

Photocall and press release: 3 June 2021

Friends of Milngavie Reservoir and Scottish Water partnership to celebrate Volunteers' Week

The Friends of Milngavie Reservoir volunteers, in collaboration with Scottish Water staff, will support Volunteers' Week by holding the first joint reservoir community litter-pick today, **Friday 4 June**, to tidy up the land surrounding Mugdock and Craigmaddie Reservoirs, known collectively as the Milngavie reservoirs.

Press photographers are invited to meet at the (free) car park at 1030hrs, Friday, 4 June, to photograph guests and volunteers.

The volunteer group, which has encouraged local involvement in the event, has been instrumental in bringing together Volunteer Scotland and Keep Scotland Beautiful, as part of their community drive to enhance and protect the reservoirs.

Eddy Yacoubian, Chairman, Friends of Milngavie Reservoir, said: "We are pleased to be taking part in this joint volunteering day, to celebrate Volunteers' Week, for which we have been recognised by Keep Scotland Beautiful. I am also delighted to launch our new Vision Statement, which champions volunteering, and aims to build on a renewed sense of common purpose and community ownership, as society overcomes the pandemic. Volunteering can be a catalyst for social good and we will continue our efforts to improve the special, tranquil environment of the Milngavie reservoirs. I look forward to building on our partnership working with Scottish Water and playing our part in representing the views of local groups and communities."

Brian Lironi, Corporate Affairs Director, Scottish Water added: "We are delighted to be working with Friends of Milngavie Reservoir, and the local community, to pick up litter at the Milngavie reservoirs. It's through activity and collaboration such as this that we hope to promote how valued the reservoirs are and how we can all work together to keep them clean and tidy."

Alan Stevenson, Chief Executive, Volunteer Scotland, said: "The Friends of Milngavie Reservoir demonstrate how volunteers can improve their local green space. Groups like these are truly the lifeblood of our local communities; making them healthier, more connected and greener. It's important that we recognise their contribution and say thanks. Volunteers' Week is the perfect time to show our appreciation."

Barry Fisher, Chief Executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful said: "Lockdown has made us really appreciate our local outdoor spaces, and it is important that we keep them litter free. Our evidence shows we're facing a looming litter emergency across Scotland. But, thanks to Scottish Water supporting the volunteers from Friends of Milngavie Reservoir, the problem is now being dealt with one piece at a time. This year people have pledged to volunteer their time to litter pick 20,000miles of Scotland during our Summer Clean which runs till June 20. Together we can all do more to tackle litter, for our environment and our own health and wellbeing -so please pledge your support to keep Scotland beautiful."

Volunteers' Week (1-7 June) is a UK campaign, now in its 37th year, and led by a representative organisation in each of the four nations. Volunteer Scotland lead the campaign in Scotland; this year, they're encouraging everyone to take time to say 'thank you' to all volunteers.

ENDS

Notes to editors

1. **Friends of Milngavie Reservoir** – the new vision statement aims to ensure that the reservoirs area is returned to its original beauty and supported by a sustainable long-term plan to keep it beautiful for the benefit of future generations. The volunteer group works in collaboration with a range of partners to call on knowledge and expertise from all sources, to inform and engage with local community groups to safeguard the site. The vision statement has **five strategic priorities: *Heritage, Visitor Access, Community and Partnership, Biodiversity and Green Conservation and Health and Wellbeing*** and is available at: www.fomr.uk/vision
2. **Volunteers' Week** - some of the ways to get involved in include:

Spread Thanks: write a note or poem, do a painting or drawing and send it to someone who has helped or supported you in the last year.

Connect Locally: find out what events are taking place that you can join or partner.

Organise an Online Event: host an 'online quiz', an 'awards & recognition evening' or organise a Big Lunch.

Stay Social: share your Volunteers' Week plans, promo and thank you messages on social media using the #VolunteersWeekScot or visit www.volunteersweek.scot for information.

3. **Keep Scotland Beautiful** works to help combat climate change, reduce litter and waste and protect and enhance the places we care for. It coordinates a Summer Clean from **May 28th - June 20th** as part of its Clean Up Scotland campaign. Further details are available at www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/summerclean

For further information, please contact:

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