

News & Events

Award winning Interpret Scotland!

Interpret Scotland has been awarded an Interpret Britain Commendation Award for 'an excellent publication which takes forward the interpretation debate and showcases good practice'. The judges noted a number of shortcomings that precluded a full award, all of which we had brought to their attention and were planning to address (e.g. a large print version is now available on our web site: www.interpretscotland.org.uk).

Knockan Crag interpretation also gets an award

SNH's geological interpretation at Knockan Crag in Assynt has also been awarded an Interpret Britain Commendation Award. Knockan is famous amongst geologists as the place which inspired some of the first scientific theories about the geological history of the Earth. You can explore the interpretation as a case study on SNH's guidance notes about interpretation at www.snh.org.uk. Other Interpret Britain awards were given to a range of interpretive projects throughout the UK, with a special category for 'interpretation and volunteers'. Visit the AHI website www.heritage-interpretation.org.uk for details.

Scotland leads the world in sustainable tourism

The Scottish Tourist Guides Association hosted the 10th Convention of the World Federation of Tourist Guides Associations at Dunblane in January. More than 200 professional guides from around the world attended the Convention, Sustainable Tourism the Guide's Role. Speakers included Sandy Dear from Scotland and the Environment and Geoffrey Lipman from Green Globe, as well as speakers from several Interpret Scotland member organisations. STGA is regarded as a world leader in the training of tourist guides and is currently developing new materials with the University of Edinburgh and supported by Scottish Natural Heritage to improve the interpretation of Scotland's natural assets.

For details contact Info@stga.co.uk or visit www.stga.co.uk

Disability and access toolkit

Resource, the government's support agency for museums and galleries in England, has published a 'do-it-yourself' toolkit to help museums comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. The toolkit, along with Resource's Disability Action Plan, is available at www.resource.gov.uk. It identifies 13 areas that 'accessible museums' (and other heritage attractions) should be addressing, including physical and intellectual access, policy, training, audit and consulting people with a disability.

Advice on new technology in museums and galleries

A government sponsored study into the use of technology in the museums and galleries sector has been published. The report contains advisory guidelines into matters such as how to overcome an ICT skills gap, project management, and writing and designing content for the web. The report is available at www.peoplesnetwork.gov.uk/content/itcfguidelines.asp

Events

Tackling Vandalism through Interpretation

Organised by Interpret Scotland

29 April, Drumpellier Country Park

Leader: Doug Gleave

Planning, Design, Production and Evaluation of Interpretive Media

John Veverka and Plas Tan y Bwlch

7-9 May 2003

Contact plas@eryri-npa.gov.uk

Visitor Centres and Visitor Attractions -

ground breaking architecture but where does Interpretation fit in?

Organised by Interpret Scotland

30 September/1 October, Battleby Centre

Leaders: Ron Zimmerman and Michael Gross

Publications

Interpreting Historic House Museums

Edited by Jessica Foy Donnelly (2002) Altmira press

ISBN 0 7591 0250 3, 272pp, \$24.95/ £tbc

This thoroughly comprehensive book explores all the key issues involved in interpreting historic house museums. Specific topics include interpretive planning, interpreting the whole house, living history and effective guides, and the interpretive considerations of access, gender, the landscape context, and interior furnishings. Although written for an American audience, it deals with both the big picture and the detail of historic house interpretation in a way that is highly relevant to the UK. A series of interesting case studies and practical guidelines add to the value of this thoughtful and very informative book.