# Shetland Environmental Awards 2012



Supported by the Shetland Environment Group



### Foreword

It is my pleasure to introduce the winners of the 2012 Shetland Environmental Awards. For 24 years, these awards have acknowledged a wide range of projects demonstrating sustainability, innovation and best practice. Each one of these projects has contributed to Shetland's rich and diverse environment – an environment we all cherish and wish to preserve for the future.

The awards have always been truly inclusive, attracting nominations for a wide variety of projects from all sectors of the community. This year's award winners have again shown an outstanding commitment to our environment.

On behalf of the Shetland Amenity Trust, I would like to thank the Shetland Environment Group for its continued support of the awards as well as the award sponsors, details of which you will find in the back of the booklet.

Finally, I would like to pass on my personal congratulations to all this year's winners - I hope you enjoy today's event and are happy with your award and what you have achieved.

Brian P Gregson Chairman Shetland Amenity Trust & Shetland Environment Group



# Cecilia James

Since moving to Shetland two years ago, Cecilia James has carried out regular litter picks on the roadsides and beaches in her local area. This year, spurred on by increasing levels of roadside litter and a letter in the local paper from tourists about roadside bruck, she decided to scale up her efforts and carryout a one woman redd up along the main road from Voe to Lerwick. This is an 18 mile stretch - although if you count both roadsides, the ditches and adjacent parks she is actually clearing bruck from around 100 miles! She hopes her efforts will not only clear our environment of a lot of bruck but also highlight the issue of roadside litter in Shetland and encourage people to stop littering.

Cecilia started her redd up in September and is collecting all of the bruck gathered so a final weight gathered and photos of the bruck can be taken before disposal. She hopes to reach Lerwick before Christmas and plans to send the photos with a letter to the tourists who wrote into the paper to show them that we do care about our environment.

You can follow Cecilia on the Dunna Chuck Bruck Facebook page.

### JUDGING PANEL COMMENTS

Cecilia is an inspirational individual. Undertaking this Redd Up in the colder months shows her dedication to Shetland's environment. We hope her efforts encourage everyone to dispose of their litter responsibly. Roadside bruck is not only a blight on our landscape but also a hazard to our wildlife. We wish Cecilia well in the completion of her Redd Up and future environmental endeavours.





place in April 2012. Over its 25 years
Da Redd Up has grown from a relatively
small group of a few hundred individuals
clearing mainly coastal areas of the debris
washed up with the winter storms, to over
20% of the Shetland population volunteering their
time to clear Shetland's coastlines and roadsides. This
makes Da Voar Redd Up the largest community based
voluntary clear up per head of population in the
UK.

During its 25 years, more than 72,000 Redd Up volunteers have removed over 1,500 tonnes of bruck from Shetland's environment. As well as making a significant impact on the visual amenity of Shetland, the volunteers remove a large amount of bruck hazardous to wildlife, including livestock, birds, marine creatures, fish, seals and otters.

Volunteer numbers for the campaign are higher than ever, showing that islanders really care about their environment and will ensure Da Voar Redd Up is well supported for years to come.

#### **JUDGING PANEL COMMENTS**

Da Voar Redd Up would not exist without its volunteers. 25 years of support is a fantastic achievement for any campaign and anybody who has volunteered to take part throughout this time should be very proud of what they have achieved. The level of volunteer participation is the envy of many, and the campaign has inspired others throughout the world to start their own initiatives. On behalf of the Shetland Community we would like to thank all the volunteers for their past, present and continued support.

## Gardiesfauld Youth Hostel

Run by the Unst Youth Centre Trust, Gardiesfauld Youth Hostel is a voluntary run, non-profit making, community organisation located in Uyeasound, Unst.

Gardiesfauld is the only independent hostel in Shetland and has also recently added a caravan park to its accommodation. It provides an essential service in the North Isles for islanders and visitors by providing quality, affordable accommodation.

The hostel is well placed for visitors who want to explore all three North Isles, making these islands accessible to many different groups. Regular users include Scout groups, youth groups, school groups, canoe clubs, caravan clubs and diving clubs. It is also well used by the local community, accommodating bands for local events. providing a space for gatherings, offering tours during UnstFest and the garden for land sports during the annual regatta.

Due to the historic nature of the building, maintenance costs and energy efficiency were major issues. During 2012 the Trust raised funds to undertake a series of upgrades to make the building more energy efficient, the enterprise more sustainable and improve the service on offer.

The hostel provides the North Isles with a source of tourist revenue and employs three local people on a seasonal basis, which is of great importance to such

a fragile, rural community.

### **JUDGING PANEL COMMENTS**

Gardiesfauld is a fantastic community resource, which offers affordable access to the North Isles and encourages people to explore and enjoy this unique environment. Many members of the panel have used the facility, including the new caravan park, and were very impressed. They wish the Trust every success with their future plans to install more environmental measures.





Since taking over the croft 26 years ago, Tony and Beth Gerrard have embarked on a tree planting scheme to create shelter belts for stock, habitat for birds and wildlife, and paths and picnic areas for leisure. Open to the public, they actively encourage visitors to come and see what they have done and enjoy the surroundings.

Other features created include a pond, which is the only known breeding site in Shetland for large red damselfly, bird feeding stations, which attract many bird species, and plants which produce flowers, berries and fruits, to encourage bees, butterflies and insects as well as birds. Local birders often drop in to see the many migrant birds which stop off to feed and Tony and Beth also regularly post sightings for others to share.

Wild flowers are actively encouraged in the meadows, plantations and around the burn, and hay/silage is not cut until seeds have set. The croft is also part of a biodiversity scheme which limits sheep numbers and excludes stock from herb rich meadows at certain times. This has resulted in many wild

flower species, including some which are rare in Shetland, which creates colour and perfume to attract wildlife.

# JUDGING PANEL COMMENTS

Tony and Beth have a real commitment to managing their croft responsibly to ensure wild flowers and wildlife are cared for as well as their animals. Their tree planting scheme and land management plan build on this to create a variety of habitats to be enjoyed by all, including the public. Many members of the panel have visited the site and would encourage all to see it first hand.

## Our Sponsors

The awards are sponsored by many members of the Shetland Environment Group, namely the Shetland Civic Society, Scottish Natural Heritage, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Shetland Islands Council and VisitShetland.

The awards presentation event is sponsored by the Total Laggan-Tormore Project.

The Shetland Amenity Trust would like to thank all of these sponsors; their support is instrumental in the award's success.















