

Rural institute members branch out by giving condemned tree a makeover



CREATIVE: From left are Joyce MacRae, Agnes Clark, Dorothy Hannan and Mary Young

A CONDEMNED tree in Scotland's capital has been given a new look thanks to SWRI members from across Scotland.

The women got busy with their knitting needles to create a glow-in-the-dark jumper for the elm on Princes Street.

The tree has Dutch elm disease and is due to be chopped down early next year but the women from the rural decided to give it one last lease of life as a tourist attraction.

The scheme was organised by bosses at the Enchanted Forest, near Pitlochry, and

has involved volunteers from across Scotland, as well as assistance from the Scottish Machine Knitters Association (SMKA).

SWRI chairwoman Marion Davidson said: "We were initially stumped when our branches were approached to knit-one, purl-one for the trees of Scotland.

"But we soon twigged that this was the perfect challenge for our nimble-fingered knitters and more than 70 SWRI members from Shetland to the Borders cast on for the campaign."

The elm has already be-

come a focus for tourists and the Edinburgh Bus Company has added it to its regular city tours.

Enchanted Forest marketing manager Tricia Fox said: "This project has been several months in planning and we are very grateful to the ladies of the SWRI and SMKA who all gave of their time freely and helped with the knitting."

For further information about the Enchanted Forest and to buy tickets for the 2009 sound and light spectacle, visit at www.enchantedforest.org.uk

