# Recent events in Scotland

**Willie Towers** 



#### James Hutton Institute



- I'm no longer employed....but I try and stay in touch
- Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh annually in June, wide audience:
  - People with 'influence' (Members of the UK and Scottish parliaments), policy, regulatory and land management interests; corporate approach
  - General public
    - ► In the Education Centre with other organisations
    - ► Hands on, fun approach

# Royal Highland Show

- Soil of the Show
- In its fourth year
- Three prizes:
  - 'conventional' agriculture
  - Organic management
  - Overall
- Entry rather disappointing.
  - But I'm not sure we could cope with hundreds!



What about a European Soil of the Year?

It will be better than the Eurovision Song Contest!

# Other events with Soil aspects



- Soil characters, pull ups, fliers for Apps have appeared at:
- Scottish Game Fair in Perth 2016 and 17
  - A land owning and management audience
- National and local biodiversity events
  - Ecologists and land owners
- James Hutton Open Doors event September 2006
  - General public from the local area
- + 'peat restoration in Virtual Reality' (intriguing!)

#### And the characters live on!

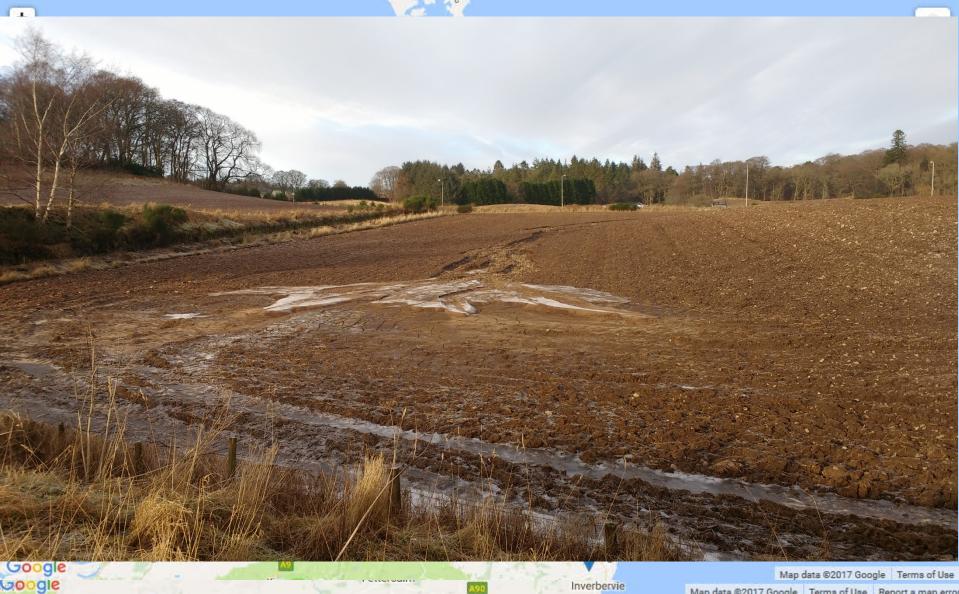


Open Farm
Sunday, June
2017 at our
Dundee site



#### Davama of Scotland's Sails wahsita





Map data @2017 Google Terms of Use Report a map error the wind. Soil erosion occurs across the country, in natural as well as cultivated land, in the uplands and the lowlands.

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# **British Society of Soil Science**



Home > Education

#### Young Soil Explorers





- Hosted by the British Society of Soil Science in Glasgow
- I am a member of the Congress Working Group
- Roles still to be finalised but I am likely to have a role in outreach activities (so with links to Division IV vice-presidents)
  - This aspect was central to our successful bid
  - Glasgow is well endowed with suitable venues of all sizes
    - Glasgow Science Centre
    - Kelvingrove Art Gallery
    - Plus many smaller venues









- Open Jar Collective <a href="https://soilcity.org.uk/">https://soilcity.org.uk/</a>
- Based in Glasgow
- Describe themselves as:
  - Open Jar Collective is a group of socially engaged artists.'
  - Their aim is to 'to reimagine the city as if soil matters'
- They are as much a group of activists rather than artists (although that is their original vocation)
- Highly motivated, articulate, value soil from a different perspective.....but short on funding.









- Workshop in November 2016
- Started with a Soil Soup workshop. (My first one!)
  - We brought a selection of ingredients, soil samples, stories and words. We wrote imagined narratives from the perspective of our soil samples, followed by a shared meal.
  - in the evening a journalist led a discussion on what a declaration, manifesto, or statement about soil might involve.
    - What do we know about soil?
    - What are our hopes and visions?
    - What actions can we take?











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2022

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contribute welcome

