



Scottish
Environment

LINK

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Scotlands First MSP Landscape Competition

Scottish folksinger Jimmie Macgregor today (5th of February) announced that MSP Willie Coffey has won Scotland's first MSP Landscape competition for his evocative description of Loudoun Valley in his Ayrshire constituency.

Willie Coffey won for describing his favourite landscape as: "Breathtaking, Serene, Historic, Moody, Broody, Alive, Bustling, Dynamic Towns, Castles, Farms, Schools, People, Wildlife – in Perfect Harmony, the Loudoun Valley".

The competition, sponsored by Scottish Environment LINK(1), asked MSPs to name their best loved landscape with a brief explanation of what makes their landscape so special. The responses from 29 MSPs, including John Swinney, Patricia Ferguson, Murdo Fraser, Tavish Scot and Robin Harper, makes up a diverse picture of Scotland's internationally renown landscapes. These include classic mountain chains, landmarks in towns and cities, beaches and urban green spaces.

The two runners up were Ted Brocklebank for his choice of the Cuillin and Mike Pringle for the view of Edinburgh from the Royal Observatory. Ted Brocklebank wrote of the iconic mountain range on Skye; "The Black Cuillin viewed from Elgol lifts the heart and ennobles the spirit. Here surely is Scotland's soul laid bare."

The annual competition has been organised to raise awareness of importance of Scotland's urban and rural landscapes and the need to ensure that they are adequately protected.

"The sheer diversity and special quality of our landscapes is an important part of what makes us Scottish and with a little more care and attention can reflect our burgeoning sense of pride and confidence as a nation," said Jimmie Macgregor, President of the Association of the Protection of Rural Scotland.

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Notes for Editors

1. Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for 34 of Scotland's voluntary environment organisations - representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society.
2. The event is part of Scottish Environment Week 2008, organised by LINK. For more information go to: http://www.scotlink.org/LINK_action/environment_week.php

MSPs and their favourite landscapes

Stewart Stevenson (SNP): CROVIE, ABERDEENSHIRE.

Elizabeth Smith (Con): ARDVRECK CASTLE, LOCH ASSYNT, SUTHERLAND.

Rob Gibson (SNP): BRODICK BAY, ARRAN

Cathy Jamieson (Lab): DAILLY TRAILS SCULPTURE BRIDGE, SOUTH AYRSHIRE

Bill Aitken (Con): MILNGAVIE RESERVOIR, nr GLASGOW

David Whitton (Lab): CAMPSIE HILL, nr GLASGOW

Tavish Scott (Lib Dem): NOSS, SHETLAND

Willey Coffey (SNP): LOUDON VALLEY, AYRSHIRE.

David McLetchie (Con): SALISBURY CRAGS, EDINBURGH

Ted Brocklebank (Con): CUILLIN (from Elgol), SKYE

Elaine Smith (Lab): COATBRIDGE BRIDGES, LANARKSHIRE.

Christopher Harvie (SNP): WEMYSS COAST, FIFE.

Mike Pringle (Lib Dem): ROYAL OBSERVATORY NORTHWARD, EDINBURGH

Nanette Milne (Con): CREAG CHOINNICH, BRAEMAR, ABERDEENSHIRE.

Richard Lochhead (SNP): ROSEISLE BEACH, ELGIN, MORAY

Dave Thompson (SNP): LOSSIEMOUTH EAST BEACH, MORAY

James Kelly (Lab); RUTHERGLEN, Nr GLASGOW

Michael Matheson (SNP): GLEN OF SORROW, OCHIL HILLS, FIFE / STIRLING

Alasdair Allan (SNP): LUSKENTYRE BEACH, ISLE OF HARRIS

Liam McArthur (Lib Dem): SCAPA FLOW TOWARD HOY, ORKNEY

Keith Brown (SNP): WALLACE MONUMENT, STIRLING

Peter Peacock (Lab): BEN WYVIS, HIGHLAND

Bill Wilson (SNP): CLYDE MUIRSHIEL REGIONAL PARK , RENFREW

Robin Harper (Green): SUILVEN FROM A837, HIGHLAND

Murdo Fraser (Con): ALYTH HILL, PERTHSHIRE

Patricia Ferguson (Lab): POSSIL LOCH, GLASGOW

Shona Robison (SNP): BARNHILL GARDENS, BROUGHTY FERRY, DUNDEE

John Swinney (SNP): LOCH TAY FROM KENMORE, PERTHSHIRE

Karen Gillon (Lab): TINTO HILL, BORDERS/LANARKSHIRE