

# Intangible Cultural Heritage in Scotland Newsletter

[www.ichscotlandwiki.org](http://www.ichscotlandwiki.org)

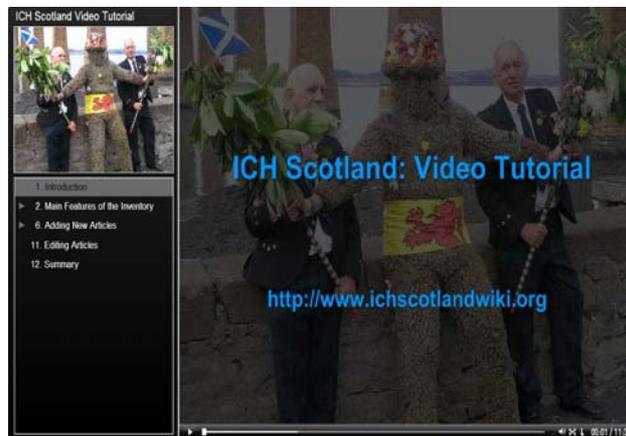


## New online WIKI tutorial, available now

An online ICH video tutorial is now up and running and can be accessed from the ICH wiki homepage. Although we already have written guidelines on the wiki, we felt that it would be of benefit if these were supplemented by a more visually-focused guide. Anyone can add to the wiki.

The aim of the video (which for anyone technically-minded was built using Camtasia Studio) is to provide a clear and concise step-by-step visual guide to the various features of the inventory including, most importantly how to add new articles and edit existing ones.

If you have any comments or feedback on the video, please contact David at [d.hill2@napier.ac.uk](mailto:d.hill2@napier.ac.uk)



## ICH in ...Shetland: the project team were invited to Shetland after an interview on the BBC Radio Scotland



*Professor Alison McCleery and Dr Linda Gunn were invited to speak to the Shetland Islands Council*

Neil Henderson from Shetland Islands Council, Economic Development Unit invited Professor Alison McCleery and Dr Linda Gunn to tell the Council's Tourism and Culture Panel all about the project in December 2009. The team spoke to an audience comprising representatives from the Council, Shetland Islands Trust and other organisations. These included Rick Nickerson, Council spokesperson for Culture, Jimmy Moncrieff, General Manager of Shetland Amenity Trust, Fiona Dally Project Manager for Shetland's The Tall Ships Races 2011, Laureen Johnson of Shetland Forwards (promoting the Shetland dialect) and several local experts in the area's culture and tourism.

Alison and Linda were very impressed with Lerwick's beautiful Hays Dock museum where the meeting was held and where they were interviewed for BBC Radio Shetland. Linda Gunn said, 'We hope that all of those we challenged from the meeting can add 5 examples of Shetland intangible cultural heritage each to the ICH in Scotland Wiki and that they don't let the Islanders down as we know how rich they are in culture and tradition.' Alison and Linda were told all about one example – Up Helly Aa – and honoured to be shown round the 'Galley Shed' where preparations for the 2010 celebrations were underway.

## The Intangible Cultural Heritage *in* Scotland team held a briefing session at the Scottish Parliament



*MSP Aileen Campbell looks at the ICH WIKI, MSP Robin Harper finds Orkney on the map. MSP Alasdair Allan views the exhibition of examples of ICH, David Hill shows MSP Ian McKee the new online tutorial*

The Holyrood event on 4<sup>th</sup> March was sponsored by MSP Aileen Campbell who has been active in bringing the project to the attention of fellow MSPs from all Parties. Aileen raised a motion for support of the Edinburgh Napier University Research team's work at the Scottish Parliament on 23 February this year (S3M-5786 - *Intangible Cultural Heritage in Scotland*), has mentioned the project in speeches to the House and also publicised the project through articles and interviews in both Local Press and radio (*West Sound*). She is very interested in the project and in the subject of intangible cultural heritage. Aileen herself drew the Research team's attention to examples of living customs and traditions that take place in her area of South Lanarkshire: 'Whuppitty Scoorie' and 'Lanimer Day'.

MSPs who attended the ICH briefing at Holyrood were shown the Wiki and examples of the type of heritage being recorded on it. At present these range from Fish suppers (brown sauce or vinegar on yours?) and Haggis Pakora to the Stonehaven Fireball Festival and Chinese New Year, and to wedding 'poor-oots' or 'scrambles'.

They were also asked to do some work in their lunch break by contributing examples of ICH they know about which can also be added to the Wiki. MSP Alasdair Allan told the team about funeral walks in the Western Isles, a tradition which has variations throughout the country and several in different parts of the Western Isles. The team hope to see this custom included in the ICH in Scotland Wiki soon.

At Holyrood the researchers were keen to underline key points about the inventory to politicians from all Parties:

That it is a record of **current practices** and beliefs **that people continue to practice**.

That **no matter where people living in Scotland were born**, if they continue to practice their customs and traditions here, these can be included in the ICH in Scotland wiki.

That **everyone can contribute examples** they and their community practice by going online and following the simple instructions.



*ICH briefing session at the Scottish Parliament*

## MSP Aileen Campbell ICH contributions

**'Whuppity Scoorie'** takes place every year on 1st March in Lanark. Children (from toddlers to young teenagers) gather at the town's Lanark Cross armed with a ball of paper on the end of a length of string which they swing round their heads as they run three laps around the Kirk (church). This begins with the first chime of the "wee bell" at 6pm and finishes when the last child finishes their third lap.

This is followed by a 'scramble' for coins for the older children and small gifts for the small ones.

(see also wedding **'scrambles'** and **'poor-oots'** on the Wiki at [http://ichscotlandwiki.org/index.php?title=Scramble\\_\(wedding\\_traditions\)](http://ichscotlandwiki.org/index.php?title=Scramble_(wedding_traditions)))

The tradition is linked to the first ringing of the town's "wee bell" in Spring after six-months of winter silence and although thought to be much older, can be traced back to the middle of the 19th century at least. (see the ICH in Scotland Wiki entry on Lanimer Day at [http://www.ichscotlandwiki.org/index.php?title=Lanimer\\_Day](http://www.ichscotlandwiki.org/index.php?title=Lanimer_Day))

## ICH project 'real' engagement with public

The work the research team is doing - both in the process of setting up this open-access resource and the 'finished product' (the ICH in Scotland Wiki) - represents an excellent example of university research making a 'real' impact on the wider population.

This was recognised recently at an AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council) visit to Edinburgh Napier University.



The Traditional Arts Working Group endorsed the ICH in Scotland project in its Report to the Scottish Parliament on 31st January 2010

(see full report at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/01/28100441/13>)

The Report recognised ICH's potential, in terms of the role it has to play in developing traditional arts and in supporting that community's practitioners and participants. The TAWG hoped that with the research team's assistance it might be possible in the future that elements of traditions from Scotland may be proposed for inclusion on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Group recommended that the Scottish Government 'continue to support inventory' which mirrors the Scottish Government's commitment to "serve all the people of Scotland, regardless of . . . race, religion, culture, ethnicity or background".

(see <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/18934>)

## Wiki example of the week: Golden Spurtle Competition



© Fergus Thom

We've decided to feature a different ICH in Scotland Wiki entry with each Newsletter to show readers some of the examples we're hearing about. Today's comes as a result of work the project's Fiona Hartree was doing in preparation for the team's visit to MSPs at the Scottish Parliament on 4<sup>th</sup> March. It features a link to a film made by Carrbridge Films, an independent, entirely youth-run, film company based in Carrbridge, a small village in the Highlands. They work with various organisations 'from Community Arts Programmes and working in schools to collaborating with local artists', their aim being to 'produce high quality work while raising awareness and interacting with the local community or raising money for charity.'

Find out more by looking at the Golden Spurtle page on the ICH in Scotland Wiki at

[http://ichscotlandwiki.org/index.php?title=Golden\\_Spurtle\\_Competition](http://ichscotlandwiki.org/index.php?title=Golden_Spurtle_Competition)

## Seen any poor-oots lately?

The Scots Language Centre (<http://www.scotslanguage.com/>) has been assisting the ICH research team. Over the last few months. Michael Hance director of SLC has asked people using their site to let us know about examples of ICH on various themes. Michael Hance, Director of SLC says that this has benefits for both projects. Information should be raised about customs and traditions, whilst at the same time generating more dialogue in Scots.

The first ICH 'call' made through SLC was for information on customs still practiced in Scotland relating to weddings, romance and 'coortin' (courting). Linda Gunn of the project explained, 'Brides wear something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue and we still have 'Hen Nights', but what customs and traditions are still being practised here?'

*What's supposed to bring good luck and bad to a marriage? Do different trades or industries still do unmentionable things to a lad about to get wed before the big day? Is there still any chance of a poor-oot for the bairns? If you know we'd like to hear from you.*

While this call for ICH information is still 'live' Linda and Michael feel that it is important to keep up the momentum and so, starting next week a new theme will be raised looking for information

## ICH Scottish Mining Museum visit

Researchers were invited to speak to Museums in the East of Scotland about the ICH in Scotland project. ESMP (East of Scotland Museums Partnership) were given a presentation at The Scottish Mining Museum, Newtongrange explaining 'intangible cultural heritage' in UNESCO terms and in relation to the inventory of ICH in Scotland. They were also told about the Wiki, why it was being used instead of a 'traditionally' published or printed record. Linda Gunn also told the audience how easy it is for anyone to add examples of customs and traditions they know are still being practiced onto the Wiki now that the ICH 'technical' team - David Hill and Valeri Wiegel - have produced a fantastic new and extremely user-friendly online tutorial. Chair of ESMP and Museums Manager for City of Edinburgh Council, Frank Little reported that the audience of curators and other Museum staff found the ICH presentation the most useful and interesting of the day, website'.

I know that those attending will be sharing this with their contacts [and] we will highlight it through the ESMP Frank also said that he was going to pass this positive feedback on to City of Edinburgh Council's new Learning and Access Curator, Diana Morton, who is working with a community from the Newhaven area of Edinburgh. Unfortunately Newhaven no longer have their museum premises, but Dr Linda Gunn of the ICH project team has already suggested to, Diana, that the ICH in Scotland Wiki could provide some solution to their problem, by presenting them with an opportunity to use the Wiki as a 'virtual' museum for the community's traditions.

The project is now on Facebook:  
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?v=wall&ref=mf&gid=10150135033140364>

## New ICH Wiki examples

### ICH in Scotland

Edinburgh Napier University

Craighouse Campus

Craighouse road

Edinburgh

EH10 5LG

Phone: 0131 455 6175

Mobile: 0781 149 1702

Fax: 0131 455 6193

E-mail: [I.Gunn@napier.ac.uk](mailto:I.Gunn@napier.ac.uk)

<http://ichscotland.org/>

[www.napier.ac.uk/scob](http://www.napier.ac.uk/scob)

[ich@napier.ac.uk](mailto:ich@napier.ac.uk)



Edinburgh Napier  
UNIVERSITY



*Common riding the Scottish Borders*  
© Lesley Middlemass



*Curling at the Lake of Monteith*  
© Graeme Phanco



*Wedding customs and practises*  
© Fraser Pettigrew (via Flickr)