

Hard working groups across Scotland are rewarded for their green efforts

Despite the doom and gloom of the current economic climate, and the adverse weather conditions, 68 community groups from across Scotland - a 66% increase in entrants from 2008 - were presented with environmental awards at a ceremony in Motherwell on 28th October 2009. The groups were rewarded for their year-round efforts in creating beautiful, clean and sustainable neighbourhoods.

This year the green accolades, called Neighbourhood Awards, were presented to communities from the following areas:

Aberdeen City	Falkirk
Aberdeenshire	Fife
Argyll & Bute	Glasgow City
City of Edinburgh	Highland
Dumfries & Galloway	North Lanarkshire
Dundee City	Perth & Kinross
East Dunbartonshire	Stirling
East Renfrewshire	

During assessment visits in August, communities were marked on four sections:

- the involvement of the wider neighbourhood community and sponsorship/fundraising
- the introduction of horticultural and landscape features
- environmental quality, e.g. absence of litter, provision and maintenance of street furniture, wildlife conservation
- overall impression of the effort made in the improvement of their local environment

In its fifth year in Scotland, the Neighbourhood Awards, part of the Beautiful Scotland campaign, are a non-competitive initiative designed to give support and recognition to beginner groups making their area a better place to live. A group can be made up of two keen individuals or a whole neighbourhood, and anyone from toddlers through to retirees can participate. Projects range from several neighbours adopting a small piece of land to plant with bulbs or bedding plants, to a committee involving a number of local

organisations to take on different projects within a large area. Each group is given hints and tips to help improve their efforts towards doing better in the future – with the aim of encouraging them to move up to the main Beautiful Scotland campaign after three years.

John Summers OBE, Chief Executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful, said, “It is fantastic to see so many new faces in the Neighbourhood Award campaign, and I am proud to be able to reward all the community groups who participated this year for the hard work, enthusiasm and dedication that they have put in over the last year. I hope that new entrants will continue to sign up over the coming years so that other areas across Scotland can also benefit from improvements to their local neighbourhoods.”

Anne Strachan, Beautiful Scotland Co-ordinator, said, “It is very exciting to see that the Neighbourhood Awards campaign has really taken off over the past few years, to the point where it is now a vital part of Beautiful Scotland’s strategy to improve the Scottish environment for communities and visitors alike. More and more communities are receiving recognition for their efforts to enhance their neighbourhood, however small.

“I get lots of feedback from entrants who tell me how motivating and encouraging it is to receive a certificate in recognition of the work they have done. We are sure that this campaign will continue to go from strength to strength and I look forward to welcoming the new entrant groups over the coming years.”

Councillor Stephen Grant, Vice Convener of North Lanarkshire Council’s Environmental Services Committee, said, “This has been the first year we in North Lanarkshire have been involved with Beautiful Scotland, and I’m delighted to say it’s been an incredible success.

“As well as the 20 awards we achieved in the main campaign, the area now has 22 award certificates in the Neighbourhood Awards. It’s an outstanding achievement and a real testament to how much people here care about this area.

“My congratulations go to all the entrants this year, all of whom have given so much time and effort to the campaign. I’m sure this will be just the beginning of a long and very successful association with Beautiful Scotland.”

Community groups can enter next year’s Neighbourhood Awards by contacting Beautiful Scotland on 01786 471333 or by emailing beautifulscotland@ksbscotland.org.uk

- Ends -

For further information and photos, please contact:

Suzanne Roberts on 01786 468 236 / 07841 369 430 or e-mail suzanne.roberts@ksbscotland.org.uk

For comments from each group, please contact them directly - details are given in the following pages.

Notes for Editors

1. Neighbourhood Awards are part of the Beautiful Scotland campaign and are funded by the Scottish Government, Keep Scotland Beautiful and The Royal Horticultural Society/Britain in Bloom.
2. Beautiful Scotland is a programme of [Keep Scotland Beautiful](#) (KSB), one of Scotland’s leading environmental charities, administering anti-litter campaigns under the Keep Scotland Tidy slogan along with the People and Places, Blue Flag and Eco-Schools environment programmes, Waste Aware Scotland, Sustainable Scotland Network, Climate Challenge Fund and Going Carbon Neutral Stirling campaign.
3. The Neighbourhood Awards are non-competitive i.e. the judges will not judge one community against another or announce a winner. Instead the campaign recognises that communities are just starting out and each will approach the needs of their local areas very differently.
4. The Neighbourhood Awards were first piloted in 2003 in conjunction with The Royal Horticultural Society. The first year of Neighbourhood Awards in Scotland was 2005.
5. Beginner groups making local environmental improvements are invited to enter one of three categories depending on the size of their neighbourhoods:
 - small neighbourhoods with a population of up to 300
 - neighbourhoods with a population between 301 and 1,000
 - large neighbourhoods with a population of more than 1,001.
6. There are three levels of Certificate that groups can obtain: Improvement, Merit, & Outstanding Achievement.
7. [Beautiful Scotland](#) is an independent campaign working for the improvement of local environments and has been successful in transforming communities of all sizes throughout Scotland during its 43-year existence.
8. This year, hundreds of thousands of people from villages, towns and cities benefited from an improvement in the quality of their local environment as a result of communities’ participation in the Beautiful Scotland & Neighbourhood Award campaigns. Local businesses also benefited from the increased volume of tourists and visitors going to see the improvements for themselves.

Number of Awards by Local Authority Area

Aberdeen City	5	Falkirk	6
Aberdeenshire	2	Fife	13
Argyll & Bute	1	Glasgow City	2
City of Edinburgh	4	Highland	5
Dumfries & Galloway	1	North Lanarkshire	22
Dundee City	2	Perth & Kinross	1
East Dunbartonshire	1	Stirling	2
East Renfrewshire	1		

Certificate of Outstanding Achievement	<i>Town</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Contact Name</i>	<i>Tel. Number</i>
Amisfield Gardening Group	Amisfield	Dumfries & Galloway	Elizabeth Billson	01387 710 183
Friends of Barnhill Rock Garden	Broughty Ferry	Dundee City	Jim Milligan	01382 779 304
The Veg Patches	Hallglen, Falkirk	Falkirk	Joanne Brogan	01324 634 235
Thornhill Court	Falkirk	Falkirk	A Shanks	01324 635 637
St Andrews Eco Group	Falkirk	Falkirk	Ann Marie Jamieson	01324 508 650
Auchmuty & Dovecote Tenant & Residents Association	Glenrothes	Fife	Jan Anderson	01592 652 999
Dunshalt in Bloom	Dunshalt	Fife	June Victory	01337 828 674
Leslie Community Council	Leslie	Fife	Jayne Smith	01592 564 912
Magnus Drive Community Initiative	Glenrothes	Fife	Janet Mitchell	01592 742 913
Pitteuchar, Stenton and Finglassie Garden Group	Glenrothes	Fife	Jim Gouck	01592 620 384
Strathkinness Floral Display Group	St Andrews	Fife	Ian Duncan	01334 850 649
The Seasons of Ceres	Ceres	Fife	Valerie Crowe	01334 829 186
Friends of Burngreen Park	Kilsyth	North Lanarkshire	Fiona Murdoch	01698 420 863

Certificate of Merit		<i>Area</i>	<i>Contact Name</i>	<i>Tel. Number</i>
Friends of Manor Park	Aberdeen	Aberdeen City	Alan Carter	01224 276 810
Ruthrieston Residents' Association	Aberdeen	Aberdeen City	Gregor McAbery	01224 581 162
The Powis Gardeners	Aberdeen	Aberdeen City	Alan Carter	01224 276 810

Cove and Altens Community Council	Cove Bay	Aberdeen City	Michelle Mc Partlin	01224 890 329
Residents of Greenburn Drive	Bucksburn	Aberdeen City	Laird Drew Levy	01224 830 726
Bonnie Banchory	Banchory	Aberdeenshire	Christina Brown	01300 822 510
Kinker Feels	Kincardine O'Neil	Aberdeenshire	Gordon Parkinson	01339 884 195
Alexandra Parade Wee Garden Group	Dunoon	Argyle & Bute	Liz Madden	01369 703 317
Dalry Colonies Residents' Association	Edinburgh	City of Edinburgh	Fiona Gibb	0131 313 4354
Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre	Edinburgh	City of Edinburgh	Thomas Brown	0131 315 4989
GOALS	Edinburgh	City of Edinburgh	Mark McHale	0131 661 4566
Westburn Village Neighbourhood Council	Edinburgh	City of Edinburgh	David Corcoran	0131 453 4881
King Street Broughty Ferry	Broughty Ferry	Dundee City	Beatrice Martin	01382 730 397
Milngavie in Bloom	Milngavie	East Dunbartonshire	Jenny Oberton	0141 956 2616
Knox Place Pensioners	Newton Mearns	East Renfrewshire	Ella Rae	0141 586 6700
Hallglen Youth and Environmental Group	Hallglen, Falkirk	Falkirk	Dawna Chisholm	01324 879 064
Hallglen Gardens	Hallglen, Falkirk	Falkirk	Gail Thomassen	07933 522 858
Abbeyview Community Wardens	Dunfermline	Fife	Donna Brown	07944 036 950
CLEAR Buckhaven	Buckhaven	Fife	Allen Armstrong	01592 713 078
Kinghorn In Bloom	Kinghorn	Fife	Susanne Gilfeather	01592 890 766
Leuchars Community Council	Leuchars	Fife	Mr Mark Sharp	01334 839 046
Newlink Town Tenants and Resident's Association	Kirkcaldy	Fife	Mrs Isabella Jack	01592 268 632
Nicol Street Tenants and Residents' Association	Kirkcaldy	Fife	Yvonne Whitehill	01592 262 246
North Kelvin Meadow Campaign	Glasgow	Glasgow City	Karen Chung	0141 945 2316
Greenfingers Gardening Club	Strathcarron	Highland	Joy Moran	01520 722 212
Kincraig Community Council	Kincraig	Highland	David Hood	01540 651 830
Milnafua Residents' Association	Alness	Highland	Fred Ironside	01394 883 068
Ormie Community Association	Thurso	Highland	Lorna Simpson	01847 891 789

Watten Community Council	Wick	Highland	Elsie Fraser	01847 841 236
Antonine Centre	Cumbernauld	North Lanarkshire	Karen Johnston	07809 495 246
Balmalloch Nursery	Kilsyth	North Lanarkshire	Diane Brown	01236 823 960
Chapelgreen Primary and Nursery Class	Queenzieburn	North Lanarkshire	Barbara McNaughton	01236 822 242
Christ the King Primary School	Motherwell	North Lanarkshire	Patricia Mc Bride	01698 733 815
Eastfield Primary School	Cumbernauld	North Lanarkshire	Steven Fionda	01236 725 501
Flemington Gateway Project	Motherwell	North Lanarkshire	Alex Miller	01698 274 190
Friends of Centenary and West End Park	Airdrie	North Lanarkshire	Sam Bell	01236 763 660
Glen and Millbrae Community Group	Coatbridge	North Lanarkshire	Alec Miller	01698 274 190
Greenhead Moss Group	Motherwell	North Lanarkshire	Anne McKillop	01698 402 091
Kirk O' Shotts Primary School	Salsburgh	North Lanarkshire	Mrs Slummin	01698 274 910
Muirhouse Primary School	Motherwell	North Lanarkshire	Linda Bell	01698 262 337
Our Lady and St Joseph's Primary School	Glenboig	North Lanarkshire	Mrs Clair Parker	01236 757 680
Shotts EU Congregational Church Memorial Garden	Bellshill	North Lanarkshire	Pastor Sheena Brown	01698 834 637
St Brendan's Primary School Community Project	Muirhouse	North Lanarkshire	Sally Fraser	01698 265 877
St Matthew's Primary School	Whishaw	North Lanarkshire	Maureen McGhee	01698 373 556
Thornlie Primary School	Pather	North Lanarkshire	Carolyn Brown	01698 352 539
Aldour Court and Gardens	Pitlochry	Perth & Kinross	Mrs Shielah Wintersgill	01796 474 097
Friends of Bridge of Allan Open Spaces	Bridge of Allan	Stirling	Elizabeth Rankin	01786 832 292

Certificate of Improvement		<i>Area</i>	<i>Contact Name</i>	<i>Tel. Number</i>
Greenhill Youth Club	Bonnybridge	Falkirk	Michelle Donoghue	01324 814 834
Garrowhill Garden Estate Neighbourhood Group	Ballieston, Glasgow	Glasgow City	Barrie Linning	0141 771 8885
Gartcosh Community Council	Gartcosh	North Lanarkshire	David Black	01236 872 614
Glenboig Neighbourhood House	Glenboig	North Lanarkshire	Teresa Aitken	01236 875 054

Parent Action for Safe Play	Coatbridge	North Lanarkshire	Mary Fagan	01236 426 737
Plains Community Futures Group	Plains	North Lanarkshire	Mrs A Summerhill	01236 842 731
Women's Health Project	Plains	North Lanarkshire	Helen Boyle	01236 761 170
Strathyre Village Association & Balquhidder, Lochearnhead & Strathyre Community Council	Strathyre	Stirling	Maralyn Dingle	01877 384 208