

Hard Workers Magically Transform Faery Bridge

From a request from Stirling Council to the Dunblane Development Trust (DDT) a small group of 6 to 8 members of the Mid-Week 'infrastructure' Group undertook the major task of restoring the Faery Bridge to its former glory. This entailed removing by hand-scraping all of the old paint to expose the original metal then applying 2 coats of special undercoat paint and the final finish coat. Weather permitting this group work every Tuesday morning. The project took from October 2009 to May 2010 including paint removal during the severe winter.

The Faery Bridge is an important pedestrian crossing over the Allan Water used to walk from the west side of Dunblane to the Town Centre and the Laighhills. Originally (c.1880) a wooden bridge to the old Springbank Mill it was replaced in 1911 by a bridge constructed using the then new technology of 'ferro concrete' hence the less romantic derivation of the name Faery Bridge from Ferro Bridge.

It was restored in 1974 at the instigation of the Dunblane Town Council headed by the Provost Ken Matheson JP and supported by the Burgh Surveyor Basil McKay. To maintain the historical links Morag, the widow of the Provost, and Hunter, the son of the Burgh Surveyor, agreed to join us in our team photograph.

The members of the DDT Mid-Week Group thank the public for their patience in picking their way across while we were working - particularly those with dogs and prams. However the cheery conversations with them helped to sustain us on the many very cold winter mornings.

The paint and other materials were supplied through Stirling Council, donations from the local Rotarians and the public who put money into our bucket and from DDT funds. This is another example of the work of a small but dedicated sub-group of DDT volunteers who work on projects that maintain the traditions and ambience of the City of Dunblane.