Schottlander announces the winner
Mary Queen of Smiles

Mary Harrison, 72, from Whickham near Newcastle, is the winner of the 2008 Schottlander, Smile of the Year, competition for the denture wearer with the best smile in Britain.

Mary, who has worn dentures since she was 29, dazzled the judges with her radiant smile and won an Italian holiday.

She said: ‘I had trouble with one tooth and my husband said to take the lot out. Times have changed, but a lot of people did that in those days.’

Mary has a real zest for life and keeps fit by going dancing and working out at the gym three times a week. ‘I’m a very friendly happy person,’ she said. ‘People always compliment my smile and say my teeth look great.’

Schottlander, launched the Smile of the Year campaign to recognise the millions of people of all ages in the UK who wear dentures and look good.

Dentures are worn by more than 11 million people in the UK, of which one million wearers are people between 16 and 44. Last year alone, the NHS in England and Wales provided dentures for more than 10,000 children and young people aged between six and 24, according to the Dental Practice Board.

Dr Brian Schottlander, whose company makes the award-winning denture systems, said: ‘Today, with advances in technology, dentures can look so realistic and natural that they are indistinguishable from real teeth.’

Schottlander won the Queen’s Award for Innovation for its Enigma & Natura range of teeth and denture systems.

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