

## News - A Highland Spark

Next year marks Highland 2007 - a year of events and projects focussing on the Highlands of Scotland. These will celebrate the area's heritage, reflecting on its traditions and celebrating contemporary culture. Highland 2007 will work with agencies, individuals and communities throughout the Highlands and further afield to bring together a rich and varied programme and develop the cultural infrastructure of the Highlands to provide a legacy lasting after 2007.

Events and projects range in scale from multi-million pound agency projects to small community events, and most of the members of the Interpret Scotland Forum are involved. Here is a small selection of what's on offer:

- The National Exhibition. A touring display which focuses on the theme of Highland culture and the myths, history and reality of life past, present and future.
- The Culloden Battlefield Memorial Project. This involves the creation of a new visitor centre, and a reworking the battlefield interpretation to present the story of the battle with dignity and impartiality.
- Nature Bus. A specially-designed nature bus that will travel throughout Scotland attending community events and visiting school and learning institutions. To find out more check [www.highland2007.com](http://www.highland2007.com)

Interpret Scotland in partnership with the Association for Heritage Interpretation is contributing to Highland 2007 through the staging of The Vital Spark - a major international heritage conference to debate a range of widely-applicable issues and to showcase interpretive practice in the Highlands of Scotland. It is already attracting key representatives from interpretation organisations throughout the world as well as many leading practitioners and teachers of interpretation. Its themes, which are of universal appeal as well as direct relevance to the Highlands, are:

- The Vital Spark: Interpretation as a driver for cultural regeneration;
  - Creativity and innovation: interpreting remote and fragile areas;
  - Voices in interpretation: languages, cultures and communities;
  - Authenticity and re-interpretation: traditional icons in the 21st century.
- [www.thevitalspark2007.org.uk](http://www.thevitalspark2007.org.uk)

### Call for Papers

The Vital Spark conference will take place in Aviemore from 30 September until 3 October 2007. Register your interest in speaking or taking part by visiting [www.thevitalspark2007.org.uk](http://www.thevitalspark2007.org.uk)

## Broaden your horizon

This year, ARCH is running a new exchange programme, ICHI ('Innovation in Cultural Heritage Interpretation'), with partners in Turkey, Bulgaria, Iceland and Slovakia. ICHI seeks to develop the skills of Scottish professionals from the heritage management, interpretation and tourism sectors. The project offers an opportunity for Scotland's managers, training planners, curriculum developers and trainers to gain new skills and to expand their European perspective. It also gives participants a chance to become involved in international joint working ventures.

The project is funded by the British Council through the Leonardo da Vinci Programme. The grant will cover the cost of travel, accommodation, insurance and subsistence for all participants. The new programme for 2007 is now up and on ARCH's WebPages. ([www.arch.blogware.com](http://www.arch.blogware.com)) - please take a look, and if any of the projects are of interest to you or your staff, then please apply using ([www.arch.blogware.com/blog/ICHI/ApplicationForm](http://www.arch.blogware.com/blog/ICHI/ApplicationForm)) or write to me for more information.

Libby Urquhart , tel: +44 (0) 1764 670653,  
fax: +44 (0) 1764 679002