

## **The New Season. ....**

Daylight hours are lengthening and Spring can't really be so very far away! Already Falkland folk can look forward to some early colour, for the winter pansies in tubs, carts and containers are showing they've survived any hard weather, while more daffodils planted at New Inn Road and New Road, as well as in the school grounds, are already peeping through the ground. In addition a thousand snowdrops planted at Balmbrae late last year will eventually provide a splash of white there. Another cart has been purchased and will be sited on the green at the bottom of the Hill Road so that at every entrance to the village, visitors will be welcomed by a floral display in a reminder of Fife's rural past. The season ahead promises to be a challenging and exciting one for all concerned as we try to keep up the high standards of 2003. Although Falkland in Bloom's main aim remains to make our beautiful community even more attractive, each year participation in competitions at local and national level is expected and of course we are delighted the village did so well in 2003. Signs at the main entrances to the village have been erected to mark the success but the awards made were as follows:

**East Fife and Fife Wide:** Best Medium Village.

**Scotland in Bloom:** Best Large Village. Best Village Overall in Scotland. Trophy for Horticultural Excellence

**Britain in Bloom:** Silver Award and Britain in Bloom Floral Award (Best Floral Baskets etc. in U.K.!)



It is an honor to have been invited to represent Scotland in the coming year's Britain in Bloom competition again, despite the huge amount of effort required from everyone to meet the necessary criteria. Once more we will be seeking the kind of help from businesses, residents and community groups we welcomed in 2003.

## **Plant sale.....**

Please note the date of our plant sale this year will be Saturday, 22nd. May from 11.00 a.m. until 2.00 p.m. Pre-sale order forms will be available to allow delivery within the village and if attending the sale, it is important that early arrival may avoid disappointment.

## **Website.....**

Soon we expect to have our own website where you can find out more about our group and its activities.

Find us at [www.falklandinbloom.com](http://www.falklandinbloom.com)



**SPRING 2004**

## **Community Projects.....**

In the last several years, judges who come to examine Falkland, look for more than simply colourful floral displays and there is high expectation of progress in matters like recycling, sustainable planting and conservation. The highest commendations are given to communities who show that groups are working together to improve the environment. Besides those mentioned below, Fife Council, Falkland Community Council, as well as school pupils and community youth groups have also played an important part.

## **The Clough.....**

The area known as the Clough in Balmbrae has now been under redevelopment for some time by representatives from Falkland and Fife Air Cadets Conservation Groups along with members of Falkland in Bloom and the Fife Ranger Service. The work has involved much clearance of self-seeded sycamore trees and scrub with the need to tackle a very stubborn weed called Japanese Knotweed. The intention is to establish native species plants and trees in this locality providing a habitat to promote all kinds of wildlife whilst preserving its natural appearance. The hedge planted some years ago and consisting of hazel, hawthorn and wild rose, is now well established by the road to the waterfall close to the play park.

Foxgloves, bluebells and other wild flowers have been introduced in this area and an additional length of wildlife-friendly hedging has been planted by the fence just short of the estate gates by Falkland School pupils.

## **Help needed.....**

Falkland in Bloom has been able to enlist the help of one or two additional members in recent years but is always eager to attract those prepared to come forward to offer ideas and help with the work undertaken in the summer season in particular. Although the watering of some hanging baskets and containers is undertaken on a regular basis by many residents, we need help with the daily round of watering and feeding that must be done by our own tractor and completed by teams of three. Volunteers are made very welcome --- please ask any member if interested in helping.



## **Community Awards.....**

Each year Falkland in Bloom recognises the effort from households and businesses to make frontages and gardens more attractive in all sorts of ways. We hope that the community will continue to take an interest and keep up the efforts to maintain gardens, baskets, containers etc. to the best possible standard. Let's hope we can look forward to another fine summer with the village looking as well as it did last year!

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