

# Pallet Gardens and Planters Challenge – 2023



Arriving early in the grounds of Scone Palace on Thursday 1st June, we were greeted with grey skies and a steady drizzle of rain which made the measuring and setting-out of our Pallet Gardens and Planters display area a rather damp job on the wet lawn in front of the imposing Palace building. By late morning, the clouds and rain had disappeared and the sun shone warmly on us and all the exhibitors and visitors for the rest of the day and the next two days of the 2023 Garden Fair.

Four years after the last Gardening Scotland Show at Ingliston, it was great to see the SGF's popular Pallet Gardens and Planters Challenge reinstated at a major live event celebrating gardens and gardening, especially in the beautiful surroundings of Scone Palace.

Looking back at the history of the P&P Challenge, it began in 2005 with a display of 10 pallets. Planters were added in 2010 and after a peak of 50 exhibits the number of pallets each year settled around 30 plus planters. It was encouraging that our resumption of the P&P Challenge attracted 7 pallets and 2 planters, similar to the inaugural event, and we expect these numbers to increase next year and beyond.

The venue wasn't the only change for the P&P Challenge this year. For the new location we were fortunate to get essential assistance with the hard work of setting-up and dismantling our display area

from the enthusiastic horticultural students and staff of the Dundee and Angus College. We hope to see them back again in 2024.

The accompanying photos show the pallets and planters on location, D&A students getting some lively youngsters' hands dirty creating a demonstration pallet, Kathryn Pitts, our chairperson, wearing her new and fetching garden apron outside the SGF gazebo, (see opposite) and our happy V.P. Brian Cunningham, alongside the wheel-kent features of George Anderson, enjoying the Garden Fair in sunny Scone.



We'd love to see more of you at Scone Palace next year on Fri 31st May & Sat 1st June, so please note the dates in your diaries. It would be good to see an increase in P&P entries from member clubs – get

the little grey cells working and release your creative talents. Also, please engage with schools, community groups and special needs organisations in your area and encourage them to take part and enjoy the fun. Scone's location in the centre of Scotland makes it accessible from all across the country. More information about taking-part in the 2024 P&P Challenge will be issued at the start of the new year.

Meanwhile, Happy Gardening.

**Tom Campbell**

