



HERITAGE HUNTERS



**CHILDREN PIECING TOGETHER
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**

**Children In Scotland
Heritage Lottery Fund Project
Six-month project summary & review**

"(I would) tell people that you can think whatever you want about heritage and that it's cool to work with."

Elaine Kerridge & Jane Miller
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Thank you to our supporters and funders of this project

Funders:

Heritage Lottery Fund
Martin Connell Charitable Trust

Supporters:

Inherit – The Institute For Heritage And Sustainable Human Development
Young Archaeologists Club (Dunfermline)
Dumfries Museum
Museums & Galleries Edinburgh
Dig It!
Museums And Galleries Scotland
Historic Scotland
Langside Community Heritage
Scotswummin
Tara Bell
Archaeology Scotland



Background/ aims of the project



Children In Scotland submitted a successful proposal to the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2017 to undertake a project that brings children and young people together with heritage partners.

This project is taking place in the Year of Young People 2018 and reflects its aims to provide young people with a platform to have their views heard and acted on, provide:

- young people with a platform to have their views heard and acted on
- opportunities for them to express themselves
- intergenerational working, and conversations, and to
- celebrate the talents of young people

The aims of the project are:

- Provide opportunities for children and young people to access heritage, especially those who may experience barriers to this
- Develop relationships: children and young people and heritage partners to learn from each other
- Improve children and young people's participation and engagement with heritage, including their direct experience with heritage and their role in decision-making in this sector (this will include supporting heritage staff on this journey)

Children In Scotland Staff



Jane Miller, Policy and Participation Officer, is working approximately four days a week on this project and is delivering the majority of

the direct work with the children and young people. She liaises with both heritage and youth partners to develop the project plan for each of the individual projects and will gather evaluation data. She has a great deal of experience of working with children and young people and her calm but enthusiastic manner has driven the project on to where we are today.



Elaine Kerridge, our Participation and Engagement Manager, is overseeing this project. She has been liaising with all partners to ensure

the project moves forward and the aims and outputs are met. She supports Jane in her role and has also been enjoying delivering some of the direct work with children and young people.

Both Elaine and Jane are developing and will deliver training around participation and engagement for heritage staff/volunteers over the coming months.

Children In Scotland is passionate about the participation and engagement of children and young people in all areas of life. We bring a determination to see an impact on the area of heritage from this point of view. How can heritage experiences be more engaging for children and young people? How can their voices and experiences be heard and reflected in the world of heritage? How can they be involved in an ongoing, quality and meaningful way in the decision-making in the heritage sector?

Summary of projects



Location	Group	*Numbers	Age Range
Kirkcaldy	Valley Primary School	26	9 to 10
Dumfries	1st Troqueer BB	15	7 to 11
South Queensferry	Girlguides	30	10 to 13
Castlemilk (Glasgow)	Miller Primary School	30	8 to 9
Edinburgh	Edinburgh Young Carers	N/A*	12 to 15

*Engagement work hasn't taken place yet

*Approximate numbers

Fife - Kirkcaldy 'Heritage Hunters'

We have been working with two adult volunteers from Dunfermline Young Archaeologists Club and 30 pupils in the P6 class at Valley Primary School in Kirkcaldy and their teacher. This project ran from April-June 2018 and involved more than 30 hours of engagement from the children involved.

'Heritage' became a class topic for the term. Sessions ran in afternoons, once or twice a week. They included the initial 'What is heritage?' session and a final sharing event at the end of term, which families were invited to attend. The children named the project 'Heritage Hunters', worked in groups and chose the specific topic they were interested in. This included prehistoric Kirkcaldy, Raith Rovers, Valley Primary School, WW1 & WW2 and Kirkcaldy Links Market. Activities included a trip to the local library/museum, research, archaeological dig boxes, an archaeological dig in the school grounds, a child-led photo tour of the school and model making.

The project culminated in a sharing event which parents and grandparents were invited to attend. As part of the sharing event each group decided how they would like to share what they have explored as part of their heritage projects. Groups presented creatively in the form of a television show, news reports, quiz



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As the children have undertaken more than 30 hours of project work we will be applying for all to receive the silver level Heritage Hero Award from Archaeology Scotland.

Fife - Kirkcaldy 'Heritage Hunters'

Feedback from the children about their involvement in this project:

"I thought Kirkcaldy was a boring old town but now I know there is so much more."

"To tell people that you can think whatever you want about heritage and that it's cool to work with."

"It's hard but fun because you don't know what you are going to find."
(Archaeological dig)

"People need to work together to find stuff out."

Feedback from parents/family after sharing event:

"I think it's good. You get to learn about your history and where you were born. I went to this school and I never got to do anything like that."

"It's good to be involved in seeing what they do. You can discuss it."

"Just how much they got involved. Good to know about things I didn't know."

Fife - South Queensferry Girl Guides

We are also working with adult volunteers from Dunfermline Young Archaeologists Club, in this case with the South Queensferry Girl Guides (30), based in Port Edgar. We 'launched' the project with the Guides in April and will be continuing from September to December 2018 on Tuesday evenings.

The Guides will be choosing the topics and activities they wish to do, and the adult partners will be supporting them. This is all framed within work toward Guide badges such as the Culture, Traditions and Blast From the Past-Go For It! badges.

The sessions will include a trip to the local museum, a beachcombing evening and liaising with local older people. TPlans are still to be organised, but the project may culminate in a parents' evening towards Christmas with a display of their activities in the hall, perhaps then moving to the local library or museum.



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Dumfries - 1st Troqueer Boys' Brigade

Around 15 members of the Troqueer 1st Boys' Brigade are working with us and Dumfries Museum on this project. We started working with the group in May 2018 and will continue working with them until October 2018.

The members of the Brigade have enjoyed getting to know the workings of Dumfries Museum in more depth and have added their own artefacts into the current summer exhibition on toys. They have also supported a fun day in July (supported by Children in Scotland staff), The Toy Olympics. This project was promoted in the local press in Dumfries and was a very popular day with local families and early years settings. More than 80 children in attendance and was supported by five of the BB group, aged between 7 and 11.

After summer they will be working on further exhibitions on local history around the World Wars called 'Records Of War'.



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Edinburgh- Edinburgh Young Carers




Our partners in this project are Edinburgh Young Carers and City of Edinburgh Museums and Galleries staff, based at the Museum Of Edinburgh. The Young Carers group is made up of around 15 12-15 year olds from across Edinburgh and their key worker. This project runs from August to December 2018.

There are a variety of options the young people may wish to undertake. One option is a skills/careers based experience, where they learn about museum curation skills (research, object handling, display work etc). Another option is to co-curate a display for the Museum Of Edinburgh (to go on display in early 2019) which may be based on artefacts the museum already has or to curate new artefacts on a theme or topic of their choosing.

We hope to be able to do another project with City Of Edinburgh staff with a young parents group. This is currently in development.

Excitingly, City of Edinburgh Museums and Galleries is looking to develop children and young people's participation in their decision-making and we hope this will be an excellent starting point for their thinking.

Glasgow - Miller Primary School



Twenty-six P6 pupils from Miller Primary School, Castlemilk, their teacher and the Head Teacher are working with us and adult volunteers from Langside Community Heritage. For this part of the project we also have support from Inherit (The Institute for Heritage and Sustainable Human Development) around evaluation and measuring impact. We 'launched' the project with the children in June and will continue to work with them from August.

Langside Community Heritage has a broad range of volunteers with a variety of knowledge and skills. This will allow the pupils at Miller to choose from a variety of topics and experiences for their project.

The staff at Miller welcome Inherit's input from an evaluation point of view as they hope this project will also help close the attainment gap in their school, with pupils developing a variety of skills, knowledge and confidence. They also hope this will be a sustainable partnership with Langside Community Heritage so the children can become peer educators next year.

Evaluation



An aim of the project is to ensure children and young people have engaged with heritage and have a greater understanding of what heritage is. With this in mind we are checking children's understanding and experiences at the start and the end of each project. We are currently reviewing the learning from our project in Kirkcaldy and we are using what we have learned to shape the next phase of our work.

Children In Scotland has its own processes to evaluate how the delivery work with the children and young people is going. For example, at the end of direct work sessions with children and young people we ask if they enjoyed it, checking if they felt included and listened to.

We are gathering baseline information from both heritage and youth partners to discover their current skills, knowledge and experience of working participatively with children to explore their understandings of heritage.

We are also evaluating with children and adults at the end of each project, asking questions around enjoyment, challenges, suggestions for other projects etc.

Alan Leslie from Inherit (The Institute

For Heritage And Sustainable Human Development) is supporting us with this evaluation. We are in discussion about how this project may support a larger study in to the impact of engaging with heritage on children, families and communities.

We are confident we will have excellent learning to share from this project in 2019.

Successes



We have been enjoying this project so far and although it is early in the overall project we have experienced successes already:

- We have learned a great deal about the heritage sector in the past six months and feel up-skilled in this area.
- We have developed new relationships with partners Children in Scotland had not previously worked with, particularly within the heritage sector. This has resulted in opening up discussions to consider future opportunities for partnership working and involving children and young people within the heritage sector.
- We have found all of our heritage sector contacts and partners to be friendly, approachable, enthusiastic, knowledgeable, passionate and committed to working with and for children and young people. There is a clear awareness in this sector that children and young people need to be engaged with more.
- Heritage partners have expressed that working in partnership has helped give them new ideas for how to work with children and young people.
- Our heritage sector contacts are also open to Children in Scotland staff building capacity in the heritage sector, upskilling staff and volunteers in approaches to engaging with children and young people. We look forward to delivering these 'training' sessions.
- We have found the youth organisations (schools, groups etc) very enthusiastic to be involved in this project even although we know how busy they are and thank them for this support.
- We are very much enjoying working with a range of children and young people across central and southern Scotland and have currently already engaged with more than 90 children at this stage in the project.
- Children and young people have shown a keen interest and enthusiasm for the project and have particularly enjoyed opportunities where they have been able to take a lead and facilitate aspects of the project. They have also enjoyed engaging directly with heritage experiences (such as visiting museums and libraries) they have not been to before.
- We have started to capture a baseline understanding of how children perceive heritage which we can use to inform future work.
- We have worked more closely with the wider community, including parents, grandparents and the public. We are learning about community engagement with the heritage sector.
- We have used a variety of approaches and activities to engage with children and young people, both within their own settings (such as school) as well as in the heritage settings. The following are some of the activities as part of this project: ice-breaker/getting to know you games, voting, archaeological dig, visits to heritage sites, selected items chosen to be displayed in an exhibition and the designing/facilitation/leading of activities with other children.
- This project will also support children and young people to gain accreditation within youth organisations (such as Boys' Brigade and Girl Guide badges) and national awards such as Heritage Hero Awards.

Challenges

In the first six months of this project we have found that some of the challenges are:

- Communication has been slower with partners than we would have liked. This is in part due to the number of partners involved, the geographical distance and location of the partners and practitioners' work capacity to be able to get back to us.
- One of the challenges of working with youth organisations and heritage partners who work on a voluntary basis is that they often have less time/availability to commit to the demands of the project. This then has a knock-on effect on planning and limits the scope of the project.
- There is a need to have a shared understanding of the roles and aims of the partners from the start of the project. This includes a clear and agreed timeline.
- One of our heritage partners has experienced poor health over the past few months, which has meant a reduction of their input in to one of our projects. This resulted in an increase in Children in Scotland staff's time to ensure the project remained on course and the children were not impacted by the absence. There needs to be a back up plan for when absence is an issue. In future it would be helpful to have two key contacts (both heritage/youth) in case something happens and they are unable to attend a session or get in touch.
- We have been unable to establish a young people's advisory group for this project as yet. This was mostly due to the staggered starts of each of the projects and delays in the recruitment process of heritage partners
- We have been unable to recruit a youth group in the Lochgilphead area, we think due to a change in staffing at local authority level. This is disappointing as we had an interesting heritage partner ready to take part (Auchendrain)
- As in all partnership working, a variety of personalities, experience and ways of working are involved. It takes time to develop working relationships and find a successful rhythm. We are well on the way to achieving this
- On reflection, with all of the above in mind, 6/8 sessions per project and just over a year for the overall project (spread out across central and southern Scotland) are very tight timescales. It takes time to develop relationships, establish roles, understand each other's way of working, understand the young people's learning needs (learning and behaviour) and interests etc.
- Additionally, we have learned that exhibitions within museums and galleries are often planned around a year in advance. As a result, this has meant that in some instances children have not had the opportunity to plan the development of an exhibition as this falls outwith the timescale of the project.
- Cultural change takes time. We believe each of our projects will see gains in the area of heritage and the engagement of children and young people and we will have clear key messages and learning points to share.
- We recognise that a sustained change in approach will take time and commitment across the sector.
- As with all of our projects, we continue to review the levels of staffing needed to deliver this project successfully with all partners over the 16 months of work.



Next steps

Our plans are as follows:

- Continue with our project delivery
- Reflect on our learning from Kirkcaldy and use it to shape future project work
- Continue to build on communications outputs including website, blogs, newspaper articles and social media activity
- Develop a project name, logo and hashtag as shaped by the young people involved with the project
- Delivering training to interested individuals in both heritage/youth settings (Edinburgh and Glasgow dates). This will upskill the workforce across the sector
- Firming up plans with other potential Edinburgh and Glasgow-based partners
- Start to plan our March 2019 event
- We aim to establish a young people's advisory group in the second half of the year, working towards our celebratory event in March. The event will be a chance to bring together children and young people and heritage/youth partners from across Scotland to share their learning and approaches.
- We look forward to working on our final report and sharing our learning from across the project in order to have a lasting impact on the heritage sector
- Explore future opportunities for developing this area of work as a result of learning from children and young people and partners involved.