

Ferry Fair Parade

We ended the year on a high note at the Ferry Fair parade. Cath Paterson, who co-ordinates the Cash for Cans project, became GreenFerry's 'Queen Cath' for the day. You can see Cath here in her can costume, designed and created by June Jansen (who cleverly disguised herself as a tree!) Steve Jansen made Cath's crown using recycled cans. Taking part in the parade was great fun for everyone, and a nice way to end to the summer.



Volunteer award

In June, GreenFerry's chair, Joyce Faulkner, received an invitation to the 'Year of the Volunteer' awards ceremony at the City Chambers. Donald Anderson, leader of the council, presented her with a certificate and thanked her for her contribution and commitment to the environment in South Queensferry.

Local heroes

Each issue, we said we would tell you about someone who has made a special effort for the environment in Queensferry. Our second local hero is Dan Davison who, many know, regularly clears litter from the beach and surrounding area. Dan can often be seen trailing large plastic bags home with him. Not content with collecting the rubbish, he sorts it out so that plastic bottles and cans end up flat and in the right recycling bins.



Dan's dedication, and his experience of the beach, made him a natural choice to lead CleanFerry's Beachwatch survey. Dan is our new 'local hero.'

Thank you

So many thanks if you contributed to our GreenFerry funds, joined our Friends list, helped out with projects, or turned out for community activities. We've all worked hard, and, I hope you'll agree, together we have all achieved a lot.

We would also like to thank City of Edinburgh council, and council workers for the support they give to all our local environmental groups.

Finally, to clear up any confusion, we should make clear that GreenFerry is a separate group from Queensferry in Bloom but, of course, a lot of the work we do, and the funds we raise, directly and indirectly supports Queensferry in Bloom's entry into the both the regional and the national bloom competitions. We are looking forward to working with them on joint projects in the future.

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GreenFerry

Friends' Issue 2

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Best Urban Village – 2005!

South Queensferry is jumping for joy after its **major** success in the Keep Edinburgh Growing competition 2005. Thanks to the collective efforts of local environmental groups, businesses, residents, and individuals, Queensferry picked up no less than **SIX** awards.

The Rail Bridge won **first prize** for best licensed premises front. Ferry Tap won **third prize**. Dorothy Warren took **first prize** for her wildlife garden, Echline Primary School won **second prize** in the school grounds section, and Wayne Shepherd from Queensferry High School won a **special mention** for the Atrium garden project there. And of course **Best Urban Village 2005** – well that went to South Queensferry. Well done **everybody**.



GreenFerry is delighted to have contributed to this success. Here is what we did to help.

GreenFerry managed the large-scale flower project in the High Street. West Edinburgh Local Development Council awarded us a £5000 grant to fix an automatic watering system to the shop fronts. This was installed by Turf Irrigation Solutions of Linlithgow. Twice a day now, the water switches itself on and keeps the baskets moist -- well that's the theory. We've had some teething troubles as pipes have popped out, missed their basket, and given someone an unexpected cold shower, but on the whole we're well pleased.

As promised, we then spent the extra money from this newsletter on tubs and flowers. (You can see these at the history posts and elsewhere in the High Street.) A team of people met over three days in June to sand, varnish, then paint them. Our team included retired VAT 69 workers, members of the Art Club, and Ian Andrews of Coopercraft. Local joiner, Kenny Sinclair, secured them on site, and Ged Casey, a local engineer, lined them with polythene. We set a planting day and the community turned out to fill the tubs with stones, gravel and compost, and then put in bedding plants. The luxury liner 'Golden Princess' was there that day and their jazz band found themselves unexpectedly helping to lift and site two (extraordinary heavy) stone troughs at the Priory Church. (Scotmid donated these.) Well done chaps. You are honorary GreenFerry members. And thank you to all who helped in any way with this project. Some volunteers are pictured above at our 'garden centre' for the morning -- otherwise known as the police station.

Tubs need to be watered, of course, and many individuals and businesses adopted a tub or a flower box. The local police also took part. Agilent Technologies sponsored two tubs, and John Watson attached our brass-coloured plates, and we put flower boxes along the railings of the terraces, which proved a great success.



GreenFerry also co-ordinated the hanging basket project for the High Street. Local businesses contributed by each paying for their own basket(s) and Ballantyne's Nurseries supplied these. Joyce and Jim (that well-known musical duo) helped raise extra money by playing jazz and swing music in Tesco's and Scotmid. Thanks to both supermarkets for their support.

A small grant from the Chestnut Fund allowed GreenFerry to buy a stock of tools for community use. These were immediately put to good use when we turned out to help Queensferry-in-Bloom clear weeds from Mclvor's Brae, and then to help CleanFerry sweep the High Street from end to end the day before the bloom competition. The Chestnut Fund also helped towards GreenFerry's insurance which now covers other environmental groups when they work together. This represents a considerable saving for them.

Sportsman Events thrilled us when they turned up later in the summer with a very generous cheque of £1000 for GreenFerry. We are now planning to increase the number of tubs significantly, add extra baskets, and plant up the High Street with winter flowers.

In the summer term, GreenFerry became involved in Queensferry High School's Atrium garden project when we helped one of their pupils, Wayne Shepherd, to get a small grant of £200 from the 'Grounds for Awareness' scheme. Wayne visited the Botanical Gardens, and B&Q, and then set about costing his project. His efforts won him a special mention in the Keep Edinburgh Growing competition. He now hopes to go to Oatridge College to study horticulture. Well done, Wayne.

GreenFerry members have also been working with the primary schools, and sit in on their eco-school committees. Cath Paterson and June Jansen are helping to plant a bog garden for minibeasts at Queensferry Primary. They started the children off on their own composting projects using 2 litre plastic bottles. (Good for recycling too.) On 27 September, June will also help plant some mini-trees there.

Finally, along with staff of the Staghead Hotel, GreenFerry members helped with a bench in the harbour in memory of a Queensferry Primary pupil who died very suddenly in November. The bench was sited in April and is much in use.

Where now? Apart from the winter flower project, GreenFerry is now working on a bag-for-life project, and possibly a drama project which will encourage primary school children to take a more active part in caring for their surrounds.

Friends of Ferry Glen. Great progress has been made here. Friends of the Ferry Glen steering group has been working with the Edinburgh Greenbelt Trust and the City Council to improve this lovely local woodland area. Agilent gave £20,000 for the initial proposals, and a public consultation took place to discuss these. We're happy to report now that GreenSpace has just approved a £40,000 grant which will almost certainly get the project started in the next few months. GreenFerry has applied for a grant of £5,000 to restore the paths as their contribution.

CleanFerry has had a very successful year. With a council grant, they bought their own litter-pickers and increased the number of clean-up events from 2 to a staggering 12 last year. They put in 1878 hours of voluntary litter-picking between them, and started a group called 'litter-pickers anonymous'. While this might sound like a group of people who need therapy (which may be true of course!) it's actually 23 individuals who 'borrowed' a litter-picker and volunteered to keep an area near them clean in their own time. This merry band can be seen occasionally crossing paths (literally) and waving their litter-pickers at each other as they venture further afield. (Let us know if you want to join in.) Cleanferry also received a welcome boost from Alexis Dow of Watchman Alarms who sold hundreds of green wristbands to remind us all that 'Cleaner is Greener'. CleanFerry will use the money to print luminous waistcoats for volunteers to wear at clean-ups. Finally, CleanFerry's latest project was to take part in the Marine Conservation Society's Beachwatch survey on 18 September. This was part of a national survey to build up picture of the litter that washes up on beaches all around the UK's coastline.



Queensferry in Bloom registered Queensferry for the bloom competitions, put together a folio of all the work done, and showed the bloom judges round the village earlier in the summer. They collected the Best Urban Village prize at the City Chambers, and £100 in garden vouchers. Then, on 14 September, they travelled to Edzell to enjoy a coach tour of the area, and to receive a certificate as a Scotland-in Bloom finalist for 2005. Queensferry in Bloom's own projects this year were to organise the additional bulb-planting in November, and to continue with their plans for the new garden at the old playpark in Hawthornbank. They also arranged a community weeding session just before the bloom judging day.

Echline Community Woodland

Echline joined the Community Woodlands Association, and sent a representative to attend their Scottish conference at Woodside Halls in Glasgow. The Community Woodland Association supports woodland work in urban areas, and their conference brought together people from all over Scotland to share their ideas. Some very interesting presentations were given, followed by a series of workshops. Site visits were then arranged for the afternoon for participants to see examples of some the excellent work done by other voluntary groups. Closer to home, Echline Community Woodland volunteers arrange litter clean-ups and trim the paths so that everyone can continue to enjoy this green space.