

# Keep Scotland Beautiful has funding for local groups

Environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful invites community groups working to boost their areas to join the 2022 [Beautiful Scotland](#) and [It's Your Neighbourhood](#) initiatives with an online information session on Thursday.

Groups with an interest in improving their local environment – from cities and towns, to villages, parks or community gardens – are welcome to register and take part, with a deadline of 30 April 2022.

Run by the charity in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), the projects give volunteers and groups the chance to benefit from expert support, resources and recognition for their efforts to protect and enhance their local places. The charity's team of expert volunteers also provides mentoring throughout the year.

Following on the success of last year's theme of 'Climate and Nature Friendly', and joining the national celebration of Scotland's Stories, 2022's theme will be the 'Year of Stories'. Groups will have the option to build on last year's projects or start new projects and focus activities around this, finding innovative and creative ways to tell the tale of their endeavours.

Some ideas are:

- install new interpretation panels to showcase your area's history or natural wonders
- run a poster or short story competition for young people, with the winners displayed in a prominent location or
- use plants to tell a story.

In 2021, Keep Scotland Beautiful supported and celebrated the achievements of over 250 groups across Scotland. The dedicated volunteers overcame the challenges of the last year, finding new ways to look after and enhance the places they care about.

This year a full Beautiful Scotland competition will be held, after a two-year pause, with medal certificates, category awards including the prestigious Rosebowl, and discretionary awards being presented at a ceremony in the autumn. Judging will be held from 1-14 August 2022. There will also be a non-competitive option, allowing groups to connect with others and take part without the pressure of a judge's visit.

Catherine Gee, Deputy CEO of Keep Scotland Beautiful said, "The last year has been very important for action on climate change in communities. Volunteers across Scotland make a huge contribution to the essential work being done to tackle the climate and nature emergency we are facing, helping make Scotland clean, green and sustainable for nature and people. As a recognition of this and of the challenges faced by groups over the last year, the registration fee for Beautiful Scotland was removed in 2021 and entry will also be free this year.

"We'd love people from well-established groups, through to those just starting out, to register for free support through the Beautiful Scotland or It's Your Neighbourhood initiatives this year – joining a network of passionate people who they

can share their stories with and learn from.”

Kay Clark, RHS Community Development Manager said: “It is brilliant to see that Keep Scotland Beautiful will be delivering these important campaigns in full this year. The standard of entries across Scotland is always incredibly high, and we cannot wait to hear the tales of what all the Scottish groups have been up to in this special story-telling themed year.”

Malcolm Roughead, Chief Executive of VisitScotland said, “Scotland’s Year of Stories is a chance to spotlight and celebrate all of the incredible tales that make our country so special. And stories that connect us to the natural world can help create a more sustainable future for Scotland, and a greener planet.

“We are delighted that Keep Scotland Beautiful is adopting the Themed Year for 2022 and getting involved in our programme, we can’t wait to see what activities and stories local groups come up with.”

Brenda Whitelaw, of Active Arden in Glasgow, said: “We found our assessor’s visit extremely useful in giving us ideas to establish our garden and his terrific knowledge about funders, other similar groups we could learn from, issues we could encounter and plants of course. The assessment report is very comprehensive and so useful to our group.”

An online information session will be held on Thursday 17 February, 7-9pm. Join in and find out about the year ahead, the support and resources available, how the charity will recognise your activities through the year and meet other communities and volunteers from across Scotland.

All are welcome – [email for joining instructions](#) if you aren’t already registered with Beautiful Scotland or It’s Your Neighbourhood.