



Monday 12th November 2007

Residents get Creative with their Local Heritage

Local residents are flexing their creative muscles this week in an interactive arts workshop designed to get them hands on with their local heritage.

Organised by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and hosted by a variety of venues across Orkney, the five-day workshop is exploring the impact of maritime heritage on Orkney and its community. Taking archive material from RCAHMS fascinating collections as a starting point for discussion and creativity, the group will consider the cultural and historical significance of a variety of maritime-focused topics such as War, Emigration and the Oil Industry.

Local artist Sarah MacLean will lead the group through a creative exploration of the material and subject matter, encouraging participants to draw on their own memories and experiences. Using a variety of techniques such as monoprinting, rubbing and collage, the group will translate their thoughts and discoveries into communal, abstracted drawings that will form panels in the finished, large-scale work. The resulting piece of artwork will be exhibited at the Pier Arts Centre in Stromness this Friday evening.

The workshop forms part of the 'Treasured Places' project, organised by RCAHMS to celebrate 100 years of recording Scotland's built environment. RCAHMS holds some 4.5 million photographs, drawings and manuscripts in their National Collection and seeks to open up this inspiring archive for everyone to enjoy.

Jane Gilchrist, Treasured Places education officer said, 'Using creativity to encourage the public to interact and examine their local heritage is key to the Treasured Places project. A deeper understanding of our built environment helps us to develop a strong sense of identity and deepens our connection with our communities and the wider world'

Several further 'Treasured Places' workshops are taking place across Scotland over the next six months, each being led by an artist or specialist who will lead participants through creative responses to their own built heritage. In Glasgow for example, young people from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths will work together during Inter-Faith Week to use their places of worship to inspire the creation of a textile art-piece, whilst in Aberdeen, Brownies will work with an archaeologist to explore the Pictish stones in their local area. The group will then work with a graphic designer to turn their field trip observations and artwork into a simple map guide for tourists to use.

For further information please contact Leanne McCormick on 0131 662 1456 or leanne.mccormick@rcahms.gov.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Journalists and photographers are invited to the finale exhibition of work taking place this Friday 16th November at the Pier Arts Centre in Stromness, from 6-8pm. Jane Gilchrist, Treasured Places Education Officer, will be available for interview.
2. An online vote is currently taking place at www.treasuredplaces.org.uk to find the nation's favourite archive image of their treasured place
3. Treasured Places is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Scottish Government, and run by RCAHMS.
4. 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.
5. RCAHMS was established by Royal Charter in 1908 and has been collecting and commissioning information, drawings and photographs of Scotland since then, documenting Scotland's places past and present. It is now one of Scotland's National Collections and celebrates its centenary in September 2008.
6. Dates, venues and times of workshops:

Date	Location	Times
Monday 12th November 07	Pier Arts Centre, Stromness	11am- 4pm
Tuesday 13th November 07	Cromarty Hall, St Margaret's Hope	11am- 4pm
Wednesday 14th November 07	Gable End Theatre, Lyness	11am- 4pm
Thursday 15th November 07	Pier Arts Centre, Stromness	11am- 4pm
Friday 16th November 07	Pier Arts Centre, Stromness Exhibition of work	10am- 4pm 6pm-8pm