



The Scottish  
Parliament

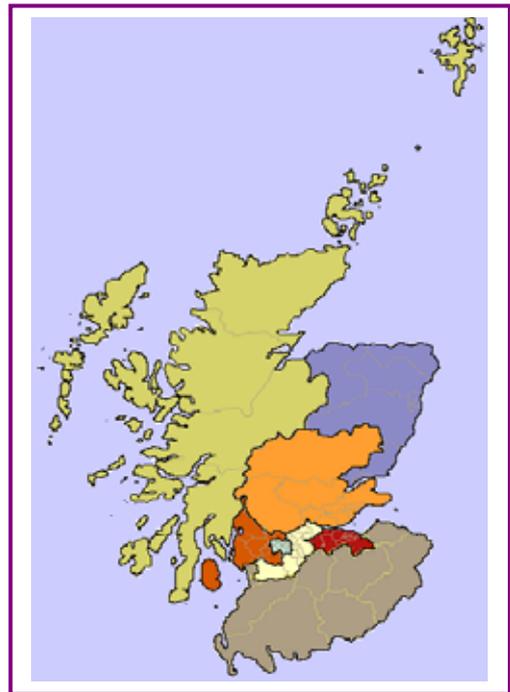


# Behind the Banners

Holyrood Opening Ceremony  
October 2004

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# Background

For the opening ceremony for the new Scottish Parliament building two community groups from each of the eight political regions of Scotland were invited to create banners. These sixteen banners were carried in the Riding down the Royal Mile, exhibited during the opening ceremony, and then returned back to each community.

As well as representing geographical areas, the community groups represented five key aspects of Scottish civic life: education, diversity, culture and history, social care and the land.



Each group was invited to express in words and images, a key principle or value that was important to them in their work. Ideas that would find a resonance across Scotland and with similar groups. Lastly, these sentiments were to be those they wanted to share with the Parliament as it moved into its new home.



The overall design for the banners was developed by Claire Higney. This created a common colourful structure for all the banners in the Riding. The net materials used were easy to work with, quick to make and light to carry. Arts workers Deidre Nelson and Iyaah Warren then worked with groups across Scotland to produce the final banners.

People responded with enthusiasm and creativity to the project. In some areas, members from the wider village, community or island also came to help.



Two members from each group carried the banners down the Royal Mile. The presence of such beautiful images and evocative words sometimes caused the people watching to break out into spontaneous applause. On this historic day, the rich and vibrant civic life of Scotland's communities was well represented and acknowledged.

Each group writes about their ideas for their banners in the following pages

# Central

## Golden Opportunities in Education (GOE), Coatbridge



### *'Rising to the challenge'*

Education is a must for us. Through our courses we undertake three things: education, exploration, and involvement with our community. We have learnt about Italian language and culture, computers and dress making. We have also undertaken voluntary work in local agencies such as the Talking Newspaper, charity shops and adult literacy. We have covered the Burns Trail and visited Scottish castles. We have been to Strasburg, Westminster and Edinburgh parliaments and plan to visit Brussels in 2005.

Our group consists of ladies over 50 – some well over. During our time together we have been surprised at what we have achieved. We feel education is liberating – it sets you free and age is no obstacle. Over the past few years we have soared like the kite on our banner and overcome many challenges – the image is about saying the sky is the limit. We are sure our MSPs are as capable as this group of OAPs of doing the same.

#### **Banner makers:**

Mary Byrne, Eleanor Busby, Elizabeth Campbell, Nan Clelland, Cathie Crichton, Betty Downs, Helen Grant, Jean Harrold, Ellen McGroarty, Anne Paterson, Joyce Paterson, Janet Taylor

## Community Training and Development Unit (CTDU), Falkirk

CTDU runs citizen education programmes. Standing up for ourselves is a really important idea for us. There is a growing social movement of people with a learning disability claiming their right to the same opportunities as other citizens, to develop their abilities. They are getting organised into self-advocacy groups.

Building these new local organisations is every bit as important as building a new parliament in Holyrood. It's the essential other side of politics - in Scotland, we are *standing up for ourselves* with our own parliament.



### *'Standing up for ourselves'*

Our banner shows the Ochils at sunrise to represent a new day, trees (environment) houses (communities) and a river with fish representing a clean river Forth. In the river are words from the Scottish Parliament Mace – *integrity, compassion, justice and wisdom*. We want our political representatives to work to make these values a reality in Scotland, just as we in the Forth Valley will continue to do at local level.

#### **Banner makers:**

Jason Wallace, Gillian Orr, Andrew Rae, John Whyte, Colin Narloch, Barbara Ann McGinn, William McGougan, Scott Mitchell, Carolyn Rutherford, William Boath, John Whyte, Jason Wallace

# Glasgow

## The Coach House Trust, Glasgw



*'Hope for the future, confidence acceptance, inclusion'*

The Coach House Trust is based in Glasgow with associated workshop sites across the city. It provides occupational, educational and employment opportunities for adults recovering from addiction, mental health problems, physical disabilities and learning difficulties. As a social firm, we combat isolation and intolerance with innovation.

Practical support and worthwhile work is offered to help people productively reintegrate into community life. People learn skills such as recycling materials and composting and a full range of arts classes are provided - wood carving, pottery, mosaic work, ceramics and painting.

The Trust is about people – so in the centre of the banner is a group of our guys under our logo. We asked people what the CHT meant to them. The comments we chose summed up most of the feelings expressed. We decided to group the words round the people to represent a feeling of being enclosed by a family and all that means.

### **Banner makers:**

Gary McCarthy, Mark Niven, Kenny Burns, Rita Winters

## Centre for Lifelong Learning Glasgow

Here students study a mixture of subjects from computing to stained glass making. The words on the banner were seen as a good reflection of the work of the centre (equal opportunities for everyone) and a message for the parliament.

The different languages on our banner reflect the diversity among our students that we welcome and learn from. As a Glasgow project, we chose the city symbols - the bird, fish, bell and tree. The open doors represent the centre's aim of improving access to, and an interest in, learning for the whole community. Living, learning and growing together was seen as a key process fostered by the centre.

The word 'bairns' captures the importance of children if parents are to be involved. The childcare facilities we provide help to reduce the barriers to participation in education.



*'We're a' Jock Tamson's bairns - living, learning, growing- together'*

### **Banner Makers:**

Julia Donachie, Doris Oppong, Alan Bell, Brian Powell, Laila Al Abushe, Alzira De Costa

# Highlands & Islands

## The Gigha Island Heritage Trust



*'Is fhearr fheuchainn na bhith san dùil- air son briseadh an là.  
It's better to try than to hope – for a  
New Dawn'*

The trust was set up in March 2002, assisted by a grant from the Scottish Land Fund. This was when we, the islanders of Gigha, took the historic step of buying our island. Our slogan *Latha Ghiogha- a New Dawn* was about ensuring that for all time Gigha would be held in trust for the benefit of all. With community ownership the population is gradually increasing, new businesses are being created or re-located and housing improvements being made.

*Latha Ghiogha - a New Dawn* heralded the community buy-out. The Gaelic and English phrase on the banner shows the way forward for our island. It expresses that we have gone on and tried something and succeeded, not just wished something would happen. We see this as a relevant message for the Parliament as it tries to improve life in Scotland.

### **Banner Makers:**

Lorna MacAlister, Lorna Andrew, Susan Allan, Ann McSporran, Audrey Tate, Chris McNeill, Margaret Andrew, Sheila Moir, Bethany Town, Sereno Town, Willie McSporran

## The Golspie Young Carers Project

The project holds weekly drop- in sessions as well as one-to-one discussions with young carers who range in ages from 5 years to 18 years. The difficulties for the young people can be very stressful and demanding on their school and leisure time as well as their health due to disability or illness within the home. Some of the children are in a one-parent family, which can mean that the young person has little or no help until we are made aware of the situation.

The commitment and support they give to their families is very often overlooked and undervalued by others.



*'Scottish young carers – proud to be  
making a difference.  
P.S. And we're dead brilliant!'*

The main picture is the project logo, which has been altered slightly by having the people dressed in kilts. The words came directly from the Young Carers and expresses how they feel about themselves and the difference they have made to those they care about.

### **Banner Makers:**

Emma Ross, Jade Malcolm, Carly Malcolm, Sarah Baddon, Jamie Mackay

# Lothians

## Better Burdiehouse Burn, Edinburgh



*'Haven for wildlife – heaven for all'*

The group was constituted in 1993 by a group of people from the community dedicated to improving the environment of the local burn. Children from the school and the community centre have been involved in "burn clean-ups", planting trees and wild flowers. Edinburgh Green Belt Trust has also been involved. The group have won several awards for their efforts to make the burn valley a place for young and old to enjoy.

The banner sums up the essence of Burdiehouse Burn valley. Fish, ducks, rabbits, voles, otter, deer, birds of every description, especially the beautiful heron, colourful trees and flowers all give joy to people walking their dogs, pushing their buggies, finding a place to relax and reflect, and children playing in the burn. As one of the group said – children these days also need 'unorganised play'. The community of Burdiehouse and Southhouse is privileged to have this wonderful amenity so accessible.

### **Banner makers:**

Gilbert Clark, Chris Dixon, May Marjoribanks, Jackie McLaren, Margaret McIver, Babs Surradge, Liz Wallace.

## The Welcoming Project, Edinburgh

This is part of the Adult Learning Project and connects Scots, minority ethnic people and refugees. It enables people to meet across cultures and learn from each about issues facing refugees and minority groups in Scotland. There is an emphasis on sharing music, song and dance and support with English language.

The words chosen highlight the need for a warm welcome by the Scottish population to incoming groups in order for new people to fully participate in society. This would include a lack of hostile legislation especially to the most vulnerable group - refugees. These immigrant groups, some new and some more longstanding, bring rich cultures and skills to Scotland.

The image of the world shows how we are all part of the human race, one different people. The hands of different colours emphasis the equality across race and culture and the fact that the world/ Scotland belongs to all that live in it. The words in many languages are translations of "hello" and "welcome" to emphasise the cultural diversity of Scotland, the linguistic richness and again - the need to welcome.



*'A warm welcome enriches us all'*

### **Banner makers:**

Aysel, Kim, Fatima, Farida, Karen, Barbara, Mile, Rona, Tony, Eiko

<p><b>1. GOE Group</b>  c/o 46 Albion Street  Coatbridge ML5 3SE  Tel. 01236 601 762</p>	 <p>Central Scotland  Rising to the Challenge</p>
<p><b>2. Community Training and Development Unit</b>  Bothkennar Centre for Citizen Education  Haughs of Airth  Falkirk FK2 8PP  Tel. 01324 832040  admin@ctdu.org.uk</p>	 <p>Central Scotland  Standing up for Ourselves</p>
<p><b>3. Coach House Trust</b>  4 Belmont Lane Kelvinbridge  Glasgow G12 8EN  Tel. 0141 334 6888  info@thecht.co.uk</p>	 <p>Glasgow  Friendship Hope for the future Laughter  Trust Acceptance Encouragement  Confidence Building  Part of the Community Challenges</p>
<p><b>4. Rosemount Flexi-Centre</b>  102 Royston Road  Glasgow G21 2NU  Tel. 0141 553 0808 /0141 552 3090</p>	 <p>Glasgow</p>
<p><b>5. Gigha Heritage Trust</b>  Unit 1 Isle of Gigha  PA41 7AA  Tel. 01583 505388</p>	 <p>Highlands &amp; Islands  Is fhearr fheuchainn na bhith san dèid air son briseadh an lè  It's better to try than to hope - for a New Dawn</p>
<p><b>6. Tykes</b>  The Young Karers East Sutherland  Duke Street  Golspie KW10 6RP  Tel. 01408 633 017  golspiesyc@aol.com</p>	 <p>Highlands &amp; Islands  Scotland's Young Carers Proud To Be Making A Difference  PS WE ARE BRILLIANT</p>
<p><b>7. Welcoming Project</b>  Tollcross Community Centre  117 Fountainbridge  Edinburgh EH3 9QG  Tel. 0131 221 9756</p>	 <p>Lothians  Madainn Math Daniela  A warm welcome enriches us all  selam Jambo Hello Hola Moni</p>
<p><b>8. Better Burdiehouse Burn Group</b>  Burdiehouse Community Education Centre  15 Burdiehouse Street  Edinburgh EH17 8EZ  Tel. 0131 664 2210</p>	 <p>Lothians  haven for wildlife  heaven for all  EDINBURGH BURDIEHOUSE COMMUNITY PROJECT</p>

	<p><b>9. Strathmore Arts Festival Group</b>  Alyth Community Wing  St Andrew Street  Alyth PH11 8AX  Tel. 01828 633451</p>
	<p><b>10. Fife Women's Network</b>  5 South Fergus Place  Kirkcaldy KY1 1YA  Tel. 01592 646690  enquiry@womeninfife.co.uk</p>
	<p><b>11. Dichty Environment Group</b>  Secretary  5 Crathie Place DD4 7TW  Tel. 01382 509 372  Hbell39@hotmail.com</p>
	<p><b>12. Mearns Area Network</b>  Mearns Community Centre  148 High Street Laurencekirk  Tel. 01561 378130  mhl@care4free.net</p>
	<p><b>13. Building Healthy Communities</b>  Dicks Hill Resource Centre  Stranraer DG9 7PW  Tel. 01776 700632  wendicuffe@btconnect.com</p>
	<p><b>14. Leadhills Miners' Library Committee</b>  c/o 69 Main St  Leadhills  ML12 6XP  Tel. 01659 74326</p>
	<p><b>15. Activate Course</b>  Inverclyde Community Development Trust  175 Dalrymple Street  Greenock PA15 1JZ  Tel. 01475 553310</p>
	<p><b>16. Sma'Shot Festival Group</b>  c/o The Tannahill Centre  76 Blackstoun Road  Paisley PA3 INT  Tel. 0141 889 2455 or 0141 886 7511</p>

# Mid Scotland & Fife

## Strathmore Arts Festival Group, Alyth



### *'Rural arts, wild and free'*

This group came out of a children's art festival in 2003 which was trying to widen access to the arts for children and young people in isolated rural areas. The words represent the idea of rural arts being different from urban arts – the difficulties of travel and distance, and the importance of arts having a place in rural areas. In the Alyth area there is the feeling that a lot of cultural activities are centralised and that there should be provision for rural communities on their doorstep.

*"Wild and free"* expressed the way the group want arts provided - in rural locations and providing many creative opportunities. Free was about freedom of expression, and the idea of the added cost implications for rural dwellers. The wording flows over the banner in a rural hilly way - urging people not to forget the ways of rural living. The bright shapes were to give a colourful, childlike setting and the images of dancers and circus people were to be bold, emphasising that art is not just about painting or visual arts.

#### **Banner Makers:**

Rachel Muir, Shirley McGregor, Rhona McKinnon + daughter, John Corrigan, John Aitken, Ella Duncan, Gail Ramsay, Sian Duncan Mhairi Duncan, Valerie Cameron, Ruth Chalmers, Kirstie Bailey, Kirsty Duncan

## The Fife Women's Network

The network provides a social meeting place for women in Fife where information is shared and support provided. Courses such as confidence building or relaxation, decided by women, are also put on. Through this and the contact with others, the women feel that they are better able to find their own identity. We also welcome women from ethnic minorities in the region.

The group felt that women are good at making connections and that the idea of networking is often what women do naturally, so the nine figures show women from all different backgrounds, linking together. It also shows the importance of finding your own identity through connecting with other women – being free in solidarity with others.



### *'Women Connecting'*

#### **Banner makers:**

May Liddle, Mary Gray, Moira Watts, Susan Lister, Margaret Stainfield, Angela Murray, Jane Brignall, Helen Gilroy, Maureen Dorrian, Janet Pringle

# North East Scotland

## Dichty Environmental Action Group, Dundee



*'Nature in Good hands – for tomorrow's youth'*

Starting as a group keen on fishing, the action group have been clearing out the Dichty Water and its tributaries for the past ten years. The independent committee of volunteers work throughout the year to ensure the waters are kept free of debris. The group have succeeded in ensuring the Dichty is a rich environment for wildlife. They work with a wide range of organisations including schools, conservation volunteers, Venture Scouts and others. The site at Longhaugh is a conservation island amid four housing estates in the north - east of Dundee. The group has put in paths, picnic areas and a safe dog exercise area.

They are committed to sustaining this environment for future generations and involve young people at every level. The saltire and thistle in the middle of the banner emphasise our precious environment here in Scotland and the four different birds in each corner show those found in the area.

### **Banner Makers:**

Helen Bell, Brian Bell Ina Bell, Ery Robertson, Marguerite Bell

## Mearns Healthy Living Network, Laurencekirk

This is a Lottery funded project which helps to improve the health of older people and enable them to live independently as long as possible. It includes a shopping service, transport scheme, computer classes, gentle exercise classes and handyperson scheme. Over people from the local area are actively involved in the management of the project. The project is managed by the Mearns Area Project, a rural partnership, which has an established history of successful partnership - working addressing a range of social, health and educational issues affecting rural communities.

Or discussion about the banner centred on how much community activity people were involved in, representing a kind of network through the area. The background of the hills and houses reflects the Mearns area – rural with a scattered network of communities. The heart represents the values which support this network of activity. The text 'Caring and Sharing for the Future' spell out these values whilst stressing the need for continuing support to ensure the future health of communities and the individuals within them.



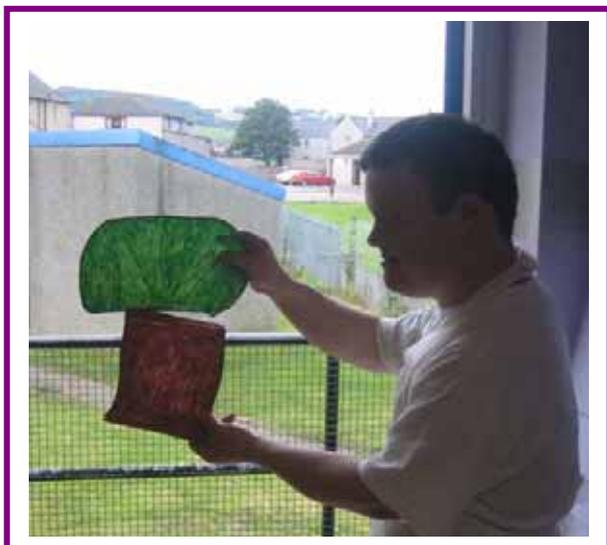
*'Caring and Sharing – for the future'*

### **Banner makers:**

Ed Arrett, Susie Brown, Wilma Armatage, Katy Heath, Adelaide Murray, Jessie Simmonds, Christine Pratt

# South of Scotland

## Building Healthy Communities, Stranraer



*'Healthy Scotland needs good h- art'*

The 'Arts for Health Initiative' was developed to encourage creative opportunities for people from our local community who have physical or mental disabilities, or suffer from severe mental health problems. We aim to create a relaxed environment for participants to experience self expression through the arts, and so enhance their overall health and well-being.

The banner depicted the creative feelings of the group. The flowers and trees represented growth, the group growing and learning together. The colours were colours of joy, the happiness they felt working on the banner. The slogan depicted thoughts about real health. The trees were individuals growing, and using the hearts linked the idea that feeling included and respected gave us all good heart. *'Health Scotland needs good h- art'* said exactly what they felt!

### **Banner makers:**

Robert Bell, Rose Marshall, David McHarrie, Sena Paterson, Veronica Banker, Val Ellis, Eric Burns, Jane Whannel, Marion Lawrie, Sharon Wellbelove, Katherine Harrison

## The Miners' Library, Leadhills

The library committee are involved with keeping the heritage of the village alive through maintaining the library and its historic collection of books and records. The images on the banner focus on the hidden treasures in the area. This area has a rich industrial and social history of progressive reforms in terms of miners living conditions and education and also was home to other significant historical figures. It also of course has riches in the land. As well as lead and other precious minerals, in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, gold came from here for the crowns of James V and some was produced for the current Parliament's Mace.

The words refer to the way we sometimes forget the treasures we have in Scotland – in this case in the Leadhills area. The rich seam along the bottom of the banner demonstrates the rich mineral wealth deposits, including lead and gold, and the beautiful hills which surround the district. The sketch represents the Miners' Library, the oldest subscription library in Britain, established in 1741.



*'Treasure the past – a rich seam to the future'*

### **Banner makers:**

Jean Cameron, Andrew Foley, Fiona Foley, Mary Hamilton, James Moffat, William Moffat, Allison White, Moira White, Anne Whitworth

# West of Scotland

## The Community Apprenticeship Project, Greenock



*'Speak up, act out, move forward'*

This project was established in Inverclyde in 2010 to break down the barriers that inhibit people from taking up university study. It enables local people to study for a degree in community development at the University of Glasgow. The students are either active as volunteers working in the community, or are working in unqualified posts within the voluntary sector. Mature students are supported with a package of financial support - fees, childcare, dependent care costs and travel costs. Many are working on issues such as housing, health, community engagement, disability, youth, drug and alcohol projects.

Our message was a reminder to the Scottish Parliament as well as the communities that we are involved in. We have and will use our voice - we will speak up and be heard. We also need to see action on the issues that communities identify and finally we need to move forward in a positive and collective way together.

### Banner makers:

Wynne Harton, Tracey Ann Marshall, Agnes Wyness, Steve Hamill, Eleanor Miller, Derek McNeill, Dawn Cairns, Julie Cancy, Jane Allen, Helen Martin, Ian Donnachie, Lorna Sweeney, Sandra Galaty

## The Paisley Sma'Shot Festival group, Paisley

The group are involved in the celebration of Sma'Shot day in Paisley. The festival came about as a result of a political battle fought in the 19<sup>th</sup> century between the weavers of Paisley who created the famous paisley pattern cashmere shawls, and the mill owners. The group co-ordinates the annual procession of weavers with banners, storytelling, songs and costumes, working with young people to keep the spirit of the Sma'Shot day alive for the younger generation.

The concept of "binding" and "weaving" relate very much to the Sma'Shot issue, when the weavers eventually won their battle to be paid for the binding thread (Sma' Shot) which secured all the other threads on the loom but was almost invisible. The message we wanted to convey to the parliament comes from this point - just because you can't see it, doesn't mean it isn't important. The idea of coming together and weaving a better secure future for Scotland is an extension of this.



*'Binding Scotland together - weaving a better future'*

### Banner makers:

Ian Dean, James Dean, Anne Johnston, Ceilidh Johnston, Ian McMan, Toni McMan, Nicola McMan, Mimi McCulloch, Lauren Taylor, Anne By, Andrew By

# Finishing touches

Claire Higney's design for the banners incorporated the name of the eight regions in silver on the top of each banner, allowing the crowds to see where the banners were coming from and providing a unified theme for all of them. The colours of the net and fabrics were carefully selected to reflect the different topics and provide a rainbow spectrum.

The most powerful and creative aspect, however, was the way in which each group translated their ideas into beautiful words and images, and produced these results in a matter of weeks.

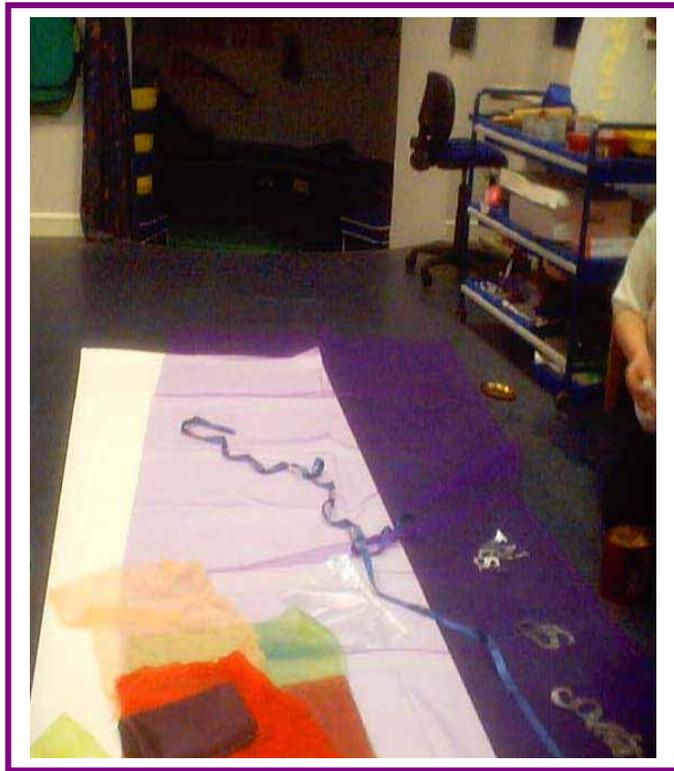


Ideas were firstly worked out on paper. Letters were copied using overhead projectors or, in some cases, just done by hand.

Deidre Nelson and Iyaah Warren worked with individual groups and other local arts workers across Scotland. They showed people how to use the iron-on technique, and translate their ideas into finished designs and then each group set to work.

Finally, all the banners were sent into the Parliament to have the side seams and any last minute repairs done. As the banners were unwrapped one by one, it was a wonderful sight – as someone remarked afterwards – it was “banner heaven”. Thanks are due to Lorna Tait and Elaine Swift who volunteered their time to sew and stitch and provide the last finishing touches.





Public Participation Team  
Visitor & Outreach Services  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh EH99 1SP  
November 2005