COALFIELD
Communities Landscape Partnership

HERITAGE FUND

Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership Newsletter Issue 10 November 2022

Life in the Landscape

Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership Vision

"Thriving Coalfield Communities will share in the benefits of a renewed and resilient landscape, welcoming visitors from afar to celebrate their unique heritage, promote stewardship of the land and create new opportunities to enjoy the landscape, shaped by understanding of the past and needs of the future."

Welcome to issue 10 of the CCLP newsletter!

We hope that you find the information interesting and informative. If you are interested in any of the projects and want to get involved then do let us know.

New CCLP team member



Hi everyone, my name is Kate. I am a Project Officer for the Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership. My background is in environmental education and conservation, working with schools, the public and community groups to encourage and support participation, access and engagement with the outdoors.

Outside work I enjoy doing bird and moth surveys, walking at the beach, gardening for wildlife, watching sport and visiting my family in England.

Of Interest – Events & Training

Historic Environment Scotland – Community Heritage Conversations

Wednesday 14th December 2022 – Cool Yule Jamboree

The aim is to provide an engaging and approachable forum for sharing experiences and opportunities, discussing emerging policy and practice, and supporting one another through new and innovative solutions as we move through the present emergency towards recovery and renewal

Scotland's Community Heritage conversations is an online monthly event series bringing together volunteers, community groups and heritage professionals. All Conversations are hosted on Zoom, are free to attend and comprise a blend of talks followed by a Q&A, informal coffee break rooms, live polls and a lively concluding discussion.

Visit Scotland's Community Heritage Conversations | Hist Env Scotland (historicenvironment.scot) foe more details.

You can follow the events on Twitter using hashtag #CelebrateCHC

Make you Mark - Removing class barriers to heritage volunteering

7th December 10am-12.30pm (online)

The staff and volunteers of the UK's heritage sector are predominantly middle and upper class. Working class people face various barriers to volunteering with heritage organisations, such as a focus on academic qualifications, a lack of free time, unpaid travel expenses, workplace culture and more *(Culture Is Bad For You, 2020)*.
At this free Zoom event, speakers from Museum As Muck, Volunteer Scotland, Volunteering Matters and the National Lottery Heritage Fund will discuss how heritage organisations can increase the socioeconomic diversity of their volunteer programmes by removing class barriers.

Register at Removing class barriers to heritage volunteering Registration, Wed 7 Dec 2022 at 10:00 | Eventbrite

UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE

'Gi'e me a spark o' nature's fire; that's a' the learning I desire' - Robert Burns 1785

Life in the Lost Villages (University of Strathclyde)



Stories from the Rows

The Lost Villages of East Ayrshire project has been taking part in Scotland's Year of Stories 2022 with a series of local events throughout August to October 2022. The team have been visiting the communities of Auchinleck, Dalmellington, Logan and Muirkirk with a film screening featuring archive footage of life in the miner's rows of Ayrshire edited with some of the oral histories collected by

the project so far. The events were well attended and with positive feedback from those who came along.

At Dalmellington and Muirkirk, the team were joined by musician Seán Gray and Scots poet Rab Wilson (pictured) who performed their mining inspired poetry and music. The Lugar Heritage Centre co-hosted the Logan event which focused on stories from the village of Lugar. These days were a good opportunity for people to catch up with each other and share their stories. People brought along medals, national identity cards, photos and even their own family's recorded oral histories. Over the next month or so, the Lost Villages Team will be following up with some of the attendees to capture their stories for the archive.





For those who couldn't come along in person, the Lost Villages is hosting an online screening on Wednesday 16th November, 6.30-8pm. To book a place register here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/460165305817

For more information visit https://www.thelostvillages.co.uk/ to read the blog post. Check also their twitter account here.

Contact Lost Villages of East Ayrshire or y.mcfadden@strath.ac.uk to record your stories or get involved as a volunteer!

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

This project is part funded by Historic Environment Scotland through their Organisational Support Fund.

Connecting Communities (Coalfields Regeneration Trust)

the coalfields regeneration trust

Connecting communities have been supporting Drongan community council/association- working on a few environmental and community projects with TIVOLI (who are a contractor for EAC) to start cleaning the burn that runs the whole length of the village. The hope is that the group when ready would be in a position to apply to other funds for this project. Tayler has been active supporting this group with social media and posters for their monthly coffee morning, which Elaine attend to speak to the local community.

Working with Dalmellington Parish Development Trust to commission a feasibility study to develop an inclusive cycling track within the local area.

Supported the Recovery Support group with funding applications from Corra £31000 over two years, also Ayrshire drugs partnership £20000 over two years this has also been successful. Most recently Elaine negotiated £13000 worth of work from Ayrshire drugs network hub and the work has been completed. The group will also be supported by Heather (our training coordinator to complete) their food hygiene certificates. I have negotiated for this group from ADP extra funds to support a part time worker to become full time and also to bring a Modern apprentice opportunity for a young person with lived experience this post will be interviewed within the next month.

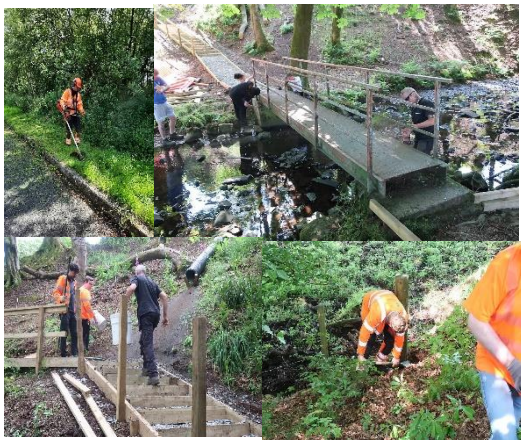
Our work with the Recovery Group here in Dalmellington is ongoing and as part of the development and to help enable the support workers to better support the members. Tayler has worked on designing Feedback/questionnaire forms.

If you would like to take part in the project then please contact Elaine on elaine.stewart@coalfields-regen.org.uk

Landscape Apprentices (East Ayrshire Woodlands)

EAST AYRSHIRE woodlands

Three new apprentices have been recruited and they have been hard at work. To date they have done strimming, bush cutting, fencing, steps and bridges.



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Coalfield Place Names (University of Glasgow)

We had a very successful walk during Ayrshire Walking Festival (10 September). In Auchinleck. The link to the walk handout is here: https://ayr-placenames.glasgow.ac.uk/auchinleck-place-name-walk-from-highhouse/

For future blogs and more information, see our website: https://ayr-placenames.glasgow.ac.uk/

This project is part funded by Historic Environment Scotland through their Organisational Support Fund.

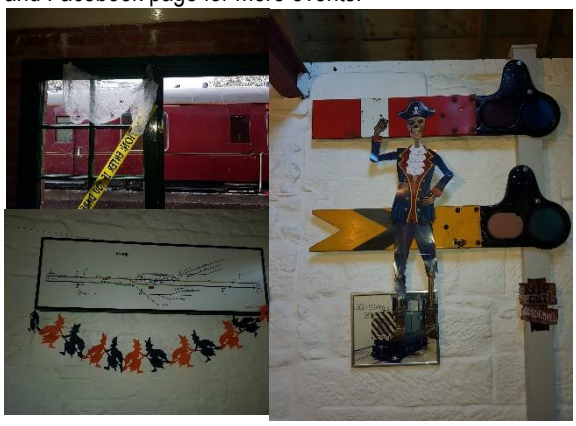
VISITING THE LANDSCAPE

'O' would some power the giftie gi'e us; to see ourselves as others see us' - Robert Burns 1786



Doon Valley Railway (Ayrshire Railway Preservation Group)

After a successful Covid comeback this summer we had a well attended Halloween event and now the Santa trains have sold out for this year! Please do keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more events.



Photos from Doon Valley Facebook page.

Another success has been our Diesel Driver Experience. Are you over 21 years old? Do you want to drive a locomotive? Why not sign up for our next diesel driver? Go to our website and scoll to the Gift Shop section for further details and sign up today!

To find out more about the Doon Valley Railway please visit: (4) Doon Valley Railway | Facebook www.doonvalleyrailway.co.uk and sign up to volunteer.

Sense of Place (Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere)

The GSA Biosphere team recently met the newly appointed Climate Action Network Coordinators covering the regions of D&G and the Ayrshires, together enjoying the always wonderful hospitality at Dalmellington Community Centre. If you are an individual or a group interested in climate action definitely in touch with them, they are already at work looking to meet climate minded people in the community, contact Joe McConnell joe@scottishcommunitiescan.org.uk or Iona Gilmore iona@scottishcommunitiescan.org.uk for the Ayrshires and Steven Clark for D&G steven@scottishcommunitiescan.org.uk



The GSA Biosphere hosted one of three Bleat n' Blether sessions in Dalmellington in October as part of our Wool Gathering initiative. This new project will support and promote better use of black face sheep wool produced in our region. As part of that project we are encouraging farmers/producers, creatives and business owners working with wool to get together and share experiences and ideas, so if you are interested in wool, please contact marie@gsabiopshere.org.uk or find The Wool Gathering on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/groups/gsabwool

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Please contact jenna@gsabiosphere.org.uk or visit https://www.gsabiosphere.org.uk/

ACCESSING THE LANDSCAPE

'The mosses, waters, slaps and stiles; that lie between us and oor hame' - Robert Burns 1790



Work has finally started on the Lugar Way walk. It should hopefully be complete in early 2023. There will be more photos I the next newsletter

European Union
gov.scot
EUROPE & SCOTLAND
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA

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

ANIMATING THE LANDSCAPE

'the voice of nature loudly cried, and many a message from the skies, that something in us never dies' - Robert Burns 1790

A Musical Celebration of the Coalfields Heritage (The Cumnock Tryst)

The Cumnock Tryst

The Cumnock Tryst's 2022 Festival was a great success, welcoming performers and audiences from all over the world to Cumnock. It included two events showcasing the work of its Musical Celebration of the Coalfields project and the culmination of our first series of creative workshops with the community. The Cumnock Area Musical Production Society (CAMPS) performed their new song "Forever My Home" which they wrote themselves with guidance from composer Ailie Robertson. Also included were a series of new songs written by Auchinleck's Strings N Things with support from singer/songwriter Findlay Napier. All of this specially composed music was performed by the groups themselves alongside the musicians of Merchant City Brass in arrangements by Ailie Robertson and the project's creative consultant, Stephen Deazley.



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Our second concert was the culmination of the whole 2022 Festival held at Dumfries House, featuring two new pieces written by Sir James MacMillan for The Cumnock Tryst Festival Chorus. The texts and musical material emerged from a series of creative workshops run by James and Stephen Deazley in the early summer and all of those involved were immensely proud to be premiering new work by James which they had a real hand in creating.



We have now started creative work with another seven community groups from across the Doon Valley, working with a top team of composers and librettists to enable around 250 more local people to experience the creative process themselves. The culmination of all of this work will be the highlight of The Cumnock Tryst Festival in 2023 where all 10 groups will perform their new songs with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, all conducted by Sir James MacMillan.

Photo credit to Stuart Armitt.

Video clips of the performance can be found on the CCLP Facebook page.

Visit A Musical Celebration of the Coalfields — The Cumnock Tryst for more information on what is happening next.

Ploughing up our Past
(Cumnock History Group)

Ploughing Up OUR PAST

Cumnock History Group

After a highly successful exhibition in the Baird Institute part of the exhibition can now be seen at the Ayrshire Food Hub, Crossroads (between Mauchline and Kilmarnock) which has a lovely cafe and gift shop. You can pick up a Cumnock Cookbook there too.



The Ploughing Up Our Past book is at the publishers and we can't wait to see it. There are over 100 photos submitted by the local farming community showing Ayrshire farming life in the past and some more recent ones. It will be available to order in our online shop

https://cumnockhistorygroup.org/shop-products/

If you would like to find out more and get involved in Ploughing up the Past then please contact farming@cumnockhistorygroup.org

Their website: https://farminginthecumnockarea.blogspot.com/
Join their Facebook group

ENHANCING THE LANDSCAPE

'I'm truly sorry man's dominion, has broken nature's social union' - Robert Burns 1785

Coalfields to Wildwoods
(EADHA Enterprises Ltd)

The project is progressing well. Tree saplings are growing and will soon be ready to plant out on site. Volunteers have been repotting the trees as well as planting hazel nut seeds that were collected during the last walk.





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Hedgerow Habitats (Netherthird Community Action Training)

We have had a number of different things going on within the community garden over the last period. We have continued our planting program in the nature walk and around the community garden.

We held a Halloween open day within the community garden with children attending to make fairy and wizard wands, with a dinosaur and fairy theme within the community garden. A free lunch was provided for all children and craft activities provided from the Positive Destinations bus from WG13 in Kilmarnock.

We have had donations from the local council of plants used in their beds this year we are hoping to propagate these plants to grow plants to be sold within our Polytunnels and sold next year.

An order has been made for further hedge whips for this autumn to be planted within the Village of Netherthird.

Healthy Rivers (Coalfield Environment Initiative)

The Healthy Rivers project is now under way. This project will empower and support local communities to take action that will help conserve the river environment. The project will provide training in a simple biological monitoring technique that can be used to detect variations in river water quality.

Looking for more volunteers to take part please contact us.



Tower Street Pocket Park (Cumnock Action Plan and Green Action Trust)

The Tower Street pocket park is finally complete! We had a



Halloween themed grand opening on the 28th of October. Please do come and see the space and use it!

Photo credit to Tayler Ellison-Quinn

Volunteering with the CCLP

Make Your Mark campaign

The Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership have signed up to the 'Make Your Mark' campaign. We are encouraging our project partners to provide us with volunteering opportunities that we can advertise on the site. If you are an organisation looking to increase your volunteer base then you can also sign up.

MAKE YOUR MARK
IN VOLUNTEERING

'Make Your Mark is a campaign that aims to increase the number and diversity of heritage volunteers. Make Your Mark is the Scottish heritage sector's response to the research reviewed above that has elucidated the continuing realities of societal

inequities and the need to increase community engagement with heritage.' (text taken from the Make your Mark Campaign Manifesto)

Visit Home • Make Your Mark to find out more.

Kate Dickens (CCLP Project Officer) is overseeing volunteering opportunities for CCLP projects. Please contact her at kate.dickens@east-ayrshire.gov.uk if you would like to volunteer on one of our projects. More information ca be found at www.coalfieldcommunities.co.uk
Facebook / Twitter