

City of Edinburgh Beautiful Scotland winners announced

Three City of Edinburgh communities picked up major awards yesterday, Wednesday 22 September 2010, at the prestigious Beautiful Scotland award ceremony in the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes. And two other City of Edinburgh communities were presented with medal certificates by the Provost of Fife, Frances Melville.

The award ceremony is the climax of a year of continuous work by local people throughout Scotland and, as well as specific awards being presented, gold, silver gilt, silver or bronze medal certificates are also given to the community groups who have toiled hard to successfully transform their local environments.

The **City of Edinburgh** went home with the City Award, along with a silver gilt medal certificate in the city category; **Hailsland Park** were presented with the Permanent Landscaping Award as well as a silver gilt medal certificate in the flatted community category. Another flatted community, **Wheatfield Backgreen Association**, picked up the Jim Murdie Trophy for Sustainability and a silver gilt medal certificate. **Restalrig & Lochend House** went home with a silver gilt medal certificate in the flatted community category and, last but not least, **Presonfield** were presented with a bronze medal certificate in the urban community category.

The five communities from City of Edinburgh were competing with 73 from across Scotland in the 2010 Beautiful Scotland project and were visited by highly experienced judges during a national judging tour in August to discover the most clean, sustainable and beautiful community in Scotland. The judges assess three themes, namely: horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation.

John Summers OBE, Chief Executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful, and master of ceremonies at the Awards said, "Beautiful Scotland celebrates the communities

which are working to improve and enhance their local areas through environmental education, recycling, and encouraging litter-free environments as well as horticulture. These awards presented today go some way to recognising all the hard work that volunteers and local authorities put in throughout the year to ensure that visitors and local community members are able to enjoy clean, sustainable and beautiful surroundings.”

- Ends -

For further information, please contact: Suzanne Roberts, Press Co-ordinator on 01786 468 236 or 07841 369 430.

If you would like to speak with the groups involved or request a photo, please contact the specified community representative detailed in the attached excel spreadsheet. Comments from the Judges can be found on page three of the release and may be used as quotes.

The National, and other regional press releases, are available for download at the Beautiful Scotland media centre: <http://news.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/BeautifulScotland.asp>

Notes to news editors:

- Beautiful Scotland (formerly Beautiful Scotland in Bloom) is a project working for the improvement of local environments and has been successful in transforming communities of all sizes throughout Scotland during its 43-year existence.
- Beautiful Scotland is supported by Zero Waste Scotland and run by Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB). KSB is an environmental charity which aims to protect, preserve and enhance the environment of town and country in Scotland for the benefit of the public. Keep Scotland Beautiful administers the People and Places, Keep Scotland Tidy, Blue Flag and Seaside Award, and the Eco-Schools Scotland environmental programmes along with the Sustainable Scotland Network, Climate Challenge Fund and Going Carbon Neutral Stirling programmes. Keep Scotland Tidy is supported by the Scottish Government through its Zero Waste Scotland Programme. Further information can be found at www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org
- Zero Waste Scotland is the new programme created by the Scottish Government to support delivery of its Zero Waste plan. Zero Waste Scotland has been created to provide a one-stop-shop for support and advice to individuals, businesses and local authorities in order to help them reduce waste, recycle more and use natural resources more efficiently. It will integrate the activities of WRAP Scotland, Waste Aware Scotland, Keep Scotland Tidy, Remade Scotland, Envirowise in Scotland, NISP in Scotland, and some programmes delivered by the Community Recycling Network for Scotland.
- Hundreds of thousands of people from villages, towns and cities benefit from an improvement in the quality of their local environment as a result of communities' participation in the Beautiful Scotland project. Local businesses also benefited from the increased volume of tourists and visitors going to see the improvements for themselves.
- There are 11 categories based on electoral roll population size, ranging from Wee Village (villages with a population up to 300) to City (population 100,001 and over). The judges travelled the country in pairs and judged by category. This year, the Clachan Award has been merged with the Wee Village Award.
- 73 entries from the length and breadth of Scotland entered this year's project.
- A medal system was introduced in 2008 to ensure that, providing communities meet the Beautiful Scotland objectives their efforts are rewarded. The Medals were: Gold – outstanding – an exceptionally high standard is delivered throughout all Beautiful Scotland objectives. Silver Gilt – Very Good, A high standard has been achieved which meets the judging criteria and objectives of Beautiful Scotland, including sections of exceptionally high standards. Silver – Good, Considered an above-average entry that meets most of the judging criteria and objectives of

Beautiful Scotland. Bronze – Average, An average entry that meets most but not necessarily all of the judging criteria and objectives of Beautiful Scotland.

- The Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society Trophy is awarded to a local authority for horticultural excellence. The Wright Sustainable Development Award is awarded to a local authority for efforts to deliver Sustainable Development through Local Agenda 21.
- A full list of the 2010 winners is attached but for details of previous award winners please visit: <http://news.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/BeautifulScotland.asp>

Community information

The following comments from the Judges may be used as quotes.

City of Edinburgh

Beautiful Scotland judges commented, “Edinburgh meets the challenge of its enormous visitor numbers with a blend of determination and innovation. High standards of perennial horticultural display, aided by links with the Edinburgh Botanic Garden, make the city an example of varied and interesting sustainable planting. The city should pride itself on the participation of schools in the Green Flag and Eco-School programmes, as well as its other fine eco educational programmes and initiatives such as in Holyrood Park.”

Hailsland Park

Beautiful Scotland judges commented, “Hailesland Park can only be described as a complete community landscape designed and maintained by the community. This wonderful area with planted beds full of colour and texture set within and around a series of themed gardens is both unexpected and a delight.”

Wheatfield Backgreen Association

Beautiful Scotland judges commented, “This is a true community project that has been running for five years now. The garden overall has evolved with a type of synergy that professionals seldom achieve. It has all the key elements for success, obvious connecting paths, generous social space, hub gathering areas, and regular organised activities. We cannot fault this garden or the group’s efforts. They have been doing so well without any advice that we don’t want to give any in case this special garden loses its flavour!”

Restalrig & Lochend House

Beautiful Scotland judges commented, “The landscaped areas and manicured gardens that embrace and surround these two high rise dwellings is a joy to behold, and is a testament to the group’s hard and continued work over a long period, as well as the vision they have for this area. These gardens and adjacent areas have transformed the whole area, not just in terms of the visual experience you get but also knowing that it is potentially changing the cultural view of those who live within the area.”

Prestonfield

Beautiful Scotland judges commented, “The Prestonfield group has a long tradition of working in their area. The war memorial is an important focal point in the community and the work of the group here and the beds by the community centre provide welcome colour. There are a number of attractive private gardens.”

Beautiful Scotland Trophy Winners 2010

Premier Award

The Rosebowl
Best Village Shield

Rothesay, Argyll & Bute
Newcastleton, Scottish Borders

Class Awards

City Award	Edinburgh, City of Edinburgh
Small City	Coatbridge, North Lanarkshire
Large Town Trophy	Glenrothes, Fife
Medium Town Trophy	Forres, Moray
Small Town Trophy	Bridge of Allan, Stirling
Urban Community Award	Uddingston, South Lanarkshire
Coastal Resort Award	Rothesay, Argyll & Bute
Flatted Community Trophy	Hamiltonhill Allotments, Glasgow City
Large Village Trophy	Wigtown, Dumfries & Galloway
Small Village Trophy	Newcastleton, The Scottish Borders
Wee Village Trophy	Scotlandwell, Perth & Kinross

Entrant Awards

New Entrant Trophy	Kinghorn, Fife
Horticultural Award	Blairgowrie, Perth & Kinross
Permanent Landscaping Award	Hailesland Park, City of Edinburgh
Jim Murdie Trophy for Sustainability	Wheatfield Backgreen Association, City of Edinburgh

Local Authority Awards

Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society Trophy	Fife Council - Glenrothes
Wright Sustainable Development Award	Dundee City Council - Dundee

Special Awards

VisitScotland Award for Tourism	St Andrews, Fife
Scottish Natural Heritage Biodiversity Award	Greenhead Moss, Wishaw, North Lanarkshire
David Welch Award for Something Special	Auchmuty & Dovecot TRA, Fife
Continuous Community Involvement	Aberdour, Fife
Special Endeavour	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban Roots, Toryglen, North Lanarkshire 2. EU Church Garden, Shotts, North Lanarkshire 3. St Andrews Primary School, Rothesay, Argyll & Bute 4. Castlehill Park, Whithorn Evergreens, Dumfries & Galloway

Number of Awards by Local Authority Area

Aberdeen City	2	Aberdeenshire	3
Argyll & Bute	5	City of Edinburgh	8
Dumfries & Galloway	7	Dundee City	4
East Lothian	1	Fife	19
Glasgow City	3	Highland	1
Inverclyde	1	Moray	2
North Ayrshire	1	North Lanarkshire	19
Perth & Kinross	5	South Lanarkshire	7
Stirling	2	The Scottish Borders	6
West Lothian	1		