

who we are



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**Welcome to the first of our
new format newsletters!**

Through these bulletins we will bring you information on recent arts projects in Argyll & Butes' schools, as well as news about competitions, our own team activities, and anything else you tell us may be of interest.

Please let us know of anything you may want to share with others, either information on your own projects, skills exchanges or photos of events. We promise to keep the newsletters brief and easy to download.

The new web pages provide further information on ourselves and fuller information and images of past and current events and projects, so please use our on-line resource. Also, let us know if you would like to post information there too.

We also work closely with Argyll and Bute's Arts Officer, Eileen Rae, who is available for advice on all arts activities in the region and is involved in projects and events which often involve schools in Argyll.

Here's to a vibrant and creative year ahead!

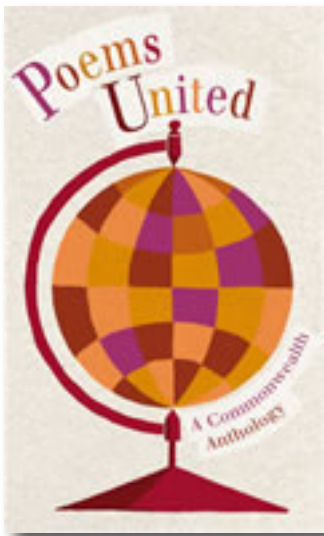


what we do....

- ◆ **Create**
& co-ordinate arts projects that relate directly to the current curriculum.
- ◆ **Attract**
funding for a range of visits, performances and productions.
- ◆ **Source**
arts practitioners to deliver the projects to the highest standards.
- ◆ **Transmit**
information and knowledge about ideas and resources.

literature

The Scottish Poetry Library's Poems United: A Commonwealth anthology, their newest publication, is a unique book of poems for young people. It brings together poems from 68 countries of the Commonwealth, reflecting their many different peoples, landscapes, climates, songs and languages. Poems United promises a safari of the imagination, from tiny islands of the Caribbean to the vast continents of Australia and India. Readers will be able to watch the 'Sunrise above Naisi' in Malawi; 'Listen to the Beat of the Sea' in the Caribbean islands of Turks and Caicos; or experience 'The Hurricane Love Songs' on the tiny island of Niue in Oceania.



"A whole map of a book that traces the countries of the Commonwealth and brings the many rivers, people, animals, places alive. Here are poets you will know and poets that you won't, all doing what poets do best, holding up a special mirror in which we can see ourselves differently. Poems United takes you on a special journey. Pack your bag!"

Readers can locate each region of the Commonwealth on brilliant maps: oranges and greens to reflect the heat of Africa; the Caribbean Sea vibrant blue - a feast for the eyes as well as the mind. And to complete the picture, there is a fascinating selection of facts and figures for each country. 'Poems United' can be ordered from the spl for £7.99 or through their web site soon in the online shop.

www.spl.org.uk/education/news.html

Teachers can also find lesson plans and suggestions for how to use the book with their classes in their Education resources web pages at

www.spl.org.uk/ed_resources/poems_united_lp.html

art

New Teachers' Evening

Wednesday 9 May 2007, 5.15pm - 7pm
National Gallery of Scotland

The evening is aimed at new teachers who are entering the profession, as well as established teachers who may not have visited the National Galleries of Scotland before. It is an introduction to the Galleries, and to the services that they offer to teachers and their pupils. Focusing on the collection of the National Gallery of Scotland, teachers are invited to participate in a variety of activities that they use with visiting school groups to explore works of art. The evening will also provide an opportunity for teachers to meet colleagues and discuss their experiences and ideas for integrating works of art into their teaching.

To book your visit, please telephone 0131 624 6410.
education@nationalgalleries.org

To download the full pdf teachers programme for 06/07 go to

<http://tinyurl.com/2425lz>

heritage

Am Baile is a fantastic, easy to use, bilingual online archive of the culture of the Scottish Highlands and Islands - available in Scottish and Gaelic. Use it for any research ie newspaper



articles, archive, maps and plans. You will find photographs, illustrations, rare books and documents as well as short films, audio clips, interactive games and comics.

Try out the education zone for learning resources, school websites and fun & games or start your own on-line scrapbook!

www.ambaile.org.uk

Competitions

The Scottish Poetry Library holds a creative writing competition in association with the National Galleries starting in Autumn 2007 with a closing date of the end of January 2008.

Information for 2007/8 will be posted on their web site.

For information on last year's competition go to

www.spl.org.uk/education/competitions.html#linkname5

The entrants were asked to: write a short poem or piece of prose inspired by one of the works in the collections of the National Galleries of Scotland. The work may be selected from any of the NGS galleries (The National Gallery of Scotland, The Scottish National Portrait Gallery, The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, The Dean Gallery, The Royal Scottish Academy, Duff House and Paxton House).

Images of many of the works can be accessed through the NGS website

www.nationalgalleries.org in the section 'Online Collections'

National Galleries art competition. The aim of this competition is to encourage school children to interact with and be inspired by artworks in the National Galleries' collection. Fabulous prizes to be won for you, your class and your school. See your work on display at the National Galleries of Scotland before it goes on tour. This is the fourth year of the competition and each year it gets bigger and better.

There are 6 categories

A Nursery Schools (Theme - In the Woods)

B Primary 1 - Primary 3 (Theme - Amazing Hats and Headwear)

C Primary 4 - Primary 7 (Theme - Work)

D S1 and S2 (Theme - Image and Text)

E Special Education Schools (Theme - Wheels, Cogs and Cranks)

F Group Work (Theme - selected from any of the above)

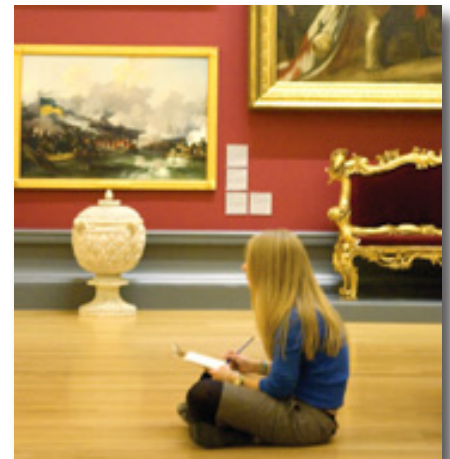
Closing date: 4th May 2007.

You can download sample pictures and full details from

<http://tinyurl.com/2arypj>

Any questions? Ring Linda McClelland on 0131 624 6534

email lmcclelland@nationalgalleries.org



PhotoArch is a built environment photographic competition for primary school-aged children throughout Scotland. It aims to provide young people with the opportunity to express their thoughts, experiences and perspectives on the heritage, buildings and archaeology around them. Across the World, thousands of children and young adults take part in the International Heritage Photographic Experience, supported by the Council of Europe. PhotoArch is Scotland's contribution to this initiative. In 2004, PhotoArch was launched by the Scottish Civic Trust as a pilot competition for Primary 5-6 children aged 9-10 in Midlothian and Aberdeen.

From 2006 onwards, the competition has been extended to primary school-aged children throughout Scotland. The winning entries from PhotoArch go on to appear in the International Heritage Photographic Experience and the winners and their school will receive a digital camera each. Deadline for confirming participation by schools 29th September.

Deadline for submitting entries 27th October. All entries will appear on their website for more information and application forms etc. go to

<http://photoarch.the-radiator.com/>

heritage

Royal Commission for Ancient & Historical Monuments

RCAHMS have recently started a programme of liaison with teachers involving placements and the development of ideas for new resource material to ascertain how best their collections can be presented for use in Schools. Early discussions suggest their resources can provide valuable contextual or primary source evidence for many areas of the curriculum. The resources are especially useful for topics where pupils are encouraged to interpret historical sources for themselves.



www.rcahms.gov.uk/eyh22.html for examples of what they have in the collections. The resources complement the cross-curricular subject 'The Culture of Scotland', but can also be used in many specific areas of the 5-14 curriculum, Standard Grade and Higher Grade teaching.

To view their education and outreach pages go to

<http://tinyurl.com/2bjbpg>

current projects

Argyll Rhapsody November 2007

This project will involve creative music workshops around Argyll culminating in several performances of a new piece of music that is a fusion of traditional and modern music. The project will be led by Argyll musician Donald Shaw and performed by Argyll teenagers as part of Argyll's contributions towards Highland Year of Culture 07.

It is a unique opportunity to bring together young people from the whole of Argyll to create and perform a new commission. The project will encourage young Argyll musicians to participate in a performance which includes Gaelic literature/song and an eclectic mix of instruments that will be both aspirational and inspirational. This project is sourced from established traditions within Argyll, both literary and musical and will help to embed a sense of pride and knowledge of culture and environment both for the young people and their audience. They will be brought together in a creative and collaborative environment, bringing their own 21st century perspective to the landscape through music. The text used within the piece of music will be Gaelic, taken from a variety of sources from the archives at the School of Scottish Studies, all collected in Argyll or from Argyll poets, and mainly using text which has not been set before. 2007 also is the 1410 anniversary of the death of Saint Columba. Donald Shaw has agreed to write a movement within the above larger work, to commemorate this anniversary.

Project Aims

- to create and participate in a creative event that is both aspirational & inspirational.
- to place Argyll text within a 21st century musical setting.
- to perform with inspiring professional musicians
- to use Argyll text and music to inspire images of Argyll
- to enable a presentation that will illustrate Argyll through the eyes of young people.
- to be involved in the technical support that is required to put on events of this scale.

current projects

CAST have secured funding to run a programme of 'journeys' throughout mid-argyll in conjunction with the planned 'nva' project around Kilmartin in August/September.

Local primary schools will be invited to undertake a series of half day journeys which will explore mid Argyll's natural and cultural heritage within the local forest landscape. The journeys will be aided by a resource pack, containing relevant activities, stories, pictures, maps, songs, poems etc. which will relate directly to the schools' chosen journey and will be distributed to all primaries in the area to encourage a wider and sustained knowledge of local heritage.

A follow-up exhibition is planned to coincide with the end of the NVA project and several schools will be invited to 'adopt a journey' and continue to document the annual changes to the area. As part of the project, the children will also be given the opportunity to experience the NVA performance for themselves.

HALF LIFE 4th - 17th September 2007
"a journey into the Neolithic mind..."

This September NVA will be presenting their next major landscape work, **HALF LIFE**, a co-production with the National Theatre of Scotland (NTS); and a flagship event for Highland 2007. It will be a remarkable day and night-time performance that will celebrate the extraordinarily rich heritage of Mid Argyll and its landscape. No equivalent nationally led arts project has been undertaken in the region before and it remains pioneering on a UK wide level. For information on NVA go to

www.nva.org.uk



NVA is an environmental arts charity working with pioneering artists to produce highly complex and ambitious, site specific events, artworks and festivals. The company works across all media, promoting strong cross cultural community work along with hi tech initiatives.



news

Following the success of **the big draw** last October, we are going to run the programme again and expand it to include secondary schools. For information about the project during 2006 see the CAST website:

<http://tinyurl.com/2692k5>

Please contact us if you would like your school to get involved.

tel: 01631 564908

past projects

This section is designed to be read in conjunction with the CAST web pages which have more information and images about each project.

To download a concise pdf on the projects go to

<http://tinyurl.com/2692k5>



YMI



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Ydance-Oban & Lorn-March 2007

The Oban & Lorn Y Dance Pilot Project provided over 700 P4 - P7 pupils the opportunity to take part in a dance taster session as a form of introduction to this form of physical activity.



New Kintyre Songs-March 2007

The 12 primary schools in Kintyre cluster asked songwriter Ewan McVicar to come and write songs with them in the week 5th to 9th March

Art & Design weekend March 2007

CAST funded a residential weekend at Loch Lomond Youth Hostel for 13 higher art and design pupils with the aim of increasing their vocabulary to aid them when sitting higher art written papers. Pupils from Rothesay, Tarbert and Tiree visited Kelvingrove gallery and The Lighthouse.

Visiting artist-Tiree-March 2007

Visual artist, Ben Henriques is a London based artist with strong local connections with Tiree. He was asked to concentrate on life drawing with a live model rather than opt for Still Life or Landscape.

Puppet Festival-The man who planted trees -March 2007

The Puppet State Theatre Company presented a magical, comical, and multi-sensory adaptation of Jean Giono's well-loved environmental story.

Solar One tour-Cowal and Bute-November 2006

Kerr MacGregor, retired senior lecturer in Energy Engineering, took his van round schools for pupils to experience renewable energy and green environmental projects.

Live Literature Scotland- March 2007

Mathew Fitt and Bob Pegg visited primary schools delighting pupils with their individual brands of storytelling and scots language.

A Local Heritage study-January 2007

The Lighthouse ran a series of half-day workshops, with P7 to develop knowledge and skills in creativity, citizenship and the built environment.

The Big Draw October 2006

Art workshops were held throughout Argyll last year, bringing together primary pupils, local artists and venues. A total of 17 sessions were held in different venues.



Music

Spring 2006 was Carnival time in Argyll and Bute as members of the celebrated Scottish Ensemble led schools workshops and gave special performances of Saint-Saëns Carnival of the Animals for children across the area. The project kicked off in April with a series of teacher's and pupil's workshops that saw musicians Joanne Green (Violin), Diane Clark (Double Bass), Iain Sandilands (Percussion) and the Scottish Ensemble's Education Director, Bute-born Paul Rissmann, working with children from Rothsay Campbeltown, Ghiga, Islay, Jura, Mull and Iona.



The workshops included time devoted to preparing EyeLand, a piece inspired by Argyll and Bute and written specially for the youngsters by Paul Rissmann. They performed it in schools concerts with the Scottish Ensemble at beginning of June. The concerts also included a specially designed, digitally animated film by Victor Craven played simultaneously with Saint-Saëns Carnival of the Animals.



Heather Duncan, Chief Executive of the Scottish Ensemble, said:

"We are delighted to be able to work with children and schools from across Argyll and Bute on this exciting project. Inspiring new generations of youngsters to enjoy classical music is one of the Scottish Ensemble's great joys and with Paul Rissmann leading the project it promises to be a wonderful experience for musicians and children alike" and Paul Rissmann added, "It is real pleasure for me to come home and work on this project with youngsters across Argyll and Bute. My new piece EyeLand is inspired by this wonderful part of Scotland, and I am especially pleased that it will give youngsters from my home area the opportunity to take part in performances with one of Scotland's leading professional music groups."



concert band

The Argyll & Bute Schools Concert Band was formed in 2005 to give the best of our young woodwind, brass and percussion players the opportunity to rehearse and perform high quality traditional and modern wind band repertoire of a standard intended to challenge and inspire even the most gifted of these young musicians. Applications for membership are invited from all ten of our secondary schools and the successful candidates are selected by competitive audition. The rehearsals take place during an intensive residential course, which this year took place at Castle Toward near Dunoon in February. The band members are expected to show a degree of commitment and dedication equal to that shown by the best professional players.

Since its inception, the band has performed in Lochgilphead, Helensburgh and Glasgow at a foyer performance in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. The band also performed at the Argyll & Bute launch of the Highland 2007 celebrations in Oban this January. We are delighted that this year's concerts form part of the area's contribution to the festival and it is a privilege to be able to highlight the influence that music from the Highlands and Islands has had on the world music stage, not only through the overt incorporation of Gaelic songs, fiddle and bagpipe music in a wide range of compositions, but also the more subtle stylistic and atmospheric effect on the works of composers such as Mendelssohn and Berlioz, and in the thrilling fusions of Celtic, jazz, rock and pop music we hear regularly today.