**GREENFINGERS CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

As we move into 2022, I want to apologise for the delayed Annual General Meeting that we should have held by the end of 2021. I thought it best to wait until the situation with the Pandemic and the restrictions imposed on us were more conducive to us all meeting in person.

THE 2021 year was difficult due to the restrictions that we had to work under but also the fact our active members remained on the low side for the work that we had to undertake. Looking forward this year we need to recruit more active members into our Group so that the work to be undertaken can be shared between more members. Currently the bulk of our work has fallen on a few members and if we are not careful these members will decide that they have had enough, or they want to spend more time doing things for themselves. I think that we need to have a greater focus on recruitment in 2022.

2021 saw us achieve a lot for the village. We received some help from the Council team under the direction of Kevin. I think that our meetings with him were late in the year and we failed to get all that we might have had we agreed a plan early in the Year. I have already met with him this year and agreed a plan of work for 2022.

**Community Garden**

Like 2021 we need to have a March/April cut back. His team will pick up all the cuttings and recycle. We will use the recycle materials as mulch for the garden to help reduce the amount of weeding.

He will also let us have a couple of tons of top soil for use throughout the village.

**Lady Anne Court**

He will remove the 2 rockeries that are currently there. These will be replace with 2 shrub beds, the plants for which will be provided by Kevin. Once they are completed he will mulch to ensure that the weeds are kept down.

**Stumpery**

His team are to clear out. We will be able to have the plants moved to other areas within the village. Once complete, trees will be left together with the large stones and the rest of the area will be turfed.

**Mossgreen/Coaledge**

This area at the turnoff will be Weedkiller and then planted with wild flowers.

**Springhill Brae**

4 of the baskets that were removed from the traffic lights will be moved on to the railings in addition to those already in situ. 2 will also be added to the barriers outside the Community Garden.

**Traffic Lights**

Chips will be provided for this area, in red.

 His team were also very helpful, clearing out the “old post office” and using the plants removed to other areas of the Region. This clearing out allowed us to purchase a living Christmas Tree for the village, following the fundraising by a number of people and Groups within the village. I have to thank the Community Council, the Events Committee, Duncan Collier, the Crystal Corner and many others that ensured that the turn on of the lights was a successful event.

I have had many comments about how beautiful the village flowers were last year. I think that despite a disappointing start when we lost a lot of plants due to a late frost, the displays throughout the village were excellent and appreciated. I thought that the early work undertaken in the Community Garden, with all the cutting back ensured that we had a great display throughout the summer. Millie Mudd joined the Group as part of her volunteer work that would contribute towards her Duke of Edinburgh’s award, she became a welcome addition to the group and her joining probably reduced the average age of the group by around 40%! In May of 2021 we had the path in the garden professionally cleaned, I believe that the outcome has added to the enjoyment of the garden. It came as a surprise to me that there is a cross at the entrance to the garden which had been lost for a number of years.

In the Autumn of 2021 we received a donation of a Kilmarnock Willow for the Community Garden, this was a joint venture with the Masonic Club and is part of the scheme to plant a tree for the Queen’s Jubliee.

 I have already ordered the plants for 2022, I have gone for a theme of Red, White & Blue for this year in honour of the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen. Some 3500 plants are due to be delivered in April

In March of 2021, our new Shed, Club House was erected up at the Poly Tunnel. I think that this is a great statement about our Organisation. I would like to thank Tricia Smith for her work ensuring that this was sourced and put up in a timely manner. Looking forward this is another asset that we need to do more with and in 2022 we need to ensure that there are more benefits to our Organisation and the Community.

At the Poly Tunnel our vegetables were again a success, we added another 3 raised beds and planted them with some fruit trees which I hope will give us some fruit in the next couple of years. Liz Scott Collins and I have already planted some Onions and Garlic for this year we are looking forward to seeing how these progress.

I cannot complete this statement without paying tribute to Ian Macdonald whom we lost towards the end of last year. Ian was a strong supporter of Greenfingers and took great pride in “his” cart and the railing tubs on Springhill Brae. Ian had served as Vice Chair of this organisation for a number of years. His was always an opinion that could be relied upon to steer you in the right direction. He always had a cheery disposition. He was a fine Person he will be missed by all of us in Greenfingers and also by a number of other Organisations within the Village. His friends and family have made a donation to Greenfingers in his name from a collection held at his funeral. We are arranging a plaque in his memory to be placed on the cart.

In conclusion, I think that despite difficult circumstances in 2021 looking back at all that this Group has achieved I think that we can all be very proud of our successes. This could not have happened without the dedication and the commitment of everyone in our Group. Each one of you have freely given your time and skills to ensure that the Village has been a better place to live and visit. For this I would like to thank each of you for all your hard work, I am looking forward to working with each of you in 2022.