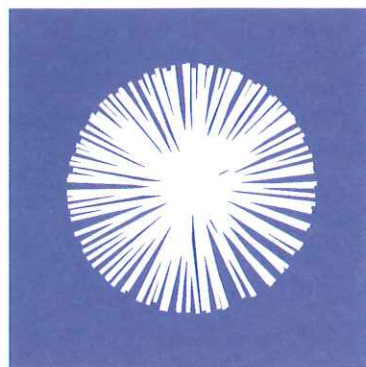


Scottish Environment LINK



The voice of
Scotland's
environment
movement



Annual Report 2005

Covering the year June 2004 to May 2005

Summary of Accounts for 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005

President

Fred Edwards

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Jessica Pepper

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Rosalind Pearson

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Hugh Green

Parliamentary Administrator

Sam Murray

everyone Campaign Coordinator

Susan Warren

Publications

- *LINK Newsletter* a quarterly publication for Members, Supporters and Subscribers, carrying reviews of recent work and information on initiatives by Members and guest contributors
- *Reports* on a range of issues — see publications list at www.scotlink.org

Further information

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Most LINK member bodies are signatories to the everyone campaign at www.everyonecan.org
LINK is a Scottish Company Limited by guarantee and without a share capital under Company No. SC 250899. LINK is a Scottish Charity under SC 000296.

President's Foreword



This time last year I welcomed the opportunity of becoming a servant of Scottish Environment LINK. This had followed discussions about challenges and the generic problems of umbrella organisations. As someone who had watched and admired LINK from the perspective of individual member organisations I was not aware of the abundance of talent, the quality of skill, the accumulation of intelligence, the strategic capacity and the vocational enthusiasm generated by the combination of member organisations. That is a precious resource not simply for the environment but for the nation as a whole. This is all at its most apparent in what surely must be the jewel in the crown of LINK, the Task Forces.

The prophetic role of LINK, demonstrating what is going wrong, indicating a vision of how things might be, and pointing to practical ways of attaining the sustainability of that precious life supporting envelope that is a feature of our planet, is needed more than ever.

As an organisation we have had another year of working with institutions achieving synergy with education, faith communities, the trade unions, business, political organizations and the media.

The political institutions represent a particular challenge in terms of working together. We want constructive dialogue, we want to contribute the intelligence gathered and proposals formulated by our task forces and we want to congratulate and encourage such institutions when they meet the requirements needed to protect our total environment. We recognize the difficulties that confront any political institution that has to deal with problems that involve horizons extending beyond the lives of political administrations. In Scotland we certainly can not complain about accessibility to such institutions, neither can we complain about stated intentions. What does concern us is the widening gap between rhetoric and reality. We will rigorously challenge and vigorously campaign against anything that damages the capacity of this planet to sustain life, any disregard of biodiversity and any short sighted attempts to preserve local environments for some at the expense of others. Short sighted, because ultimately such damage cannot be contained in the long term. Environmental justice is of advantage to all our children and those who come after us.

Our vision, and therefore our associations and connection, can never simply be domestic. Crucial to the ecological balance of our biodiversity are the tremendous numbers of migratory birds, fish and marine mammals. Attitudes to conservation are difficult to sustain if heritage is being trashed in the wider world. Environmental justice means nothing if we secure our comfort by exporting our waste to Asia. Our members recognise these things matter. They forge international links as individual bodies and again collectively through LINK and its membership of The European Environmental Bureau and The World Conservation Union. This international dimension is of necessity going to have to be an increasing focus for us. Climate change is a striking example of something that knows no boundaries. Happily neither does the environment movement. With concerned people all over the world now in contact with each other, the challenge is how effectively and economically to combine our energies and effectiveness for the protection of the environment.

A particular feature of this year's work generated by the G8 agenda has been working with our natural allies in the development organisations. How encouraging when one thinks of the massive public support generated for our common aims by membership of environmental organisations and the contributions to development bodies. Together with our allies our eyes will be on delivery, not rhetoric.

Environment Week at Holyrood was a great pioneering success with seminars everyday sponsored by different parties. It was a magnificent showcase of the value of the Scottish environment to its people and the work they are doing to protect and enhance it. MSPs embraced the occasion with