COALFIELD
Communities Landscape Partnership

HERITAGE FUND

Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership Newsletter Issue 11 March 2023

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 11 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.

Of Interest – Events & Training

Make you Mark - Volunteer Organisers Network Coffee Morning
Wed, 29 March 2023, 11:00 – 12:00 BST On line.

Do you manage volunteers within Scotland's heritage sector? Or maybe your heritage organisation is curious about how to involve volunteers?
Join the Volunteer Organisers Network for our bimonthly Zoom coffee morning! This is a great opportunity to talk with people in similar roles, share your volunteer organiser insights, ask questions and pick up practical tips.

To register visit Volunteer Organisers Network Coffee Morning Registration, Wed 29 Mar 2023 at 11:00 | Eventbrite

Property Webinar – "Create & Manage A Successful Property Budget for your Voluntary Organisation"

28th March **free** Webinar in partnership with the Ethical Property Foundation and the Coalfield Regeneration Trust

The webinar will be available to view on CRT Connect on Monday 6th March at https://crtconnect.org.uk .

A free online live Q&A session will be held on Tuesday 28th March at 6.00pm. If you would like to book a space please reply to crt.hub@coalfields-regen.org.uk.

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)

The Lost Villages oral history project was delighted to be extended for 6 months. This will allow for some final oral history gathering, writing the book, and running knowledge exchange events until September 2023.

The project team feels lucky to have the support of CCLP colleagues. In May/June, the project has secured funding from the University of Strathclyde to run storytelling workshops with community groups in Dalmellington and Auchinleck. These will use the Lost Villages archive to think about the past and present.

The project will be at Lugar on 31st of March should you want to come along and find out more. Do you, or your family, have a story about the lost miner's row villages, you can get in touch via our website www.thelostvillages.co.uk or y.mcfadden@strath.ac.uk.

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

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

Connecting Communities (Coalfields Regeneration Trust)

In February 2023 CRT published "Engaging and Regenerating Left Behind Communities – Coalfields Regeneration Trust in Scotland Evaluation "which featured the work done under Connecting Communities. Some highlight below:

- worked with 36 community organisations
- organised 17 networking events attended by 610 people
- levered in £406,255 in additional funding for these organisations and communities

Well done CRT!

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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)

We offer a wide range of opportunities to those aged 16-80 years. We are smaller than most heritage railways but are fully committed to our local and wider community which now stretches the length and width of the UK. We want to continue to preserve, restore and maintain Doon Valley and Scotland's railway heritage for many years to come. We also hold various other railway memorabilia from around the UK which people travel great distance to see and appreciate.

As part of our efforts to raise the funds to enable purchase of the buildings we currently lease, we now have a Justgiving page setup. https://www.justgiving.com/.../save-doon-valley-railway...

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)

Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere launch Learning for Sustainability Toolkit – grab yours now!

The GSA Biosphere are in the final stages of launching our new Learning for Sustainability Toolkit for primary schools. This resource is jam-packed with lots of ideas of how to incorporate Links into your school curriculum and into your school day.

Created in partnership with Girvan Primary school, the Toolkit contains activities chosen by Girvan pupils themselves – the ones they enjoy and remember the most – making these the very best experiential learning tips for bringing the curriculum to life inside and outside the classroom.
Download it now from our website https://www.gsabiosphere.org.uk/resource_categories/media-and-marketing-tools/

For a short time only we also have Biosphere sessions available to book for your school, but hurry, places are almost fully booked! Contact faith@gsabiosphere.org.uk



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

Lugar Heritage Centre (Lugar Parish Church)

The Lugar Heritage Centre is complete! There will be an opening on the 31st of March from 2-4pm.



The photo does not show the lovely wall murals that have been painted so please do come along to see those and chat to those involved in the project.

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ACCESSING THE LANDSCAPE

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



Work was halted over November and December 2022 due to poor weather but started again at the end of February 2023. Work should be completed in the next few months.

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

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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

At the end of 2022 we had a very successful event at the Barony Campus as part of our 'Compose the Environment' project. We had over 60 P7 pupils from Lochnorris Primary School performing songs they had created themselves, assisted by project leader Naheed Cruickshank and the Tryst's Artistic Director, James MacMillan, which reflected on their experiences of the environment and history at Crawick Multiverse in Sanquhar.

After Christmas we finished creating a new song with the Cumnock Youth Musical Theatre group and began the creative process with Things Tae Dae and pupils from Doon Academy for our Musical Celebration of the Coalfields project. By the summer, all ten community groups will have created their new songs which will all be performed as the highlight of The Cumnock Tryst Festival in 2023 with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir James MacMillan.



Photo credit: Stuart Armitt

We were also delighted to be able to showcase some of the work composed by Strings N Things and the Cumnock Area Musical Production Society at the Ploughing up Our Past book launch hosted by the Cumnock History Group at the Dumfries Arms Hotel. To have the opportunity to work with the other Landscape Partnership projects is a wonderful way of sharing the outcomes of our creative work in the community.



Photo credit: Stuart Armitt.

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

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Ploughing up our Past (Cumnock History Group)

Ploughing Up OUR PAST

Cumnock History Group

On Friday 3rd of February an excellent project celebration and book launch of Ploughing up Our Past by the Cumnock History group. Over 100 people enjoyed an evening of speeches and music.
For a flavour please do watch the video at A PROJECT BY CUMNOCK HISTORY GROUP (canva.com)
Thanks to Tayler Kane Ellison-Quinn from the Coalfields regeneration Trust for putting it together.

The Ploughing Up Our Past book has now been published. 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/. Copies of the book have also been donated to local libraries.

Their website: Ploughing up our past – Cumnock History Group
Join their Facebook group









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School Green Gym (The Conservation Volunteers)

The TCV School Green Gym began delivering outdoor learning sessions for Coalfield schools in January 2023. The project aims to develop young people's passion for the outdoors while also improving their mental and physical wellbeing. So far, the pupils of Patna, Dalmellington, Auchinleck and Lochnorris Primary schools have got involved in activities such as making bird feeders, planting potatoes and scavenger hunts. They even had a look at some bird's nests and had a go at making their own out of the same natural materials a bird would.

In the upcoming months, pupils will be planting their own sensory garden filled with herbs. They will also be planting beds filled with wildflowers for pollinators, to encourage more wildlife into school grounds. TCV and the Scottish Wildlife Trust will also be working together with volunteers to develop a garden area at Lochnorris Primary School, building raised beds for pupils to grow vegetables in for years to come.

ENHANCING THE LANDSCAPE

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

Perfect Peatlands (Coalfield Environment Initiative)

e CEI has completed another restoration project on the Glaisnock Moss bog complex near Cumnock as the charity continues to deliver a programme of peatland restoration to restore biodiversity and help slow down climate change. Along with bogs across Scotland Glaisnock moss was heavily drained in the mid twentieth century. CEI people and projects manager Matt Cross explained "after the war the government was rightly concerned to make sure the country was as self-sufficient as possible in food. 'Mosses' like Glaisnock were drained as part of that effort. As the water table dropped moss died off and grass and heather increased, this allowed them to be used for sheep and cattle grazing, increasing the acreage that food could be produced on".





However recent improvements in the understanding of bogs and an increased focus on preventing the most damaging effects of climate change have seen a push to rewet bogs. Dry bogs are significant sources of Carbon Dioxide and Methane both major climate change drivers. Wet bogs however can soak up carbon dioxide through the growth of moss and can store it as peat for thousands of years.

The CEI's Emily Hay explained that this is not the only benefit from rewetting bogs. Emily said "A healthy bog acts like a giant sponge soaking up rainwater, before slowly releasing it into rivers and streams, that makes them less prone to flooding. By rewetting a bog you also recreate the habitat for bog species like bog asphodel, blaeberry, cranberry, large Heath butterflies and bog hoverflies."

The rewetting work on the bog was carried out by peatland restoration specialist "McGowan's engineering". Using specially adapted diggers they put in more than 600 dams and closed up over 5kms of ditches. As well as the machine work 3 McGowan's staff members drove specially made Z pile dams into wider gullies and braced them with timber, a gruelling job in a Scottish January. A few days later East Ayrshire woodlands apprentices did the final job of the programme, cutting down and pulling out hundreds of self-seeded Sitka Spruce saplings from across the site.

The CEI is now looking to move onto the next part of Glasinock Moss and is in talks with Forestry and Land Scotland to restore their part of the bog, this tie up would be the first time a community charity had undertaken peatland restoration on a site owned by FLS.

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