

ALPS update for Management Group 26th September 2011

- **South Coast Deer Fence** Following the successful CCAGS application, the Applecross Trust has been approached regarding potential funding of the remaining shortfall. The initial response provided on the 15th September was positive. The preferred contractor (based on tender costings) met with SB and AM in Inverness and was asked to provide a list of experience on similar jobs. Referees have since been contacted who have responded favorably. A Minor Works Contract is being prepared. Once final written confirmation of funding has been received from CCAGS and the Applecross Trust, and the crofting clerks have confirmed that they are happy with the proposed contractor, work can begin. It is hoped that the SCDF can be completed by April 2012.
- **Digitisation of archives** Scanning of documents and photographs is ongoing – the focus is on scanning materials not already digitised, and it is planned to return to materials already worked on in earlier phases of the Heritage Centre development which will ultimately need to be rescanned. Installation of a collection management system is slightly stalled but hoping to make a significant step forward by time of next Management Group meeting. Digitisation training will be organised once the package is up-and-running. (NB: Digitisation continues – it is just that once complete system is in place, volunteers can be trained in both digitisation and data input to the new CMS.)
- **Place names project** All maps in the National Library of Scotland digital collection have been surveyed and names annotated. A new database at the Heritage Centre has been created with old Gaelic spelling/current Gaelic orthography/English translation/land feature/grid reference/notes on name/alternative information/unique identifier number. A successful public event was held in Applecross Village Hall on Friday 9th September, advertised beforehand on local noticeboards and on the Applecross Historical Society's twitter feed (@ApplecrossHist). Twenty-three people came to see the display. New material was gathered and very positive feedback about the project was received. The collection of names is ongoing with informants from the local community being interviewed on both a formal and informal basis.
- **Paths Work** is nearing completion on the 'Bay Trails' with restoration of the Arboretum Trail due to be completed on the 30th September. Recent work has included making good spoils and additional drainage where this has been required.
- **Burial ground mapping project** A database has been created and is being populated. Volunteers, both from the local community and visitors, have assisted with filling in survey

forms using guidelines from the Scottish Council for Archaeology. However, although project targets in terms of numbers of locals has already been met – we are still interested in having more people help though! Calls for volunteers went out on local noticeboards and on the Applecross Historical Society's twitter feed (@ApplecrossHist) – unfortunately, both advertised days were affected by very poor weather so turn-out was lower than hoped. Gravestone photography is near to completion. A report on gravestone condition will be prepared when all stones have been surveyed. An online interface is being developed as part of Historical Society website.

- **Holy Well/Four trees of Applecross** As far as can be ascertained, all relevant information has been collated and we await the outcomes of the interpretation process before material is disseminated to the public in the appropriate format. George Mundell (path builder) will be building a small offshoot from the Beechwood path to provide access to see the Holy Well, with Geoff Walker (dyker) contracted to restore stonework. Information gathered as part of this project has been provided towards potential interpretation for the 'Beechwood path'.

- **Clachan Church** Planning permission has been verbally granted by the Council who are now happy with the placement of the heating units. A bat license application has been prepared and will be submitted once formal written planning approval has been given. Cathy Dagg visited Clachan on the 15th September to dig trial pits where drainage would be required. This was a requirement from Historic Scotland for Scheduled Monument Consent which has yet to be approved. A report has been submitted to John Raven of HS by Cathy. A further tender for Clachan is expected imminently, and it is anticipated that a contract can be awarded in early October, with work to commence shortly afterwards.

- **Bardic School** June MacPherson resigned from her position as coordinator in September. Her duties will now be undertaken by Kate Cameron who will lead the development of the school in 2011/12.

- **Ard Dubh – Coillegille path** A tiered specification has now been prepared by Bob Brown, and the contract opportunity has been advertised in the West Highland Free Press (23rd September), on the ALPS website, and on local notice boards.

- **Festival & Events** To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the North Applecross Woodlands, a tree festival was held at the Applecross campsite on the 10th September. Stalls focused on forest crafts including charcoal burning, green woodworking, willow weaving, storytelling, shelter building and music. Throughout the day between 85 and 120 people visited the stalls and tried their hands at various crafts. A Maelrubha Festival was held on the 27th August. The day's celebrations started with 25 people making the three mile pilgrimage from Sand to

Clachan. Others unable to do the walk (8 people) were treated to a guided walk around Clachan Church and its environs by Gordon Cameron of the Heritage Centre. All present were then treated to a superb BBQ feast. A further guided walk highlighting the places of religious and historical interest took place in the afternoon (32 people attending), with the event rounded off by an ecumenical Songs of Praise service at Clachan Church (35 people attending).

- **Training** A website design course is due to be held on the 23rd September (12 attendees booked) with the first of several planned basic bee keeping courses to take place on the 24th (16 attendees booked)