Oak / Birnam Hill / Birnam Wood / Shakespeare project.



New volunteers recruited to assist with community volunteering priorities especially to expand accessible arts and poetry activities that celebrate local heritage trees.



Support community efforts to continue to improve accessibility of GP surgery, MUGA and Birnam Games field.



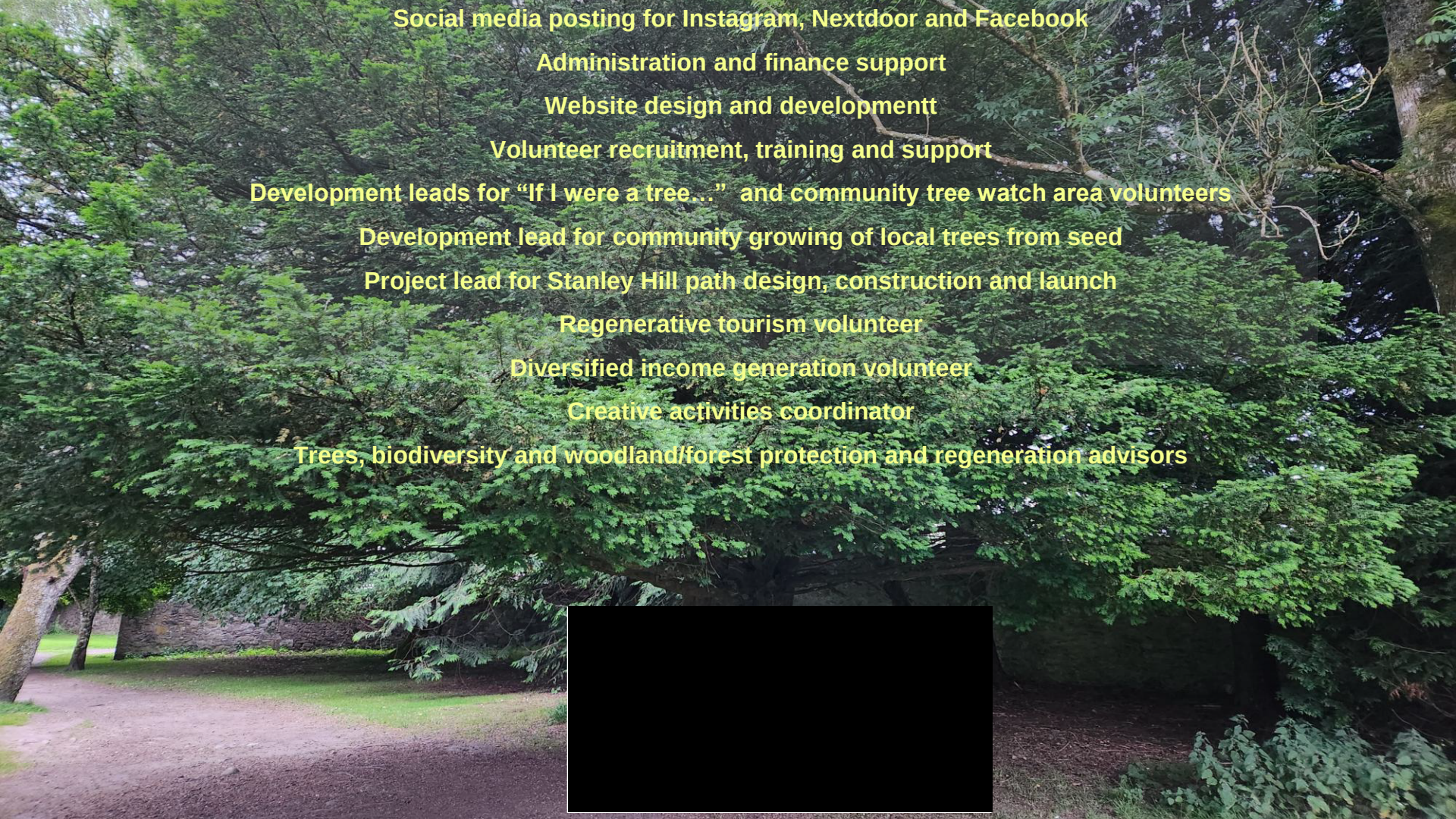
20 new expert advisors, members and trustees engaged and participate and 40 people in community 25% with mobility or accessibility needs take up activities.



Income generation opportunities researched and piloted in collaboration with local artisan, crafts and trades people and community enterprises to suport regenerative tourism goal.



Consult the community and stake-holderrs on potential for the Old Sycamore to be registered as a witness tree.

A photograph of a lush green forest. In the foreground, there is a dirt path that curves slightly to the left. The path is bordered by a grassy area. The background is filled with tall, leafy trees, their branches creating a dense canopy. The lighting is soft, suggesting a slightly overcast day. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Social media posting for Instagram, Nextdoor and Facebook

Administration and finance support

Website design and development

Volunteer recruitment, training and support

Development leads for “If I were a tree...” and community tree watch area volunteers

Development lead for community growing of local trees from seed

Project lead for Stanley Hill path design, construction and launch

Regenerative tourism volunteer

Diversified income generation volunteer

Creative activities coordinator

Trees, biodiversity and woodland/forest protection and regeneration advisors

Sustainability and Impact

Thank you to all our local partners, funders, supporters and volunteers !

Your connection to and care for our big trees and their biodiversity is our Community Arboretum

Community
Volunteers
Members
Trustees
Experts
Crafts & Trades

2025 Regenerative Tourism Goal: collaborate with local charities and artisans/crafters to codesign and co create eco friendly Community Arboretum trademarked products and activities that help protect/preserve our big trees.

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total current period	Total last period
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	100	9,900	-	-	10,000	0
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts	0	0	-	-	0	10,000
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year (Agree balances with receipts and payments)	100	9,900	-	-	10,000	10,000

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs		Market valuation	Last year
				to nearest £	to nearest £
B2 Investments	None	N/A			
		Total		-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs		Cost (if available)	Current value (if available)	Last year
				to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B3 Other assets	None	N/A				
		Total		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates		Amount due	Last year
				to nearest £	to nearest £
B4 Liabilities					
		Total		-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates		Amount due (estimate)	Last year
				to nearest £	to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities					
		Total		-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

31/5/25

Dunkeld and Birnam Community Arboretum

SC049890

Additional analysis (1)**Analysis of receipts and payments**

N/A

1 Donations

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
	-				-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	100

-

-

-

-

-

2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Paths for All Design Grant		13,125	13,125	-
Paths for All Construction Phase		1,350	1,350	-
			-	
			-	
Total	-	14,475	14,475	9,900

-

-

-

3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Refund from PKC for reduced planning fees		750			750	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	750	-	-	750	0

-

-

-

-

-

4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Ethos Ltd Design Work		11,275			11,275	
PKCT Construction planning		2,700			2,700	
PKC Planning fee (gross exc refund). Reimbursed t		1,250			1,250	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	15,225	-	-	15,225	0

-

-

-

-

-

Enter charity name below

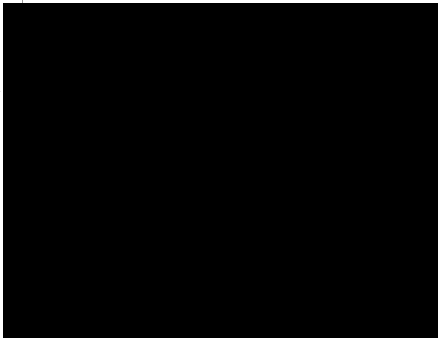
Enter SC No. below

Dunkeld and Birnam Community Arboretum**SC049890****Receipts and payments accounts**

For the period	Period start date	1/1/2024	to	Period end date	31/12/2024

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable to nearest £	Permanent to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Total funds last to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	100
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	14,475	-	-	14,475	9,900
Receipts from fundraising activities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross trading receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income from investments other than land	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rents from land & buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable	-	750	-	-	750	-
					-	
A1 Sub total	-	15,225	-	-	15,225	10,000
A2 Receipts from asset & investment						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	15,225	-	-	15,225	10,000
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross trading payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments relating directly to charitable	-	15,225	-	-	15,225	-
Grants and donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Governance costs:		-	-	-	-	-
Audit / independent examination	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preparation of annual accounts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legal costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
					-	
A3 Sub total	-	15,225	-	-	15,225	-
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	15,225	-	-	15,225	-
Net receipts / (payments)	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus / (deficit) for year	-	0	-	-	0	10,000

	Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2						
Report to the trustees/members of	Charity name Dunkeld & Birnam Community Arboretum						
Registered charity number	SC049890						
On the accounts of the charity for the period	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	01	2024	to	31	12	2024
Set out on pages	1-3						(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.						
Basis of independent examiner's statement	My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.						
Independent examiner's statement	In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention						
	1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:						
	• to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and						
	• to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations						
	or						
	2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.						
Signed Name					Date:	27 th May 2025	
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)							
Address							

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

APPENDIX 3

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose