

Mauchline CARS Newsletter

Christmas Edition 2020

Welcome to the second edition of our Mauchline CARS Christmas Newsletter.

We hope this finds you safe and well!

New Mauchline CARS Project Office

Our New Year 2020 began well with the signing on **10th January 2020** of a **five year lease** for a new Mauchline CARS Project Office at no **15 Earl Grey Street, Mauchline**. A former Registrar's Office, Funeral Directors and Milliners Workshop, the two-storey office will serve the project well as a place from which to deliver this exciting project.

15 Earl Grey Street,
Mauchline



Unfortunately, due to the Scottish Government's COVID-19 restrictions, the Mauchline CARS Team has yet to take beneficial occupation of the building. However, they are looking forward to doing so as soon as conditions permit.

Burns Birthday Celebrations

The **25th and 26th January 2020** saw a weekend of activities held at the Burns House Museum organised by East Ayrshire Leisure in celebration of the birth of Robert Burns. This involved a range of heritage activities including **Heritage Tours, Arts and Crafts, Storytelling, Burns Songs performed on a Clarsach, (Celtic Harp), Spinning and much more.**

On **Sunday 26th January 2020** a **Wreath Laying Ceremony** was held at the **National Burns Memorial Tower** organised, as it is each year, by the Mauchline Burns Club.



This year **Lynn Rew**, Mauchline CARS Officer, was invited to lay a wreath on behalf of the Mauchline CARS Team.



Lynn Rew laying a wreath.

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Mauchline CARS Programme Extended

In March this year, Historic Environment Scotland agreed to a very welcome one year extension to the Mauchline CARS Programme now giving the Mauchline CARS Team until March 2025 to deliver their ambitious **Mauchline CARS Outcomes Plan 2020-2025**. The **Outcomes Plan 2020-2025** was agreed with Historic Environment Scotland in May 2020 and is based on the following Historic Environment Scotland, (HES) Themes:

- **HERITAGE AND SOCIETY** - The historic environment makes a real difference to people's lives.
- **HERITAGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT** - The historic environment is looked after, protected and managed for generations to come.
- **HERITAGE AND THE ECONOMY** - The historic environment makes a broader contribution to the economy of Scotland and its people.
- **HERITAGE AND CREATIVITY** - The historic environment inspires a creative and vibrant Scotland

Progress against these themes and the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) associated with them, is reported to HES quarterly and the Outcomes Plan is reviewed and approved annually to ensure that the proposed outcomes and timescales are still deliverable. **Our first annual review meeting will be held with Steering Group Members in January 2021** to review progress against our KPI and to set our future goals prior to discussions with HES at end of March 2021.

Heritage Research Ambassadors

Six adult Volunteers have enlisted to help research and record different elements of Mauchline's historic past comprising:

- Robert Burns and Mauchline
- Mauchline and the White Monks of Melrose
- The Covenanters in Mauchline
- The Ballochmyle Sandstone Quarries and Quarrymen
- Mauchline ware
- The History of the Curling stone Industry in Mauchline

Mauchline CARS/NERD Project

One of the outcomes that HES and Mauchline CARS are keen to promote is the "*Advancement in the Use of Science and Technology*", in order that the historic environment can make a broader contribution to the economy of Scotland and its people. To help fulfil this objective, Mauchline CARS will be working in partnership with EAC's **NERD Team**, a team of university researchers and industry representatives, to explore opportunities to convert historic buildings in Mauchline to meet "**Passivhaus Retrofit Standards**." Passivhaus buildings require less heating meaning owners should save substantially on their energy bills whilst also contributing to the Scottish Government's net-zero carbon emissions target by 2045.

The **National Energy Renewables Demonstrator, (NERD)** project aims to transform energy production, distribution and connections within the Cumnock and Doon Valley Area and be an exemplar to Scotland and the rest of the UK in making the transition to a low-carbon economy. As one of the Demonstrator Projects in such a prestige energy

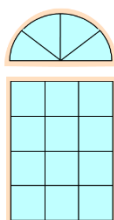
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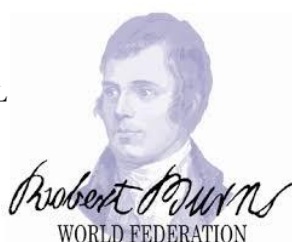
programme, historic Mauchline is likely to attract significant media attention and other heritage conservation interest, which will help put Mauchline firmly on the economic/tourism/visitor map.

Mauchline Heritage Trust

A Working Group has been established for the proposed setting up of a **Mauchline Heritage Trust** to help deliver some of the Mauchline CARS Priority Projects. The Working Group comprises six trustees from the **Ayrshire Architectural Heritage Trust**, **East Ayrshire Council**, **Mauchline CARS**, **Mauchline Burns Club**, **The Robert Burns World Federation** and representatives from **Mauchline Community Action Plan Group**. In addition to helping to deliver our priority projects, it is hoped it will be a vehicle through which to maintain the long-term conservation of Mauchline's important heritage assets.

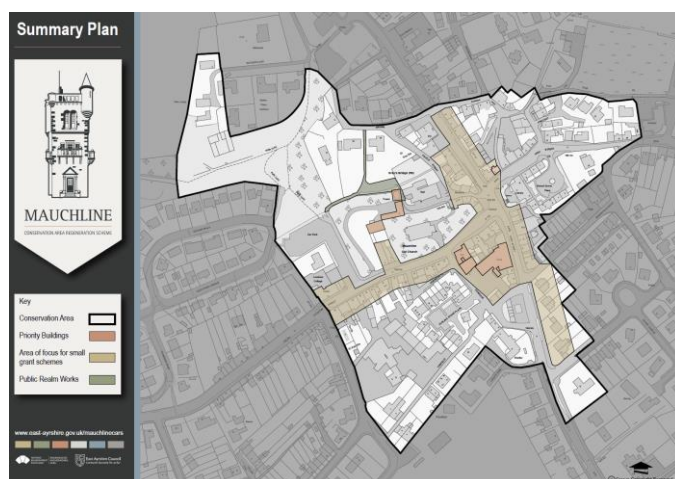


AYRSHIRE
ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE
TRUST



Appointment of dedicated Conservation Accredited Architects

The Mauchline CARS project is now well and truly open for business following the appointment in September, of Glasgow-based **Wylie Shanks Architects** as our **dedicated Conservation Accredited Architects**. As well as working with the CARS Officer on the preparation of a **15 year Conservation Area Management Plan for Mauchline** and a proposed Public Realm Scheme, Wylie Shanks are now available to work with potential Grantees on the design and implementation of other eligible conservation projects throughout the town. These will vary from Major Building Repair Schemes for Priority and other high profile buildings, to small shopfront improvement schemes and architectural restoration projects.



The Summary Plan above shows the Priority Projects and key area of focus for grant eligibility.

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Mauchline Placemaking Plan

The Draft Mauchline Placemaking Plan will go out for public consultation early next year inviting comments via an online survey on EAC's Website/Social Media sites. The draft plan has been prepared by the Council's Placemaking Team in partnership with the Council's Vibrant Communities Team and representatives of the local community. It involved a two stage process; an initial village walkabout followed by a Talking Pictures Event. Both events sparked lively discussion, stories and debate over the local priorities for the built and natural environment of Mauchline. The new Placemaking Plan, when finalised, will be an updated Mauchline Community Action Plan and Placemaking Plan rolled into one.

Heritage Tours

A tour of Mauchline was undertaken in November 2020 with the eminent Professor Murray Pittock, Scottish Historian, Bradley Professor of Literature, Head of the Centre for Robert Burns Studies and Pro Vice Principle, both at Glasgow University.



Professor Murray Pittock (Left); Ian Lyell (Right)

A Tour of Mauchline was also undertaken separately with EAC's new Tourism Development Officer, Adrienne McGeechan. Both Tours are part of a "Positioning Mauchline Project" aimed at highlighting the importance of Mauchline as part of any future **Integrated National Burns Heritage Trail** as proposed in Professor Pittock's recent publication.

National Maintenance Week

November 20th to November 27th this year was National Maintenance Week as declared by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, (SPAB), campaigners for best practice in the repair of traditional and historic buildings. The Mauchline CARS Team launched a supporting campaign on the Council's communication platform, Stay Connected: <https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/article/do-you-own-or-look-after-a-traditional-building>.

On the back of this campaign and the recent Stay Connected announcement regarding the appointment of Wylie Shanks Architects, four out of nine potential

ROBERT BURNS AND THE SCOTTISH ECONOMY

Final Report
October 2019

Professor Murray Pittock,
University of Glasgow

Centre for Robert Burns
Studies

With contributions and an
appendix on Regional Inclusive
Growth from Dr Joel
Ambrose, Research
Assistant



Author too of the recent Scottish Government funded publication, *"Robert Burns and the Scottish Economy."*

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applicants, who had already expressed an early interest in grant funding, have requested a consultation with Wylie Shanks – a good start to our 2021 Mauchline CARS Implementation Phase.

Modern Apprenticeship Training

The Mauchline CARS Team are pleased to announce the **successful completion by our Modern Apprentice, Billy Govans of his SVQ Level 2 in Business Administration**. Billy has worked hard to secure this, undeterred by COVID, and is now moving on to further his career using the significant skills he has obtained over the past 12 months.



Billy's enthusiasm during his time with us is unparalleled roping in family and friends to help with historic research and he has been an excellent young Project Ambassador for Mauchline CARS and the role that young people can play in it.

Community Participation and Learning

Creative Minds & Mauchline Primary School

A new partnership is about to be entered into with the **Council's Creative Minds Team** and **Mauchline Primary School** to deliver a three phase programme of creative learning in 2021.

In addition to celebrating Mauchline's unique rich, cultural heritage this project will increase young people's understanding and appreciation of their own heritage and give them a sense of pride in where they live and learn. The project will offer dynamic, creative, collaborative learning for local children using four mediums - creative writing, music making, dance and film and will use, as inspiration, the poems and songs of our National Bard, considering how they may be played out in a modern day Mauchline.

Seeking adult volunteers!!

In June 2021, the Mauchline CARS Team will be looking for adult volunteers to work with Historic Environment Scotland and Scotland's Rock Art Team to research and **digitally record the Neolithic and Bronze Age Cup and Ring Marks and other glyphs located close to the Ballochmyle Viaduct**. The digital recordings will be used, by the volunteers to help create a 3D Model of this very unique form of Rock Art, currently designated by Historic Environment Scotland as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Little is currently understood about the Rock Art which is unusually located on a vertical plane rather than a horizontal plane and also seldom, if ever, found in a location such as this.



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Submission of Stage 2 Funding Application

Mauchline CARS, in partnership with **East Ayrshire Leisure (EAL)** has been given the go ahead to submit a Stage 2 funding application for Creative Scotland's Culture Collective Fund.



- Conservation Area Management Plan and Placemaking Plan out for consultation
- Artist in Residence appointed to work with the local community.
- Burns Songwriting, Video and Dance Project underway in partnership with EAC's **Creative Minds Team** and **Mauchline Primary School**.
- Mauchline Heritage Trust **formally established and feasibility studies for Priority Projects underway.**

*Wishing Everyone a Merry
Christmas and a Happy,
Healthy and Prosperous 2021*

The Mauchline CARS Team

CULTURE COLLECTIVE FUND

If successful, this will enable the Mauchline CARS Team and EAL to **appoint an Artist in Residence** to work with the local community **over financial year 2021/2022**, in the delivery of an innovative programme of visual arts projects celebrating Mauchline's significant and unique cultural heritage.

What we can look forward to in 2021: Our First Year of Implementation

- Grant Funding - Online Application Forms and Guidance Notes will be available early in the new year for potential applicants.
- A number of Conservation Projects on site
- Mauchline CARS Project Office manned and open to the public.

