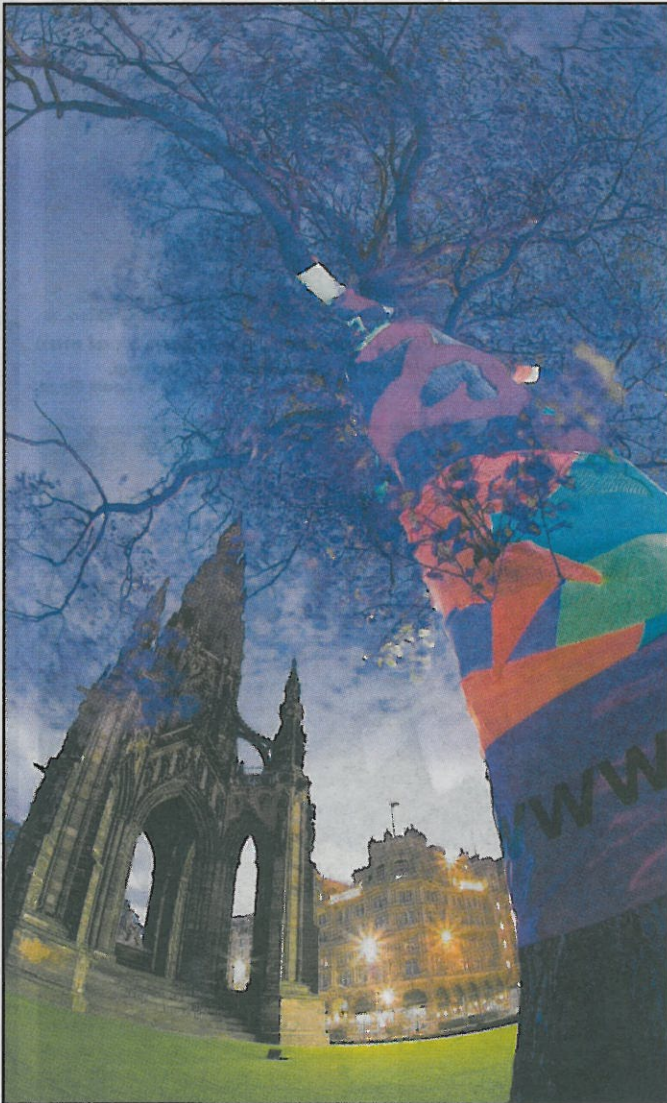


Wool I never, tree gets a cosy jumper

Gordon Bannerman



WINTER WARMER: The jumper-wearing elm tree next to the Scott Monument in Edinburgh's Princes Street.

A TEMPORARY tourist attraction with a difference has been unveiled under the cover of darkness by award-winning Big County event, The Enchanted Forest.

It has been running for seven years and has decorated and lit a condemned elm tree next to the Scott Monument in Edinburgh's Princes Street.

The tree, which is due for the chop early next year, is suffering from Dutch Elm disease, and the team at The Enchanted Forest felt it needed a bit of cheering up.

For the next four weeks, the tree will be sporting a fabulous, cosy jumper that lights up when it's dark!

The project has involved over 70 volunteers from across Scotland, many of whom are members of the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes, with assistance from the Scottish Machine Knitters Association paving the way for the immense "tree jumper".

The wool being used has been treated with an ultraviolet dye which, when combined with a specific type of lighting, allows it to glow in the dark.

Tricia Fox, the locally-based marketing manager for The Enchanted Forest, said: "This project has been several months in planning and we are forever grateful to the ladies of the SWRI and SMKA who all gave of their time freely and helped with the knitting – we could not have done it without them.

"The Enchanted Forest is as much about encouraging people to visit the forest as it is a fantastic night out, and we wanted to draw people's attention to how fantastic trees can look, at night when lit up imaginatively."

Tickets for the 2009 Enchanted Forest are on sale now and are selling quickly, with some events already sold out.

The event takes place at Faskally Wood, near Pitlochry, from October 16 to November 1.