

## ALPS update for Management Group 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010

- Gordon Cameron will start his position as curator of the Heritage Centre on the 29<sup>th</sup> November.
- The first report and financial claim has been made to HLF for £37,000. At present no feedback has been received but it is anticipated that it will be accepted and that they will reimburse the Trust £17,000 (ca. 47% of total) who have been covering all ALPS costs to date. The first report/claim has also been completed, but not yet submitted to LEADER. ERDF have not yet provided a final grant offer to us. Once they do so, a report and claim will be made to them to claim the majority of the remaining shortfall of the £37,000 spent.
- The Historical Society has begun purchases of the necessary equipment to undertake the digitisation project.
- The recent LEADER funding application for Clachan Church was successful. With the £52K awarded and the associated commitment by the Applecross Trust to underwrite the remaining shortfall of funds (£62K) of the target figure of £270K, preparations can now begin for undertaking the work, although further fund raising efforts are being undertaken to reduce the commitment of The Trust. Discussions will be held with David Somerville architects and SNH in early December to agree on a work plan for 2011. The timing of some work will be constrained by the presence of bats. Work on the church will include a significant component that enhances its broad-use as a community facility.
- Tenders for the manufacture of Clachan Church windows were organized through David Somerville, with an initial deadline for tenders being the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010. Four tenders are in, with one further local bid also anticipated. All current tenders are well within budget. All local building contractors within Applecross were contacted to see if they wanted to participate in the tender process. It is hoped that the contract can be awarded before Xmas 2010, although Listed Building Consent for this component of the work has not yet been approved.
- A series of events and activities have been organized for January 2011 (details at the end of this update) relating to geology, Carnoch woodland conservation and roundhouse, and drystone dyke training. These events have been approved by SNH who will be the primary funder and who have requested that their financial commitment to ALPS for 2010 is spent by the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011. These activities fulfill their initial funding criteria, although a restructuring of SNH funding streams throughout the lifespan of ALPS is required as certain events scheduled for year one such as interpretation are delayed, whilst others they have agreed to fund in the future have been brought forward.
- After the tender assessment process, the evaluation and monitoring contract was awarded to **Rowan Tree Ltd.** (Inverness), the website contract to **Ronan Martin & Associates** (Skye), the Bardic School co-ordinator position to **June MacPherson**, and the community interpretation

plan to **Interpretation**. Work on the community interpretation plan will not start until March 2011, but will be completed by June 2011. It is hoped that the ALPS website will be live by Xmas 2010. Evaluation work will start immediately.

- There has been a delay in awarding the Applecross Bay Coastal Trails contracts. Due to the great variation in tender values and submitted tender formats, contractors have been asked to revise their bids and/or clarify elements of their costing. There remains a degree of uncertainty as to the final line of the proposed Beechwood path and a path specialist from the National Trust has been contracted to clarify path lines and the All Ability specification so that there is no longer any doubt amongst contractors as to what they are costing for. It is still hoped that this contract can be awarded by Xmas 2010.
- Work is progressing well on the final presentation phase of the Applecross broch. Path building work has started with **Innes Sutton** (Skye) undertaking the path work and **Duncan Frazer** (Applecross) undertaking the presentation guided by the conservation archaeologist **Martin Wildgoose** (Skye) and the Archaeology Society. Weather permitting, work on both aspects should be complete by Xmas 2010.
- The first ALPS newsletter was launched mid November and seems to be receiving very positive feedback. The next edition is planned for February 2011.
- It is planned to make an enquiry to the Inspector of Ancient Monuments through the Conservation architect Andrew Wright, to see if the Hebridean barns might be worthy of scheduling. Such a designation would afford them national significance and would open up a potential route for funding to conserve them. Historic Scotland is in a position to award up to 100% of the cost of preparing an application for funding, and up to 50% for any consolidation work carried out.
- After initial discussions of the Bealach Group, the end of June 2011 has been earmarked for the first Bardic School event. Organisation is in an early phase but it is probable that the main venue will be the Venture Trust, with fringe events and perhaps some of the core events held at other locations around Applecross.
- Tenders for the South Coast deer Fence are due in on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. One tender is currently in.

## **ALPS Events planned for January 2011**

12<sup>th</sup> January. Community lichen monitoring day and sensitivity zone mapping of Carnoch Woods.

16<sup>th</sup>– 17<sup>th</sup> January. 9am – 4pm. **Building Across the Millennia - 'Bronze Age' Construction: Skills, Design and Techniques.** Two day workshop on craft techniques required to build an

iron age roundhouse. Community Hall (mornings) and Carnoch Woods and surroundings (afternoons). Please bring bad weather kit and suitable boots!

20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> (excluding the weekend). A beginner's five-day training course on **drystone dyke building**. The course will be free and there are five places available. It is anticipated that those wanting to participate will have a long term interest in drystone dyking and will be prepared to attend occasional subsequent higher level courses throughout the lifespan of ALPS, with attendees progressing through the various competence levels of the Drystone Dyke Walling Association. Application form required. Please contact Elodie for further details.

22<sup>nd</sup> January. 10am. **Carnoch's Carpet**. The West Coast of Scotland is world-famous famous for its diversity and abundance of mosses. Find out more about the luxuriant mossy flora of Carnoch Hazel Woods with experts from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Free. Meet at the Applecross Inn.

28<sup>th</sup> January. 7pm. Community Hall. **Scotland and the North and West Highlands - A Rock-Detective Story of Epic Proportions**. Donald Fisher, Geoscientist and Geo-Ranger, North West Highlands Geopark

29<sup>th</sup> January. 9am – 4pm. **Applecross Rocks!** Join a minibus tour driving back through time and explore the amazing geological features of the Applecross peninsula with a ranger from the North West Scotland Geo-Park. Meeting place to be arranged. **Free, but booking essential.**