



PRESS RELEASE

26 August 2008

Cromarty Community Connections to Scotland's Heritage Showcased in National Touring Exhibition, Opening 6 September 2008

Young people, residents and visitors across the Highlands will be able to discover more about Scotland's rich built heritage, thanks to a dynamic touring exhibition showcasing community artworks inspired by one of Scotland's National Collections.

Treasured Places: Creative Connections will be on display at the Cromarty Courthouse Museum, Church Street, Cromarty from 6 – 28 September 2008. The exhibition will be open to the public from 10am - 5pm Monday to Sunday. Standard museum admission applies.

Treasured Places: Creative Connections features a visual feast of animation, expressive art, poetry and photography specially created by community groups across the country during workshops organised by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS).

The exhibition launched in August 2008 and will run until May 2009 and visit eleven venues across Scotland, close to the communities that participated in the original workshops. The creative outcomes from the workshops will be showcased alongside reproductions of the archive material that inspired them.

Led by local artists and RCAHMS specialists, the creative workshops were based around a significant local place or relevant topic, such as maritime heritage in the Orkney Isles and the Forth Bridges in Fife. Participants were encouraged to interpret the fascinating public archive of drawings and photographs held by RCAHMS in a new and creative way, drawing on their own responses and experiences, to produce a variety of different art works. A range of different audiences have taken part in the workshops, from primary school children learning about the architecture of religious buildings through model making, to war veterans who explored the role of war memorials through poetry.

This exciting show forms part of a diverse programme of events launched by RCAHMS to celebrate 100 years of creating Scotland's collection of architecture, archaeology and industry. The programme of events seeks to encourage more

people to become interested and involved in their local heritage and to discover and celebrate the places they treasure.

Members from the local community from in and around Cromarty worked with RCAHMS staff and a film maker during a 3-day workshop in February 2008 to learn how to make stop frame animations based around the theme of renewable energy. Workshop participants examined historical drawings and construction and survey photographs of hydro electric power stations and wind farms from RCAHMS collections and then transformed their ideas into a series of animations from the magical to the humorous, each lasting from 10 seconds up to one minute. Siobhan McConnachie, Treasured Places Project Manager, said: "It was wonderful to see our collections being used in such an exciting way. The workshops were a lot of fun for everyone and, as can be seen through our *Creative Connections* exhibition, the work that was produced is of such a high standard and really inspiring."

The *Treasured Places: Creative Connections* Tour Diary is attached. For further information visit www.treasuredplaces.org.uk

ENDS

For further information please contact:

Sarah MacDonald or Ruth Christie at Colman Getty Consultancy:

T: 0131 558 8851 / 07866 449 570

E: SarahMacDonald@colmangetty.co.uk / RuthChristie@colmangetty.co.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Additional exhibition material is also on display at the Royal Hotel, Marine Terrace, Cromarty.
2. 'Treasured Places' was set up by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) to help celebrate its centenary in 2008.
3. The project launched in September 2007 with an online vote to find the nation's most 'Treasured Place'. Over 20,000 votes were cast via the Treasured Places website, www.treasuredplaces.org.uk, with the Lady Victoria Colliery, Newtongrange winning the coveted title.
4. A major exhibition of Scotland's 'Treasured Places' will follow from 25th October 2008 to 17th January 2009 at the City Art Centre, Edinburgh. The exhibition will showcase, often for the first time, original items including drawings, photographs, prints as well as new media, from the extensive collections of RCAHMS. Also featuring in the exhibition are Scotland's top ten 'Treasured Places' as voted by the public in the online vote allowing the wonderful drawings and photographs to be experienced first hand. The exhibition will include activities for families, an education area and a small public events programme.
5. Treasured Places is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Scottish Government, and run by RCAHMS, www.rcahms.gov.uk.

6. RCAHMS is the national record of Scotland's built environment, whose mission is to identify, survey and interpret the archaeological, architectural and historical environment of Scotland, to preserve and add to the collection, and to promote public understanding and enjoyment of items in the collection.

Treasured Places: Creative Connections Tour Diary

- **Adam Smith Theatre, Kirkcaldy**
7 August- 3 September 2008
- **Cromarty Courthouse Museum**
6- 27 September 2008
- **Benbecula Airport, Balivanich, Isle of Benbecula**
3- 29 October 2008
- **Lanark Library, Lanark**
4 November- 29 November 2008
- **The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh**
2 - 12 December 2008
- **Omni Centre, Edinburgh**
22 December 2008- 14 January 2009
- **Dundee Central Library, Dundee**
16 January - 14 February 2009
- **Tweeddale Museum and Gallery, Peebles**
17 February- 21 March 2009
- **The Mall Shopping Centre, Falkirk**
24 March - 9 April 2009
- **The Pier Arts Centre, Stromness**
Dates TBC