

## Staff News

We are pleased to announce that our Scheme Manager, Shirley Paterson, has given birth to a beautiful baby girl this month. Lindsey Gibb, who you may know as our Volunteer Coordinator, has stepped up to fill Shirley's shoes whilst she is on maternity leave. Our new Volunteer Coordinator is Andrea Hudspeth who is itching to get out and meet as many folk as possible during the next few months. Also, we said goodbye to our Modern Apprentice, Ross, in May who is continuing his apprenticeship with Perth & Kinross council and we wish him the best of luck.

## Clayfest!

This month heralds Scotland's first festival celebrating clay buildings. Clayfest! is being run by Earth Buildings UK (EBUK) and is being supported by TayLP and the local community. There will be a week-long programme of earth workshops and events around the EBUK annual conference. The theme of the conference is **the culture of earth building** and will explore how people and places reflect the experience of building with clay. The event will be centred around Errol, an old town in the Carse of Gowrie built in a lost clay tradition of mudwall. This is just part of a 3-year programme of activities to explore and celebrate local earth heritage. If you come to Clayfest! you will see some of these activities, including oral history, schools projects, recording, repair and training, alongside the other events. The main focus is 4 days of workshops covering a range of techniques including rammed earth, cob, mudwall conservation, clay plasters, turf building, and clay/fibres. So come to Errol and have fun with clay!

For more information check out <http://www.ebuk.uk.com/ebuk-2015-clayfest/>



## Telling the Bees

The TayLP has been invited to be part of 'Telling the Bees', an exciting new community arts and research project looking at the practice of beekeeping. The project is being led by Edinburgh University and we have been asked to be their community partner. This means the researchers will link in with our existing work on beekeeping in the TayLP area but they need your help too.

Toby Pillatt from the Telling the Bees project explains more:

"Bees are deeply ingrained in our culture - think about how often they are associated with money and industriousness, or are increasingly seen as symbols of environmental crisis. We are interested in finding out whether some of these references in the visual arts, music, literature and folklore contain practical knowledge about bees and beekeeping. We are inviting local people to get involved with the project in two different ways. First we're going to be talking to current beekeepers in the TayLP area about how they got into beekeeping, how they learned their skills, and to hear their bee stories – are you a beekeeper or do you know someone that might be interested? Let us know!

Second, we're going to run a series of creative arts workshops where participants will work with researchers, artists and designers to create exciting new ways of presenting beekeeping knowledge for future generations".

If you want to find out more about the Telling the Bees project and how you can get involved, please contact Dr Deborah Maxwell, Lead Researcher on [d.maxwell@ed.ac.uk](mailto:d.maxwell@ed.ac.uk) or visit <http://www.bees.eca.ed.ac.uk/>

## Clay Biggins and Kinfauns Church, Sophie Nicol



Becky Little is on site undertaking repairs of a mud steading in the Carse, whilst training two clay apprentices - Billy from Historic Scotland and Scott from the Scottish Lime Centre. The TayLP touring exhibition and leaflet is complete and will be coming to a village near you – keep your eyes peeled!

A programme of preliminary works have been undertaken at Kinfauns Old Parish Church, including study and recording of the monument by Headland Archaeology. Next step in the process is to undertake some test pits plus analysis of the interior plaster and stonework of the aisle by Graciela Ainsworth. More info can be found here <http://www.taylp.org/the-future-of-our-earth-building-skills/>

## Trails & Views, Catriona Davies



We know paths are really important to lots of people, especially routes that connect settlements and help people get down to and along the river. The path improvements on the riverside route from Cottown to Port Allen on the Carse of Gowrie are almost complete. The route has been cleared, steps and ramps have been installed and a culvert put in under the path. Soon the signposts will go up and it should all be finished in the next few weeks. We've also been investigating possible routes to connect Newburgh, Abernethy and Bridge of Earn. We're feeling really positive so look out for further updates!



## Education, Lisa Snedden

The P7 pupils of Abernethy Primary School have been learning all about the Mesolithic people of the area through the children's novel Wolf Brother (Chronicles of Ancient Darkness) by Michelle Paver. They took part in a range of activities including field walking, fire lighting and organising and running a very successful open afternoon!



"I enjoyed getting dirty"! – Haydan

"We kept Sophie very busy!" – Rachel

"Who needs an iPad when you've got a muddy field?" – Jamie

## Dates for your Diary

- June 8-13** —Clayfest! A week long festival of workshops, talks and events, Errol.
- June 17** —Orchard Work Party—Summer Pruning, Megginch Castle Orchard.
- June 27** —Orchard Skills Training – Pests & Diseases, Inchtute and Monorgan.
- July 4-5** —Wee Big Dig, Abernethy.
- July 4** —Meet the Bees – beekeeping taster session, Nr Errol.
- July 11** —Orchard Skills Training—Summer Pruning, The Walled Garden, Perth.
- July 18** —Himalayan Balsam Bashing, Moncrieffe Hill.
- Aug 1** —Orchard Skills Training—Budding, Scone Palace.
- Aug 22** —'UNEARTHED: The Mystery of Prehistory', a festival of ancient craft, digital excavation, music, food and more! 10-4pm, King Edward Street, Perth see <http://www.taylp.org/unearth-the-mystery-of-prehistory/> for more information.
- Sept 1-26** —Archaeological excavation at Moredun Hill (open for bookings soon)

You can book either by emailing Andrea or through the new website. If you're not signed up as a volunteer yet contact

[Andrea](mailto:Andrea@pkht.org.uk)

### Contact the Team

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