

## **COMMUNITY CORNER AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGENERATION AWARDS FOR 1997: 17 OCTOBER 1997**

### **COMMUNITY CORNER: ROGER CROFTS**

#### **What is Community Corner?**

- Community Corner is all about helping local communities to improve parts of their environment which are run-down and degraded.
- It depends on commitment and enthusiasm within a community group, willingness to learn from experts and, significantly, willingness to maintain the project once it has been established.
- That way all of the partners hope that raising awareness of community action for the environment can be increased.

#### **The partnership**

- Key to the partnership is the Beechgrove Garden Hit Squad of Jim McCurdy and Walter Gilmour. Their expertise is given to projects. In this they are supported by Tern Television, producers of the Beechgrove Garden and of course by the BBC.
- Scottish Enterprise provide some money and SNH provide both money and advice to projects.
- Excellent example of multi-sector and multi-interest partnership working to benefit local communities.

#### **This year's projects**

- Over 200 submissions, slightly more than last year.
- Great variety of projects many struggling against opposition, lack of knowledge and lack of resources. But succeeding through motivation and commitment, combination of personal effort and raising funds from other sources.
- A short list of 20 got the Hit Squad treatment and all of these go forward into the larger competition of the Environmental Regeneration Awards.
- Judge Rebecca Hughes, Ian Hart, Carol Baxter and David Mann whittled down the 20 to 3 for commendation in order of merit. We await with interest the announcement of the winners by the Minister.

#### **Environmental Regeneration Awards**

- Alistair Proctor of Scottish Enterprise will now describe our joint endeavour in the Environmental Regeneration Awards.

#### **Roger Crofts**