

## Peebles Biodiversity and Ecological Group at Peebles Golf Club



We have recently (January 2021) formed the BioDiversity and Ecological Group, this group is not affiliated in any way to Peebles Golf Club(PGC).

The group currently has 5 members (Val, Denise, Andrew, Neil and Les)

We have formed the group to drive a range of initiatives, that are to be delivered over the next 10-20 years, that will create a mosaic and haven of different areas for flora and fauna, on the land that Peebles Golf Club leases from the Peebles Common Good Fund. Our activities are limited solely to this land, but this area offers us over 40 areas/initiatives to deliver over the next 10-20 years. We will of course work very closely with the golf club, its committee/board and in particular the head green keeper, to ensure all approvals are under governance, and fully agreed by the lease-holder.

This is very much a Peebles Community driven initiative, being separate from PGC, and we will look to involve the wider community, outside the golf club, as well as members inside the golf club, as volunteers and members, we will also look to involve different groups from within the community, including but not limited to: Schools, community groups we have/are reaching out to (e.g. Men Shed, PCT, Tweed Green, etc), adults/children who are vulnerable/learning difficulties, The Bridge, Buglife (Scotland), Bird and Bat societies, local expertise in particular areas, and others as we develop. It should also be noted, the golf course is used by many non-members from the community, for walking, along the various paths/roads we have on the course, and many

areas we are developing are visible/close from these access tracks.

We have split the overall opportunity plan into four separate streams, Birds and Bats, Under-Planting, BEG areas for Shrubs/trees and areas to work closely in partnership with Buglife Scotland (still formalising our partnership).

**Birds and Bats**, involves building and installing bird and bat boxes on over 10 areas of the land, to attract various birds and bats. We are working closely with various groups on the build and installation, as well as expertise from Bat/Bird societies and experts in the local community. We already have 20+ boxes in process and approvals to install them, we are involving the men shed in this initiative, as well as two schools in Peebles, and where practical and safe, adults/children with learning difficulties.

**Under-planting**, involving 10+ areas, typically under tree lined areas, with mixed bulbs and corms.

**BEG**, these 5+ areas, are smaller areas, driven by the BEG group, involving mostly shrubs for food and habitats, but also some small trees for screening/habitats.

**Buglife (Scotland)**, these 20+ areas, we will create in partnership with Buglife a mosaic of different areas/habitats for the benefit of insects/bugs/pollinators. These plans are currently not agreed, and we are in early discussions with Buglife (Scotland) in a possible partnership. The project(s) would also involve monitoring the success of these projects in attracting bugs.

We have begun our initial project, which is to create a wildflower meadow near the 7th tee/fairway, the seed is due for sowing 1st week in May, and tree planting alongside. The costs of this project is £2,161.

We have already raised via Crowdfunding £1,181, we have applied for community funding from the SBC £1,500, but given this is one project of 40, we will need more funding annually. The crowdfunding for the initial project is closing down 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021. We will be opening new funding applications, for each year, as the plans progress.

We are on the lookout for new members, both to join the BEG formally or just as BEG volunteers, the group is open to everyone with an interest in Biodiversity and Ecology, anyone interested in joining in any capacity, or interested in a group joining us in a particular project/initiative or anyone just interested in finding out more, please email: Peebles\_BEG\_Group@yahoo.com

Picture from the 7<sup>th</sup> Hole at PGC, with views of wildflowers looking back over the town of Peebles

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