COALFIELD Communities Landscape Partnership

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to…

Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership (CCLP) Newsletter - issue 12

Understanding the Landscape

Projects look at discovering/rediscovering our historical past.

Attainment Through Archaeology

(Archaeology Scotland)

Attainment Through Archaeology keeps local schools busy

It's been a busy few months for the project team. They recently completed 2 5-week Attainment Through

Archaeology courses with Lochnorris Primary School and a taster session with Primary 7 at Bellsbank Primary School.

Throughout the course of their five week programme, Lochnorris pupils had the opportunity to explore their local history.

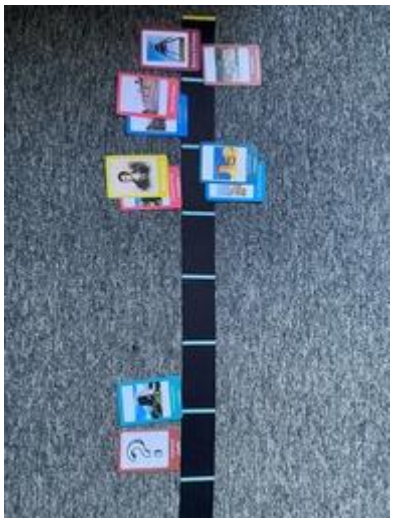


This included a visit to Cumnock old cemetery where pupils learned how to record old gravestones.

They also visited Wood Road Park where they mapped out the footprint of the former swimming pool using old maps and aerial photos.

Time travel

In class they found out about the roles of an archaeologist and created timelines of all the old sites and buildings in and around Cumnock, adding our favourite places and spaces.



One session took them further back in time and they created their own Neolithic rock art inspired by the **Ballochmyle rock art** panel near Mauchline.

Bellsbank



Bellsbank pupils were introduced to archaeology and archaeological excavation.

Pupils enjoyed handling real artefacts from various time periods, including prehistoric stone axe heads, and clay pipes and ceramic dolls similar to those found in an excavation at a Miners row in the Borders.

They spent the afternoon recording **Dalmellington Motte**, the pupils

had some fantastic ideas for the future of the Motte – including better signposting and interpretation for locals and visitors and improving access for people with disabilities.

As part of these projects all pupils will receive a [Heritage Hero Award.]

Landscape Apprentices

Cumnock Jobs Fair



In late March the apprentices attended the Cumnock Jobs and Apprenticeship fair at the town hall in Cumnock.

Ollie and Byron helped by speaking to young people about their own experiences and answering questions relating to their roles.

It was a really successful day and quite a few people are now interested in an apprenticeship opportunity with East Ayrshire Woodlands. We hope to see some of their faces again in the future!

The Wee Glen path



The Wee Glen path upgrade in Dunlop was officially openied on 3 May.

Our teams had spent time there upgrading paths, bridges and totally revamping the stairs to make access easier and safer. We also installed two benches and planted native trees.







MORE INFO

To find out more about their work and training opportunities

email East Ayrshire Woodlands

Visiting the Landscape

Projects will look at celebrating our unique history, promote stewardship of the land and create new opportunities to enjoy the landscape.

Sense Of Place

GALLOWAY AND SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE BIOSPHERE

ChaTea Group



In March the Biosphere Communities Officer Faith Hillier visited the ChaTea Group from **The Boswell Centre** in Auchinleck to deliver a Sense of Place workshop.

There were lots of stories and memories about the area and the group had a lot of knowledge about the local history.

Following the workshop the group, along with Faith, took a trip to the recently opened Lugar Heritage Centre, at **Lugar Parish Church.** The church volunteers kindly provided a tour of the church and its beautiful murals and the history of this wonderful church.

Old school memories

Whilst looking at some of the old school photos, members of the group recognised themselves and others! The ChaTea Group then visited the tea room, where a wonderful spread of sandwiches, tea and cakes were kindly set up by the church members.



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email Jenna @ the Biosphere

Visit Biosphere website



Accessing the Landscape

Projects will create new opportunities to open up and enjoy the landscape.

The Lugar Water Walk

Progress along the route continues and updated infrastructure has been added including a set of replacement steps leading towards the A76 underpass.



The Countryside Team at East Ayrshire Leisure Trust are working with local landowners and user groups to establish an accessible route for all the community.

Clearing paths

Original pathways have also been widened to improve accessibility for a wider range of user groups.



before and after - path clearing

Flora and Fauna

The route offers the chance to explore different habitats and on a sunny day, it is ideal for spotting insects like this Ringlet butterfly.



Give us your views or ask us a question...

If you have any questions about the project or would like to report any issues that you find along the route then please use the **EALT Contact Form.**



This project is part funded by the Low Carbon Travel and Transport Challenge Fund.

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Animating the Landscape

Projects will promote stewardship of the land and create new opportunities to enjoy the landscape.

The Cumnock Tryst
A meeting place for music

A Musical Celebration of the Coalfields Heritage

The Cumnock Tryst is now speeding towards the culmination of **A Musical Celebration Of The Coalfields**, programmed as part of **The Cumnock Tryst Festival 2023**.

Big Saturday!

On 7 October 2023, will see two concerts, 300 performers from across the community, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and 21 world premieres, all conducted by James MacMillan.

Get your tickets now before they sell out!

Composer groups



Work has begun with the last four community groups.

Composer **Stephen Deazley** and Scottish Singer/Songwriter have been working with

- **Logan Primary School**
- **Netherthird Primary School**
- **Robert Burns Academy.**

The groups have been looking at the past, present and future of the area in which they live and the constants that are always present.

Each group is now writing their own song, expressing new stories alongside brand new music.

New composition...





Image Credits: Anthony Márquez & Ian Fraser

Andrew Duncan, principal tuba player with the **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra**, has been working with the Dalmellington Brass Academy supported by two of his colleagues from the BBC SSO.

They have started writing a new piece that will open the first of the two performances on Big Saturday! that tells the story of a local mining disaster from the perspective of a young boy on his first day in the mine.

School Green Gym

Laura Salvage and Ali Abdulrahman from The Conservation Volunteers did a fantastic job in delivering the School Green Gym Project.



The project aimed to develop young people's passion for the outdoors while also improving their mental and physical wellbeing.

The summer term saw them work in partnership with **Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)** as they built seven raised beds at Lochnorris Primary School.



The going was tough as the ground was hard and the midges were out!

Luckily, SWT had brought along some very willing volunteers to help and they managed to build all of the raised beds

Each school class now has its own raised bed in which to grow plants and vegetables.



Enhancing the Landscape

Projects will lead to a renewed landscape through conserving and enhancing the natural environment as well as restoring peatlands and establishing new habitats for flora and fauna.

Coalfields to Wildwoods

(EADHA Enterprises Ltd)

Saving seeds



This project, run by **EADHA Enterprises Ltd** aims to assist with restoration of open cast sites and improve overall woodland cover within the CCLP area.

Some of the seed collected last year on guided walks has been stratifying over winter.

Berries from the likes of Rowan, Hawthorn and Blackthorn are mixed with grit and placed in a pot outdoors over the winter to help break dormancy.

Hazel nuts are typically mixed with leaf mulch in a similar way although great care must be taken to protect against hungry rodents!

Bringing on seedlings

Seedlings germinated last year have been pricked out into cell trays or pots to grow on for another season.

Downy Willow is one of our speciality species. It is very rare, especially in Southern Scotland where there are only about 30-40 bushes left growing at high elevation in the Galloway Hills.

The plants that we have been growing at **The Knowe Garden Centre** are developing well and have even reached a size where we have been able to collect cuttings from them for multiplication.





Find out more and how to volunteer by contacting:

Peter@eadha

Hedgerow Habitats

Netherthird Community Action Training



We have been doing a lot of partnership working with Netherthird Primary School and Family Centre.

Emma Griffith from the **Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society (RCHS)** has been helping them work on their **GLiN awards**. They have been carrying out various works at the community garden including planting peas and parsley alongside our Community Nature Warden.

In school...

The school has also been running an after school gardening club and pupils have taken part in community clean ups.



Annual Fun Day

So much has been achieved during the project including 1200 metres of new hedgerow planted and now its time to celebrate!

Come along!

Please join the volunteers for their **Annual Fun Day** this Thursday - 10 August from 12:30pm - 2:30pm.



Everyone welcome!

stayconnected

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East Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir an Ear

Council Headquarters

London Road, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire, KA3 7BU

Telephone: 01563 554400
Council Helpline: 0345 724 0000
Textphone: 01563 576167

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