

CULTURE COMMISSION: CONTRIBUTION FROM HISTORIC SCOTLAND

Our historic environment is important for the sense of history, identity and continuity with which it provides us. Our cities, towns and countryside are rich in the quality and diversity of their historic buildings and cultural landscapes, some of which rank among the very finest architectural achievements anywhere. Many cultural activities take place against the backdrop of this rich historic environment. For example, museums and theatres are often housed in historic buildings and the quality of the architecture and the ambience created by the design and the patina of age adds to the overall cultural experience.

Scotland, like all other civilised countries, has legislation, policies and organisations in place to protect the historic environment and conserve it for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. We have not reviewed the institutional background for the management and promotion of the historic environment given that there have been other reviews and major changes only recently. These have led to cultural changes at Historic Scotland, making it a more open and transparent organisation, and we have also seen the creation of the Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland and the setting up of the Built Environment Forum Scotland. Both of these organisations are committed to working in an open and inclusive way, positively seeking to bring in people and organisations and asking their views. These changes have been important.

Historic Scotland is to be commended for its education programme that brings in over 60,000 school children to monuments such as Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle and Holyrood Park. The agency's events programme is also a useful contribution to Scotland's cultural scene, bringing family audiences to a greater appreciation and understanding of Scotland's past. However, more needs to be done to bring about real engagement between local communities. There are some examples of this, for example with a "storyteller in residence" at Crookston Castle, Glasgow and community involvement at Lincluden. Details are outlined below.

In 2004, Historic Scotland combined with Scottish Arts Council and Glasgow City Council to fund a three year Storyteller in Residence post for Crookston Castle, within The Village Storytelling Centre, in Pollock. The Village Storytelling Centre successfully manages a wide range of schools visits, and evening community events at the Castle.

Also in 2004, Historic Scotland established a two-year Community Development Worker post to be located at the North West Resource Centre, Lincluden. Throughout 2004-05 this post-holder has cultivated a close working relationship between Historic Scotland and Dumfries and Galloway Council, facilitating and co-ordinating community consultation and planning events in Lincluden and the surrounding area. It is Historic Scotland's hope that by encouraging the local community to engage more proactively in the presentation of the site, and by fostering their Stewardship of the local historic environment, both interests can work jointly together to address previous incidents of vandalism at Lincluden Collegiate Church.

There is no doubting public interest in the historic environment, with television programmes such as Restoration and Time Team attracting large audiences. But many people want to have a more "hands on" experience with the historic environment. We have noted positive projects such as the Council for Scottish Archaeology's Adopt a Monument Scheme and the work on training in traditional craft skills such as thatching and drystone dyking offered by voluntary bodies such as BCTV. We also recognise the contribution that Doors Open Days and Scottish Archaeology Month make, involving over 180,000 each year. We would like to see more publicity given to the opportunities for individuals and communities to get involved.

18
3rd Heritage / Built Environment

valerie

From: Ian
Sent: 03 May 2005 11:06
To: valerie
Subject: FW: INFORMATION FOR THE CULTURAL COMMISSION[Scanned]

Kate

Another 3rd phase response that needs to be logged.

Ian

-----Original Message-----

From: Stuart
Sent: 03 May 2005 09:48
To: Ian
Subject: FW: INFORMATION FOR THE CULTURAL COMMISSION[Scanned]

Did I forward this already?

Probably needs to be logged etc, but James commissioned it so check with him first.

S

Stuart Thomas
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-----Original Message-----

From: Laura.Mulheron@scotland.gsi.gov.uk [mailto:Laura.Mulheron@scotland.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 29 April 2005 15:36
To: Stuart
Cc: Roger.Green@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; Susan.Williamson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: INFORMATION FOR THE CULTURAL COMMISSION[Scanned]

This email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.

Stuart,

As discussed please find attached information from Sheenagh Adams. She has asked us to say that it is the text James Boyle asked us to provide.

03/05/2005

I apologise for its being a bit late.

I will get back to you soon about your other queries.

Regards

Laura

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