

## ALPS update for Management Group 7th May 2012

- **Reporting:** A 7<sup>th</sup> Revenue & Capital Claim has been submitted to ERDF, with a 7<sup>th</sup> claim to HLF nearing completion. We are currently up to date on all reporting to funders.
- **Clachan Church:** The roof works have been completed and all but one pane of glass (smashed in transit) installed. Rendering of the west gable end is now complete. The two gate pillars are being rebuilt. The project is still on schedule with scaffolding due to be removed from the site mid May.
- **Lost Path/Archaeological Trail:** Good progress on this has been made on these two paths and all pathworks should be completed by mid May. The next phase will concentrate on waymarking which has been ordered and should arrive by the end of May.
- **Interpretation:** An Events Programme for 2012 and flyers for the Guided Walks programme are currently being printed. The Milton and Carnoch leaflets are now at proof stage. The focus will now be on completing the new Walks Leaflet, an updated proof of which will be available for viewing at the meeting.
- **South Coast Deer Fence** The fencers have now passed Torgrave and are descending to Milton. The next phase will be to install the deer grid at Milton. Some snagging of the fence line is still required.
- **Place names** Place name collection continues, in venues such as the village shop and passing places on the north coast road. The members and directors of the Applecross Historical Society have recently redoubled their efforts to add more information, taking representative versions of maps of Applecross and aiming to collect with a particular focus on wells and illicit still location – two areas that open up both place names and associated lore. Two place name days are scheduled for the summer which will be open to all, including map displays and walking tours.
- **Schools project** Under the overarching reach of the place names project, the Applecross Heritage Centre curator visited the primary school for a class session on mapping and place names. [This was a session involving the full compliment of pupils attending the school, with the complete range of ages from P1 to P6.] The pupils saw originals and copies of Ordnance Survey maps, Admiralty charts and local hand-drawn maps. The maps gave the pupils a chance to understand why the coastal areas and sea depths were better mapped in earlier centuries in comparison to the 'interior'. They also saw and analysed a list of place names to understand Norse, Gaelic and English influence on names; they chose a name each to draw their own version of 'place'. The filming project took place at the end of April, with four interviewees from the community attending the school to face questions the pupils had prepared. Pupils also got the chance to operate equipment including the sound boom, and gained an insight into how television/film interviews worked. It is hoped that a 'launch event' can be arranged with the school prior to the summer holidays, but this is dependent on the school's schedule.

- **Burial Ground Mapping** All inscriptions have been recorded and added to the database. Further information has been supplied from an Applecross Historical Society member relating to deaths between 1855 and 1896. Work is being completed on the design and functionality of the web interface so that public access will be as straightforward as possible (provisional artwork/designs are available). Aerial photography has proved to be a major challenge and this is now being reassessed: there have been issues with overhead power cables affecting the ability to complete a full aerial survey; attaining a completely 'flat' horizontal plane view of the burial ground; weather conditions affecting aerial photographic equipment. It is planned that the user interface will allow users to make moderated contributions in terms of family and local history or supplying photographs.
- **Archive Digitisation** Applecross Historical Society, with funders' assistance, is leading the field in the UK as we became the first organisation in the country to install a new, open-source collections management system called *CollectionSpace* (*CollectionSpace* is an open-source, web-based software application for the description, management, and dissemination of museum collections information. The *CollectionSpace* project team is made up of museum professionals, software engineers, and interaction designers.). The lead development institution in *CollectionSpace* is the Museum of the Moving Image, and a full public interface model will be available shortly – by this time, the Applecross Historical Society will have been uploading records.
- **Archive Digitisation Training** The Society held a successful training day on Wednesday 11th April, led by Fiona Marshall, formerly of the Museums and Libraries Association. Three Historical Society members and two non-members from the community attended the training which gave a thorough grounding in the philosophy of collections management and digitisation; as well as practical sessions using the software to upload records. The software package has a number of key components including viewer and owner experience fields, which will be invaluable for gathering information from people who may have stories to tell relating to objects in the collection.
- **Milton Loch** One fishing stance has been completed and one is nearing completion. Efforts will now concentrate on repairing the bird hide, the roof of which is damaged and in need of repair. Whilst doing this we hope to improve the light inside the hide and provide better wildlife information.
- **Interpretive dyking benches** Dan Macrae has started work on the Beechwood seat.
- **Community Archaeological Training** A successful session recording the internal and exterior building structure of Home Farm was undertaken on the 21<sup>st</sup> April. Over 10 people attended on the first day, with five attending the second day of recording.
- **Drystone dyking** Four people sat their Level 2 dyking exam and a further three their Level 1 exam on 30<sup>th</sup> April. All level 1s passed, and two of the level 2. In total since ALPS began, seven people have successfully gained Level 1 certification, and two Level 2 certification. It is proposed that this element of ALPS is now closed. All the targets have been exceeded and the money available for it has been spent.

- **Smiddy dykes** Work has begun on repairing Smiddy dykes. After one month, approximately 80m (of 300m) have been stripped and rebuilt.
- **Hebridean Barns** The roof of the northern barn has been removed and Martin Wildgoose has begun work to repair the stonework of both barns. Once done, he will turn his attention on repairing the unstable elements of the limekiln.
- **Land conditioning/habitat improvement** A crofters' meeting (21 attending) was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April to discuss this component of ALPS. Clerks are currently collating ideas for bracken control/drainage/woodland creation etc.
- **Gateway Woodland** One incomplete tender (without a budget) has been received and another is pending after the contractor asked for clarification on a number of issues. The deadline has been extended. It is hoped that tenders will be available for assessment at the start of June.